

CHAPTER XV.

DR. DE BAUN'S APPARATUS TO RESTORE THE LOST ACTION
OF THE LUNGS.

Dr. Edwin De Baun, of Passaic, New Jersey, has given a great deal of attention to the problem of successfully restoring suspended animation, a subject to which the attention of medical men is constantly directed. This matter has been taken up by the *New York World*. The following are its remarks on this subject :

From time immemorial physicians have directed their ingenuity toward an effective application of the wealth of air about us, but without satisfactory results. Cases of suspended animation come under their notice every day. Men are rescued from the water after a hard battle with the waves, their lungs filled with water, the life's action suspended. In the majority of instances restoration of animation cannot be effected. The lungs may be emptied of the water ; the life-giving air, so abundant, is at hand, and, if it could only be forced into the organs and respiration started, life could be renewed. Physicians' efforts to solve the problem have been unceasing, but not always with success.

USUAL EFFORTS AT RESUSCITATION.

When a man is rescued from the water, the first thing sought to be done is to empty the lungs of water by lifting him from the ground head downward, and in other ways. Then he is laid on his back, the arms raised to expand the lungs, and a rhythmic contraction and expansion of the chest walls effected by alternate pressure and relaxation. Sometimes the forcing process has been kept up for hours with ultimate success ; but considering the possibilities recognized in artificial respiration the results have been, in many cases, far from encouraging.

Dr. De Baun has worked on an entirely new line, and the result of his experiments and observation is a method of internal respiration which, he claims, cannot possibly fail. His attention was first directed to the subject by a case of suspended animation in a newly-born child. It has been the practice in such cases to force air into the lungs of the infant by breathing into its mouth and then contracting the lungs by pressure upon the chest. But this is a disagreeable, and not always a successful operation.

Dr. De Baun decided to try a new expedient. He passed a small rubber tube through the nose of the infant and down into the throat. Closing the mouth, he forced air through the tube from a rubber bag,