

CASE OF EMPYEMA.

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REPORTED BY MR. (NOW DR.) A. JOHNSON.

The patient, a commercial traveller, about 35 years of age, whose general health had usually been very good, was attacked, 18 months previously, by pneumonia, and subsequently by pleurisy.

He had been under Dr. Bovell's treatment, for hydrothorax, for some time without any improvement, and as it became evident that some other means would have to be resorted to for relief, Dr. Richardson was requested, by Dr. Bovell, to tap the chest.

The hydrothorax was on the left side, and to such an extent, that the heart's pulsation could be distinctly felt about one inch and a-half below and behind the right nipple. The patient was very emaciated and much distressed.

Jan. 16, 1869. The operation was this day performed, by means of a small trocar and canula, and five pints and a-half of serous fluid evacuated.

March 4. Had improved up to this date in general health, but the fluid is again rapidly accumulating.

March 12. The chest is now so distended that it is necessary to repeat the operation. This was done as before, and seven pints and a-half of fluid, still serous, were drawn off.

March 20. The fluid is again accumulating fast. His stomach has become very irritable, and remains so in spite of all treatment.

March 27. The operation was again performed, and five pints of fluid, now sero-purulent, evacuated.

March 31. As the fluid was accumulating rapidly, it was determined to insert a tube, which should be left in the chest. This was accomplished in the following manner:—

The chest was punctured by a trocar and canula of one-quarter of an inch in diameter. During the flow of the fluid, an india rubber tube, about two feet long, just large enough to loosely fill the canula, well oiled and full of water, was passed through the canula into the chest, and the canula was then with-