

These are the controlling powers, but they are free, a few drops of silvered water, poured over the ærian membrane cannot touch them. And analogy leads to the same end. Solitary applications of solutions of caustic will not cure a scrofulous sore laid in a coarse, rough bed of tubercular effusion. Nor will they cure a veritable instance of strumous ophthalmia. These are examples we can see, and if the remedy is unavailing in the one kind, it will be equally so in the other. Until then actual facts, "bona-fide" as we have already styled them, which do not now exist, are adduced, capable of disproving these statements we have advanced, we shall rest in the conclusion that injections of nitrate of silver into the bronchial tubes, though practicable, are not advisable in phthisis pulmonalis; for the art of medicine is not to shew what can be done, but to be content with doing that only which is best.

6. The rupture of the pharynx or larynx in the way indicated is unfounded. The mere introduction of a moist sponge probang into the fauces is incapable of tearing the surrounding mucous membrane. This is fully established by the experiments of Conant, of New York, who, after several trials conducted on the cadaver, in which various degrees of force were exercised, concludes, "I am fully satisfied that it is absolutely impossible to perforate either the trachea or the mucous membrane of the pharynx or larynx with the ordinary sponge-armed probang, or the tracheal tube."

7. While, however, it is allowed so grave an injury could not be inflicted, it by no means follows that one of less degree was not produced. Though positive solution be impracticable, a direct contusion is not an unlikely effect that might happen during the inadvertent introduction of a stiff probang in a patient who suddenly closed his mouth and tried to obstruct its onward passage, especially if the operator still persevered, physically, to overcome the resistance offered, which appears to have been the state of both parties, surgeon and patient, in the present case. Against this lesser degree, the experiments above referred to are no appeal in contradiction, for the conditions on which they depend are not present in the lifeless body.

8. The situation of the abscess in the neck, being exterior to the place of the alleged injury, lends a confirmation to the foregoing hypothesis, while in turn its own selection appears the more intelligible. It is thus an illustration of the readiness with which inflammation or irritation is transmitted from one situation to another by sympathy of contiguity, as is so often obvious in the establishment of cellular suppuration or exudation when developed in close proximity to an adjoining lesion of a mucous surface. Unaided, the local causes would probably be inadequate