

RETROSPECT OF CURRENT LITERATURE.

Medicine.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF JAMES STEWART.

Recurrent Idiopathic Pneumothorax.

J. MCGEE FINNY, M.D., of Dublin. "A case of recurrent idiopathic pneumothorax without effusion, ending in recovery."—*The Dublin Journal of Medical Sciences*, April 1, 1898.

Dr. Finny reports to some length this very interesting and certainly very rare type of case of pneumothorax. The subject of this condition was a young man, aged eighteen, previously in good health, who, on getting up one morning felt a heavy weight across his chest, and on going to work was compelled to return home, because of a violent seizure of pain in the chest and dyspnoea. In the patient's previous history there was absolutely no event or condition to which the present attack could be referred. The pain and dyspnoea lasted but a day.

The physical examination of the chest gave the characteristic signs of pneumothorax of the left side, including slight amphoric breathing, tinkling, faintly heard, and the *bruit d'airain* beautifully demonstrated. Succussion signs were absent. The signs present gradually disappeared, the *bruit d'airain* being lost at the end of a fortnight, while the heart is reported in normal position at the end of three weeks. The temperature and pulse rate were practically normal throughout, and the other functions undisturbed. During the progress of the case a double friction sound became audible over the lower portion of the sternum and synchronous with the heart sounds, and increased on inspiration and diminished on expiration. Doubt arose as to the origin of this friction sound, but Dr. Finny considered