

patient with all the symptoms of double pneumonia, was struggling for breath. Thirty ounces of blood were rapidly drawn from the arm, and its effects were immediately manifest. The pulse became fuller and slower, breathing greatly relieved, and the patient easier. Sydenham says, quaintly: "In these cases, bleeding does the work of the windpipes."

Dr. Reid, of Edinburgh, in 1836, demonstrated on dogs and rabbits, that in cases of poisoning causing enfeeblement, or suspension of the heart's contraction, on freely opening the external jugular, and unloading the right cavities of the heart, circulation returned.

Dr. Clark, of Oswego, tells us that he bled a woman, at the period of whose menopause double pneumonia set in, six times within three and a-half days, twelve ounces or more at a time. Each bleeding relieved the congestion then present, and though the disease ran through all its stages, she recovered; yet her case was so critical that, at the time of the third bleeding, an experienced consulting physician thought her beyond hope, and was convinced that nothing but the relief of the congestion by that bleeding could have saved her.

A lady, 51 years of age, with dilated heart and dropsy, had a very violent attack of pneumonia. Dr. Clark bled her thrice, a pint or more each time, and in thirty-six hours she had recovered.

At the American Medical Association, held a few days ago at Milwaukee, Dr. Washburn read a paper on "Pneumonia," in which he stated, and his statement was uncontradicted, that pneumonia is more fatal in our hands than in those of our fathers, and that the results of their active, combative treatment were better than the expectant treatment of to-day. In the discussion, though one gentleman advocated blood-letting—it was hypothetically—not one of the speakers seemed to have used the lancet.

Dr. Samuel Wilks, in the *London Lancet*, gives a case of a small boy in extremis with capillary bronchitis; face livid, eyes starting out of his head, and the external jugular full and prominent. The doctor opened the jugular, letting out several ounces of blood; when the breathing became easy the lividity passed away, and in a very short time the child recovered.

In a case of chronic bronchitis, in an elderly

lady, Dr. Wilks had her cupped between the shoulders, and was surprised at the wonderful relief that the evacuation of a few ounces of blood gave, the relief taking place as soon as the blood flowed. In cyanosis and emphysema, Dr. West has seen it give prompt relief, even when the organic lesions were so great as to be beyond aid.

In heart disease, with sudden accession of congestion, overloaded right ventricle, and difficult breathing, we have a wonderfully prompt and efficient agent to relieve it in the lancet. This I have more than once demonstrated in my own practice.

Dr. Shand gives a case in which he relieved the pain and dyspnoea caused by stenosis of the mitral valve by free bleeding; and parallel cases which did badly where he did not bleed.

Dr. West, of St. Bartholomew's, had a case of aortic disease, where his patient was suddenly attacked with congestion, spitting of blood, and such difficulty of breathing that he considered him in imminent danger. He took from the arm a pint or more of blood, and in less than an hour he dropped asleep, all the urgent symptoms relieved. A patient of his with mitral disease, great dilatation and well-marked Cheyne-Stokes' respiration, was seized with sudden dyspnoea and became cyanosed. Eight ounces of blood taken from his arm promptly relieved the urgent symptoms, so that he slept comfortably for some time. Of course, it did not cure the heart disease, of which he died two days later.

In apoplexy—or attacks at least closely resembling it—bleeding has frequently given prompt and marked relief, and though it can scarcely affect the already extravasated blood, if taken in time it may prevent it, and even after it has taken place may limit the amount.

Dr. Shand gives a case of apoplexy where the patient fell against the corner of a table, laying open one of the temporal vessels; profuse hæmorrhage occurred, which restored consciousness and greatly relieved her.

Dr. Perigal, of Edinburgh, took a few ounces of blood from a man who had been many hours unconscious from injury to the head, and consciousness returned while the blood was flowing; and Dr. West gives many instances of brain injury or disease permanently cured, or temporarily relieved by venesection.