

Although commonly better marked than the diseases of other years, pulmonary affections are often obscure, and readily confounded with one another, for they have few pathognomonic signs. The signs of bronchitis are simple enough, but obscure complications often coexist with it. Pleurisy has its distinctive marks, the absence of the thoracic vibration being one of the best, say what they will; but this sign is wanting in women and children, and men with falsette voices. So with egophony, which may be confounded with bronchophony. The other signs are common to various disorders, as dullness, which is even occasionally absent, according to some revolutionists; dilatation of the chest strikingly characterizes, not pleurisy, but chronic and extensive effusion. Apart from the stitch and fever, the signs are the same as those of effusion, a point not sufficiently regarded. Pneumonia has its rusty sputa as a pathognomonic sign, but this is often absent. Fine, dry, crepitant, râle is very characteristic; the bronchial souffle and tubal respiration are more equivocal. The signs of phthisis are obscure and doubtful at first; we gather hints from the constitutional state and the antecedent history (bronchitis, hæmoptysis). We have given only the signs of the confirmed disease, and even these are not absolute, though dullness and râles at the apex leave little doubt. Hæmoptysis is less decisive than is generally supposed. Cavernous respiration and pectoriloquy leave little room for error. The microscope has hitherto only furnished mystification. Emphysema often eludes diagnosis, but its signs have some value; some of the signs of bronchitis have been confounded with them. Oedema of the lungs may be easily mistaken, if only the local symptoms are considered; but the antecedents, and concomitant effusions will clear up the case. Gangrene has its own sign, the odor; which may yet be mistaken. Asthma is characterized by its paroxysmal nature. It will be seen that we openly announce the liabilities of error, and are simply aiming to arrange a schedule of probabilities. We have not spoken of hydrothorax, for its signs are the same as those of other varieties of pleural effusion; we have likewise omitted hydro-pneumothorax, a rare and complex affection, of which hippocratic succussion is the best sign.

CIRCULATORY APPARATUS.—The principal diseases of the heart are: Pericarditis, endocarditis, organic valvular lesions, and the form of aneurism which is their ordinary result, nervous palpitations, not to speak of fever, of which the heart is the seat, or rather the instrument.

Pericarditis.—Friction sound, derangement of circulation, dullness, præcordial prominence.

Endocarditis.—Bellows murmur (equivocal), derangement of circulation, concomitant rheumatism or other phlegmasia.