

SELECTED MATTER.

--- PATHOLOGY. ---

LUNGS SHOWING THE ARREST OF PHTHISIS IN THE THIRD STAGE OF THE DISEASE.

A female, in May, 1848, when thirteen years of age, was admitted an out-patient at the Brompton Hospital. She was very delicate, had lost flesh, and was suffering from severe cough, shortness of breathing, &c. Her illness had commenced with influenza in the early part of the preceding winter; she had also suffered from an abscess in the right arm. She had been recommended cod-liver oil, but was unable to keep it on her stomach. There was no predisposition to phthisis, and she had not then had hæmoptysis. Since that time a younger sister has shown unequivocal evidence of phthisis, and an older sister has now become delicate. A note taken shortly after her admission, states that "there is extensive consolidation at the apex of the left lung, and some deposition at the apex of the right," shown at the one side "by decided dulness, bronchial breathing, and bronchophony; and at the other side by a feeble inspiratory, and a prolonged louder expiratory murmur."

A mixture, in which a drachm dose of cod-liver oil was diffused by means of liquor potassæ in mucilage, and a syrup composed of mucilage syrup of squilla, and a minute dose of morphia, was prescribed. The oil mixture was taken without disturbing the stomach, and she kept her ground. Examined in August she is stated to have lost four pounds in weight, and crepitation is heard over the left apex; nothing additional at the right apex. Iodine counter-irritation was then applied. In the beginning of September she had profuse hæmoptysis, and subsequently a free puriform expectoration.

An examination, made in the course of this month, when she was able to attend the hospital, showed the existence of a large cavity, where the consolidation and softening had been previously observed. The dose of the oil was subsequently increased, first to a drachm and a half, and then to two drachms, with advantage; for in the end of the following December, it is recorded that "she gains strength and coughs but little." She did not attend during the winter, but received her medicine by her mother, and did well. In April, 1849, she had an attack of influenza, from which she soon rallied.

In the following June the record is, that "she has not lost ground, though she has not gained in weight since her admission a year ago; there is loud pectoriloquy, cavernous breathing, and gurgling at the left apex, and loud expiratory murmur at the right." At the end of July the report is, "she looks well, coughs only in the morning." In August an examination showed "flattening of the chest over the apex of the left lung. The respiration there, though cavernous, is not loud. The pectoriloquy is very distinct. The respiration at the right apex is somewhat puerile. During the winter (1849-50) she continued the remedies. In February her appetite had failed, and a mixture of infusion of gentian and bicarbonate of soda was ordered once a day. From this she derived