COUGHS AND THEIR TREATMENT.

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An intractable cough! What condition so persistently tries the patience of every physician? Careful examination has been made, the diet regulated, and one of the innumerable prescriptions for that ailment selected, but still the cough continues. Then more investigation, and more careful prescribing; but still after weeks that familiar cough re-echoes through your waiting room, and you wish Mrs. Smith would change her doctor. No such good fortune attends you, and that cough haunts you as dismal thoughts of phthisis do your patient, until you are almost determined to advise a change of climate.

It is not the object of this paper to go into details regarding the only too well known disadvantages of most of our familiar cough mixtures. Down to that household standby, "cod liver oil in every form," they have proven in the vast majority of instances discouraging failures. The above-mentioned remedy, which the patient considers proof-positive of the doctor's having made a diagnosis of consumption, may invariably be depended upon to disarrange the digestion at least. Cod liver oil, once begun, must frequently be continued throughout the entire winter season. Nor can it be shown that the ingestion of fats and oils into the system, to become oxydized when coming in contact with the oxygen in the lungs, ever does more than raise the local temperature by combustion. Although this may prevent cold in comparatively healthy lung tissue, its therapeutic (?) effect on the inflamed pulmonary structure may be described as positively harmful.

Cough is a symptom, varying in intensity and character according to its cause. Nor is that cause always situated within the respiratory organs themselves. Cough is essentially a reflex act depending upon an irritation of the respiratory centre. These sources of irritation may be subdivided as follows: Dropping of mucus from the posterior nares in chronic catarrh. Polypi, enlarged uvula or tonsils, defective closure of the glottis, irritations within the larynx from whatsoever cause, malignant or otherwise. Bronchitis, pneumonia and pleurisy. Gastric when due to derangements of the stomach. Cardiac disease, irritations of auditory canal and organic diseases within the abdominal cavity.

From the foregoing causes it may be readily estimated that to arrive at the exact nature of any given case may not always be an easy matter. Nevertheless, we must relieve the patient, without risk of disturbing either digestive or circulatory