



Fig. 5. Key to diagram, Fig. 4.

There are three entrances into the vocal organs; a, the mouth, and b, c, the nostrils. Following these passages downwards we find they unite in one passage, d, the pharynx. Below this point the passage-way splits up into two tubes, e, f, the æsophagus and the windpipe. The windpipe, f, bifurcates lower down into the bronchial tubes, g, h. These in their turn split up into multitudinous smaller tubes, ramifying through the lungs. The æsophagus, e, passes downwards between the bronchial tubes, g, h, through an aperture in the diaphragm, i, into the stomach.

In this apparatus we find two valves one, k, (the epiglottis) hinged at l, and capable of shutting against m. The other, n, (the soft palate), hinged at o, and capable of shutting against p, and q.

These valves are largely for the protection of the lungs. We all know how important it is that foreign bodies should be kept out of the lungs. The New York doctor who recently inhaled a cork has died, in spite of all that science could do to aid him. Equally serious results might follow were particles of food to find their way into the lungs.