

prominent positions in the Senate and in the forum. Let us all then work together with one end in view, viz., the welfare of the noblest, most self-sacrificing profession that man can follow, and in the columns of this journal remember *Hic patet ingenuis campus.*

GASEOUS ENEMATA IN THE TREATMENT OF PULMONARY DISEASES.

Gaseous enemata is fast coming into favor in the treatment of pulmonary diseases. The Philadelphia Hospital seems to take the lead in testing its merits. The gas used is the carbonic acid gas impregnated with sulphuretted hydrogen, introduced by Dr. Bergeon, of Lyons, and described by Bennett. Twenty-five cases were chosen in the above-named hospital, the majority suffering from advanced lesions, nearly all associated with cavities. The progress of these cases under the care of Drs. McLaughlin and Taylor, has been very satisfactory. Suppuration in the pulmonary cavities and in the bronchial passages has been antagonized, the temperature has been reduced, frequently falling to a normal standard; in some instances complete cessation of night sweats, and in all marked lessening has followed the administration of the gas. Mucous rales, when present, have disappeared, the digestive organs have improved, tongue clean and natural and the appetite increased. The gain in weight has been considerable and progressive. The immediate effect of the introduction of the gas into the bowel was increased respiration and a decreased pulse of from fifteen to twenty beats. The following case is given: "A woman, aged forty, entered the Philadelphia Hospital February 5th with entire consolidation of the left lung, of the variety frequently described as catarrhal or

broncho, pneumonic." She had taken cold in December, 1886; had previously been a healthy, rather stout woman. The following symptoms, as abstracted from the clinical history, we present:—Abundant muco-purulent expectoration—more than a pint in twenty four hours; profuse sweats; pulse 120, temperature ranging from 100° to 103°; anorexia, with coated tongue and inability to receive and appreciate food. After treatment with the gas, administered twice daily since February 10th, she now seems to be convalescent. The temperature is normal—pulse 90, appetite excellent, and flesh increasing.

The apparent beneficial effects were noticed within the first week, but it was four weeks before the patient was free from fever. The appetite improved within a few days from the first employment of the treatment, and simultaneously the nervous symptoms, such as hysterical tendencies and excitement, disappeared. In this instance all treatment except the gas was suspended. At this date the physical signs of pulmonary lesions seem to be disappearing and the lung approaching the normal condition once more.

The amount of gas introduced varied from three quarts to a gallon at each injection, introduced slowly, taking from fifteen minutes to half an hour for the operation. The gas used in the hospital is prepared by passing the carbonic acid gas through a solution of chloride of sodium and sulphide of sodium in twenty-two ounces of water. Hydrogen sulphide, inhaled in any considerable quantities, would suffocate, but administered by the bowels, entering the venous circulation, it soon becomes eliminated by the respiratory organs, which it subjects to its antiseptic influence. It is yet early to pronounce upon the therapeutic value of this new method of treatment, but if no greater benefit