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The symptoms of congestion of the lungs vary with the violence of the exciting cause and the extent of the congested part, and a certain degree of congestion is almost within physiological limits, inasmuch as it produces no symptoms. As a general rule, the commencement is sudden, with shiverings, fever and oppression of breathing. The fever is rarely high, but in not a few cases I have noted that it was altogether absent, though usually the face is flushed, with violent pulsation of the great vessels of the neck. One of the most marked symptoms is difficulty of breathing, and this often develops with startling rapidity. The respiration is hurried, panting and very superficial, and often there are as many as fifty respirations to the minute, though the average does not exceed thirty to thirty-five. A good deal of cough is always present in the pulmonary congestions of children, for it is almost constantly associated with bronchial irritation. Acute pain is usually absent; generally speaking, the pain is dull and heavy. The feeling of weight and oppression of the lungs, so very prominent in the pulmonary congestion of the adult, can only be ascertained by physical examinations, except in those cases in which the patient is old enough to describe its sensations. Hemorrhage can rarely be detected, though, according to Ernest Wagner, it is almost invariably present. He writes :—"According to more recent experience, very small bleedings from the uninjured walls of vessels occur in every congestion even of short duration. But also somewhat greater capillary bleedings take place, probably very often in congested parts, but for the most part present no symptoms because the blood exuded is carried away as soon as it reaches the origin of the lymphatics."

One of the most striking features of pulmonary congestion in children is its tendency to disappear suddenly, leaving hardly a trace behind, and not less remarkable is its tendency to recur on very slight exposure indeed. The temperature suddenly falls, the difficulty in breathing disappears, the child recovers its strength and spirits, and health is restored. When death takes place it is usually sudden, and many e so-called "deaths from