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NOTES OF A CASE OF PROLONGED PHTHISIS IN WHICH THE EFFECTS OF COD LIVER OIL WERE REMARKABLY EVIDENT.

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March 6th, 1859.

Mrs. J.—, aged 30, the mother of four children, all apparently healthy, of sanguine temperament, medium height, and round figure. She is at present suffering from a severe cough, which has been troubling her for the past five or six weeks, together with pain in the chest, particularly in the upper part of the left lung. The tongue is slightly coated; the skin has a feverish feeling; the cheeks every afternoon, and sometimes in the morning, are flushed, remaining so for three or four hours; appetite poor; bowels confined; pulse 125. She experiences occasionally headache and chills. Her cough is attended with but a slight expectoration, for the most part, of mucous froth, occasionally streaked with red blood. There is also a general feeling of weakness. Upon examining the chest, I found the right lung doing its work very well, the respiration being a little stronger than usual. The left lung, however, did not seem to fill completely; was dull on percussion over the upper third, and had marked crepitation. I find that the catamenia have been regular since the youngest child (now about four months old) was weaned. The family history pointed to a consumptive diathesis, two brothers older than my patient having died from bleeding at the lungs; one at the age of 25, and the other about thirty. A niece of hers had consulted me when she was at the age of twenty, whom I found with cavities already in both lungs. This was the only opportunity I had of examining her case, for, as she lived at a distance, and could hold out but very little hope of substantial improvement, and none of cure, her

friends thought it not worth while to adopt any particular system of treatment that I might suggest. They afterwards consulted some quack in the country, who at first held out hopes of a speedy cure: still, the poor girl died in a few weeks. In addition to the above, five or six cousins, whom I had never seen, but whose parents I knew very well, as hale and hearty old people, had died in the course of one year, with what was termed "galloping consumption." Putting all these facts together, I had reason to fear consumption in the case before me.

Prescribed—Calomel, 12 grains; Dover's powder, nine; mixed and divided into three powders; one to be given every three hours, followed by a teaspoonful of sulphate of magnesia, in a tumbler of water. A mustard plaster to be applied to the chest.

March 8th.—Fever less; tongue cleaner; pulse softer, though still 125; cough distressing; crepitation more marked; bowels freely moved; applied a blister; gave some tartar emetic and morphia to allay cough.

March 14th.—Fever still less; pulse 120; cough frequent; expectoration free; half-a-pint per diem, and crepitation much louder.

These symptoms lasted, with but little variation, for nearly three weeks; the treatment consisting of blisters and cough mixtures, in which there was more or less morphia; at the end of that time, there was evidently a cavity of considerable size, judging from the gurgling sound in respiration, and bronchopneumony. The fever now left; the tongue became clean; the cough and expectoration lessened; the pulse remaining over one hundred. The diet at first was light, but latterly nourishing, consisting of beef-tea, milk and eggs; and after the fever had disappeared, of milk, eggs, brandy, etc. Of late, night sweats had been troublesome; to relieve which, and as a tonic, I prescribed aromatic sulphuric acid and quinine.

May 6th.—Patient somewhat emaciated; still coughing; most of the organs acting very well;