

also to wash and clean abscess cavities. Through the courtesy of your President, Dr. Hingston, I am enabled to meet with you this evening, and to offer a few thoughts upon "Empyema and its treatment by valvular drainage," exhibiting the aspirator and one other instrument.

It is very difficult to adopt a plan of treatment in empyema from published statistics, as they are so mixed up with cases that should not be classified with the disease, and then the apparent routine methods followed by some authors, leaves the student upon a vast sea of statistics without compass or sail, blown hither and thither wherever the storms of authoritative opinion may drift him, and often dashing his bark to atoms upon some unforeseen rock of experience. These facts were the incentive that led to the reading of a paper before the Medical Association of Northern New York in November, 1878, and subsequently at Albany before the New York State Medical Society, Feb. 3rd, 1880, upon "The treatment of Empyema by valvular drainage," in which I attempted to set forth and establish certain fixed principles that should govern all operative interference in these cases, and which I will attempt to explain and extend upon this evening. The varieties of empyema should be classified according to their complications and the causes that produce them, and a plan of treatment instituted accordingly. This would afford the advocates of specific operations an opportunity to furnish statistics that would be not only of great interest to the profession, but would enable them to judge of the relative merits of the respective plans. For convenience, I would suggest the classification to be into (1st) free or uncomplicated, (2nd) complicated, and (3rd) consequential.

A free or uncomplicated empyema is an accumulation of pus in the pleural cavity, the result of a purulent pleuritis, changes in serous effusion, or a pleuro-pneumonia, and not multilocular.

A complicated empyema may be multilocular, encysted or due to foreign bodies carried into the cavity by gunshot wounds and other traumatic causes. Phthisis pulmonalis, caseous pneumonia and diseases of other organs may occur in the course of empyema, even making a serious if not a fatal complication.