

fibrinous elements, behave, as regards auscultation, very much like hydropic effusions. The physical explanation appears to be as follows. Unlike gases, fluids conduct tones with intensity proportioned to their lightness and homogeneity; whilst the waves of sound are conducted somewhat more quickly, but with diminished intensity, through thicker and heterogeneous fluids, which are mingled with elastic, solid bodies. In the case of mixed coagula and corpuscular elements, as well as in the case of exudations enclosed in thick, villous membranes, there is, in consequence of this mixture and variety of conducting media, more and more reflection [? refraction] of the sound-waves, instead of their being conducted in almost straight lines, as in the case of homogeneous endopleural fluids, which are strong conductors. At the point where the lung is most compressed, towards the base of the exudation, the sound-waves are probably reflected but little, and thus little decomposed. In other words, they are not much affected by interference at this spot. It is, perhaps, on similar acoustic principles, that a pericardium, so distended with fluid as to be absolutely dull on percussion, often conducts bronchial râles from adjacent portions of lung with remarkable clearness [Skoda's consonance, or phenomena of resonance of Baccelli.]

The importance of deciding on the nature of the contents is obvious, in relation to paracentesis thoracis.\*—*Berlin Klin. Wochenschrift*.—*Med. Record*.

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**Hospital Gangrene.**—(*The Medical and Surgical Reporter*, April 15, 1876.)

In a paper in the *Archiv für Klin. Chirurg.*, by Prof. Von Nussbaum, some details of much practical importance are given with regard to the prevention and curative treatment of this affection. In 1872, the first year of its appearance in the hospital, the gangrenous condition of the wounds in those attacked was always readily and successfully controlled by the local application of lotions containing nitrate of silver, corrosive sublimate, or carbolic acid; but as the distinctive changes became more

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\* Baccelli and Valentiner.