

Asylum for the Insane. It is not our present purpose to reproduce the details of these experiments and observances, but to submit to the reader the conclusions deduced by the author from the facts stated in the preceding portion of his article. Without further preface, we now proceed to the abstract—

“ Though it is evident that the pulmonites of paralytics (paretics) is the prototype of the so-called vagal pulmonites, and that a genetic relation exists between the degeneration of the vagus and the development of the pulmonitis, yet is the mechanism by which this pulmonitis is developed after lesions of the nervous system very obscure.

As we have before observed, an interpretation based on the vasomotor doctrine, even admitting that the vagus may contain vasomotor fibres for the lungs, is not admissible.

On the other side, we have experimentally demonstrated that section of only one vagus, both in rabbits and dogs, produces only transient phenomena, which are discoverable only in the respiratory rhythm, by means of pneumographic tracings; and if this disturbance of rhythm occurs instantly on cutting the vagus, and is therefore announced in a very short time, and is fleeting, why should it be ascribed to vasomotor congestion, which is usually of much slower determination?

If again we reflect that the disturbance in the respiratory mechanism disappears, vanishing almost as rapidly as it appeared, which is not usual in the behaviour of vasal neuro-paralysis, and when no fresh stimulus interferes and acts, as in our case, we should be led to exclude the hypothesis that vasomotor paralysis, *per se*, is the cause of all that follows in the lungs after section of the vagus, and this, we hold, even taking into account the possible anastomoses of the two vagi, by which means the interrupted vasomotor innervation on one side would be compensated by the vagus of the other side.

That the entrance of foreign substances into the air passages is, *per se*, equally inadequate to explain to us the reason of the phenomena which are developed in the respiratory apparatus, either when the vagus degenerates, or when it is experimentally cut, we assume from other facts now submitted.