

DR. WILSON'S PULMONARY CHERRY BALSAM.



In all temperate climates like North America, diseases of the Lungs are of very frequent occurrence, and cause a large portion of the annual death rate; so much is this the case that consumption is considered by some to be as fatal as the plague; and an announcement by the physician that the lungs are diseased is thought to be equivalent to a sentence of death, and attempts to relieve it are looked upon as mere "placebo," that is a something to amuse the patient, and take up his attention while the disease slowly saps his vitals.

Dr. Wilson at an early period of his practice had his attention drawn to this popular belief, and having under his daily care many patients so afflicted, determined to devote a large portion of his time to a study of these diseases and their proper remedies. His knowledge of the anatomy of the lungs and blood vessels so intimately connected with them, convinced him that there was no good reason why the diseases of these organs should be especially fatal, for there is no specialty in the tissues which organize them to make it an impossibility for them to be healed by proper treatment, any more than other portions of the human frame.

The lungs are two hollow bags situated in the chest, one on each side, with the heart and large blood vessel or "aorta" lying between and external to them. A good idea of their form may be gathered by likening them to a tree with the stem upward, the foliage beneath; the stem is the windpipe which connects them with the atmosphere, and through which the air finds an entrance into their cavities. At the lower end, just behind the top of the breast bone, the wind pipe divides into two branches, one to the right, and the other to the left, the bronchial pipes; these stretch out sideways, and are divided and subdivided like the branches of a tree, and bearing upon their minute subdivisions clusters of little bags like grapes on a stalk, all hollow and opening only through the bronchial tubes, and varying in size from 70 to 200 to the inch. External to and uniting these together is what is called cellular tissue, and each lung whose air cells are so united is inclosed in a bag, the "pleura," one end of which is fastened to the lungs,

the other lines the cavity of the chest, and is completely shut out from external air. The air cells are composed of elastic or distensible tissue, so that they may spread out when filled with air, and then contracting upon themselves drive out the air which was introduced into them. Running through the cellular tissue, and spread out in an infinitely fine network, immediately over the thin elastic membrane of the air cells, are the capillary blood vessels of the lungs.

Now, then, we see the object of all this arrangement, the food taken into the stomach is, as we have explained when treating of the stomach and its diseases in subsequent pages, mingled by passing through the lacteals with the blood in the right side of the heart; from this it is injected through the pulmonary artery into those capillary vessels in the lungs. When we draw in our breath, that is the air, it passes through the windpipe down the bronchial pipes into the little air cells; it puffs these out, stretches the tissue of which they are composed; the air passes through this stretched tissue, through the coats of these minute blood vessels into the blood, and in so doing changes it from dark, venous blood into bright, arterial blood, suitable for the nourishment of the body. But this is not all: the black blood in these capillaries was charged with carbonic acid gas, the product of the waste tissues of the body; the oxygen of the air entering in drives this out from the blood, and takes its place; and this carbonic acid gas is the breath which we exhale when we contract our lungs and breathe out. This, then, is the work of the lungs, to take in air, pass it into the blood, and force out carbonic acid gas. Having now a knowledge of the natural formation and business of the lungs, we can see how diseases affect them.

The bronchial tubes and windpipe are lined with mucous membrane, continuous with and exactly resembling the lining membrane of the mouth. If we look at it in the mouth we see that it somewhat resembles that external skin, only that it has a softer look, not horny like the skin; it is redder, that is, is more full of blood, and it is kept moist by a secretion which we call mucous, and which very

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