

respect, and again at the approach of winter, and at my advice, he moved to the State of Maryland, where he still remains in the enjoyment of very comfortable health. He has still continued under my professional care and direction, and has adopted the same course of treatment, occasionally at long intervals and only when suffering from attacks of cold; at all events, he has never been sick enough there to be confined from business, or to be obliged to solicit medical aid. It is now two years nearly since I last examined his chest, but then very little change had taken place in the structural condition of the diseased portion of his lungs; I had no doubt of the existence of cavities in the upper lobe of both lungs, particularly the left, which I thought extensively adhered to the pleura, giving, as it did, a very dull sound on percussion. The vesicular murmur was, however, then heard quite distinct throughout the remaining portion of the lung and all mucous rale had disappeared; and the natural healthy action of the pectoral and intercostal muscles seemed once more established—respiration 18 to the minute, and pulse always 75.

In this case it seems to me proper to infer, that the course of treatment had decidedly arrested the progress of disease, whether by chance or not, whether it would have been so without any kind of medical treatment or not, I leave others to decide for themselves. It is so easy for us to fall in the habit of ascribing all changes in disease to the treatment we use, and it is so easy for the sceptic to overthrow our strongest therapeutic triumphs, by asserting what we have no means of disproving, viz., that the disease we think we have cured, would have got well as surely and speedily without our aid, that I desire to be cautious in pronouncing opinions as to the absolute efficacy of any remedial measure. But here are the facts in the case before us: how far the climate of Maryland tends to prevent the progress of the disease I know not, probably a very considerable: how far the treatment used has stayed the hand of

the fell destroyer, I cannot judge, except by comparing his case with hundreds of others similarly affected who have not thus escaped: I know of many cases of consumption, so called, which drag their weary course through a long lapse of suffering, wasting years, to whom death comes not until his approach has long and anxiously been sought; but here is a case with all the physical signs of tuberculous phthisis, and all the appearance of tending rapidly to a fatal termination, with extensive disorganization and loss of structure of a vital organ, and yet this rapid downward course has been arrested by some means, and the disease kept at bay. If the treatment had anything to do with it at all, it must have been the sole therapeutic agent, for nothing else was tried, and if so, it deserves repeated trials in such cases, until we can demonstrate its value with the precision and certainty of a mathematical problem. If you ask, do I suppose the disease cured, I answer emphatically no, for I never saw a case of the kind that was cured, and not until I do, shall I ever expect to see tuberculosis in any of its forms thoroughly eradicated from the unfortunate victim upon whom it is engrafted. But by approximating a cure, by greatly relieving suffering and prolonging life, we do good not only to the individual benefited, but we are advancing a science, which may yet discover a specific for even the worst of constitutional maladies; while at the same time we are taking measures to uproot that whole class of diseases which have so long affected the human race, and which, without medical interference, would tend to a constantly lower degree of degeneration and decay.

But there is another class of diseases, equally troublesome and dangerous in their development, in the treatment of which we can predict a more certain therapeutic triumph for the inhalation of medicated vapor. I mean those bronchial affections which are often the first beginnings of consumption, acute and chronic bronchitis, laryngitis, asthma, &c. I have treated two cases of chronic