

in the back. This was probably rheumatic. There were slight up-and-down movements of the larynx. It is now some months since I saw her, and I understand she is still living. A friend of mine has told me of a case of severe pneumonia in a young man, where the movements of the larynx were well marked, and where recovery occurred. A case of empyema, occurring in my own practice, and which recovered after operation, had slight tracheal breathing for some days before the operation.

I must confess that I am not prepared at present to enter into a discussion of the physiology of respiration, nor to give an adequate explanation of this sign. In a well-marked case one would almost think the windpipe were dragged upon with each inspiration. This might be due to an irregular dilatation of the chest cavity of such a nature that the ordinary expansion of the lung would not fill the cavity so quickly as in health, and hence the lung as a whole, and consequently the windpipe along with it, would be drawn down. Possibly the contraction of the sterno-hyoid and sterno-thyroid muscles may have something to do with it. At any rate, it is probably due to an effort of nature to obtain more air with each respiration, and is an exaggeration of the same condition which causes the dilatation of the nostrils which we see in ordinary pneumonia.

The object of this paper has been to call your attention to what appears to me to be a valuable clinical sign, and one which, taken in conjunction with other signs and symptoms, may enable us to detect the approach of danger a little earlier than we might otherwise do.

The sign is one that is so easily detected by both sight and touch that it must have been noted by many observers from the time of Hippocrates to the present. My excuse for bringing the subject before the members of this association is that I can find so little concerning it in the literature at my command, and from conversation with a few medical men I have found that none of them had previously had their attention called to it.