

of the attack, and just previous to the expulsion of one of the casts.

In August, 1876, the patient suddenly, without any premonitory symptoms except a slight sense of suffocation, coughed up a whitish mass slightly tinged with blood. When placed in water it assumed the present shape. Little disturbance followed the expulsion, the child going about as usual. At irregular intervals varying from once a day, to once in five days and two weeks, she coughed up these casts with slight effort and no pain. There was no intervening cough; the exudation was thrown off usually in the early morning, sometimes at night, seldom in the daytime. This continued for nearly three years. The treatment was mainly expectant. Her general condition remained good otherwise, and now for several years she has been free from cough. Physical examination of the chest: Inspection—normal. Percussion—no abnormal dulness. Auscultation—respiratory murmur of somewhat diminished intensity at the upper part of the left lung, with what I should describe as a rustling or indistinct sonorous breathing over the left bronchus behind. No abnormal respiration elsewhere.

ON THE POSSIBILITY OF THE LUNGS RETURNING TO THE STATE OF ATELECTASIS.

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(Translated from Rivista Sperimentale).

Tamassia, on this subject, having related his own experiments, sums up his views in the following conclusions:—

1. The doctrine of English Jurisprudence, which recognizes no necessary relation between life and respiration, proves nothing either for, or against, the hypothesis that the lungs when once distended by respiration, may spontaneously return to the atelectic state.

2. The cases cited by English writers against the diagnostic value of the pulmonic hydrostatic test, relate, in the majority, not to the phenomena of true respiration, but to organic reaction of the tissues.

3. Minute examination of the cases given by Thomas, Lieman, Schröder, Hecker and Herman, in which it might seem that spontaneous return of

the lungs to atelectasis may occur, shows that in some of them there had been no true respiration, but merely a sonorous vibration of air in the fauces, and in others, that the test had not been executed with all the necessary precautions.

4. The confusion which has arisen between the idea of atelectasis in the medico-forensic sense and the clinical, (the former being that of utter absence of air), has had no small part in giving support to the theory of Schröder, *i. e.*, spontaneous return to atelectasis.

5. In all the cases adduced by Schröder and others, the subjects were either infants immature or very feeble, which had perished by slow death quite different from that of infanticide.

6. Direct experiment on the lungs of rabbits, dogs, etc., which had just begun to breathe, showed that in no case, when the lungs were left to themselves, did they spontaneously lose so much air as to sink to the bottom when immersed in water.

7. Direct experiment on the lungs of rabbits, dogs or men, who had breathed for some minutes, hours, or years, and had been suffocated, showed that in order to deprive the lungs of floating capacity, an enormous pressure is needed.

8. Lungs but a little distended by respiration or congested, or insufflated, require less pressure to deprive them of floating power than normal lungs do.

9. Decrepid age being excluded, it may be held that the more advanced is the age of the individual, the stronger will be the resistance of the lungs against sinking under pressure, and losing the air contained in them.

10. Slowness in dying lessens the resisting power of the lungs.

11. This resistance is notably diminished by the inception of putrefaction.

12. The theory of Schröder has therefore no positive basis, and whenever the hydrostatic test and the other examinations completing it, show that there has been no air at all in the lungs, we may, with perfect security, infer that the infant had never breathed.

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 VENESECTION RESUSCITATED. — Dr. Fordyce Barker says he is gradually getting to bleed more frequently. He thinks it has been too much neglected in practice, and would now adopt it in some cases of abortion, and puerperal convulsions, renal congestions, with coma, convulsions, etc.