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ON A CASE OF ENLARGEMENT OF THE MIDDLE LOBE OF THE THYROID.

Periodical Attacks of Dyspnoea Mistaken for Asthma, Extending for over Eight Years.
Eventually Death from the same cause.

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THE case about to be narrated is of interest in the first place because of the rarity of so advanced a condition of goitrous enlargement of the thyroid affecting only the middle lobe, and again because of the symptoms to which it gave rise.

The patient was a female of sixty-five, very stout and of large frame; a cook by occupation. According to the statements made by the physician who had attended her during the few days preceding her admission into the Royal Victoria Hospital, she had for the last eight years, according to her own accounts, confirmed by her friends, been subject to periodical attacks of "asthma" which lasted for some few days and then passed off again: otherwise she had been in good health. Twenty days before her admission one of these attacks came on and she suffered much from shortness of breath. This time however the attacks continued and at the end of sixteen days, her distress was so great that Dr. Church, of Westmount, was called in. Upon examination of the chest he could find no dulness any where, but all over the chest, both back and front, he heard numerous coarse rhonchi accompanied by great stridor. There was, however, no elevation of temperature. To relieve the stridor and the tracheal and bronchial irritation which he considered present, he ordered steam inhalations. These gave immediate and great relief. However they evidently did not give permanent relief, for on the twentieth day he was again called in, and now he found the distress much greater. The face was cyanosed, the pulse very rapid and weak, there was slight pyrexia, and upon examination of the chest he heard everywhere moist rales: with these there was some dulness over the left base. Suspecting a beginning pneumonia, he recommended her to be transferred to the hospital, and on the same day she was admitted under Dr.