

b. Diseases of the lungs and pleura.

1. Under the age of fifteen any disease of the lungs is almost invariably accompanied by great frequency of the pulse, so that a pulse of 120 to 140 would not be considered as so serious in significance as if it occurred in an older person.

2. When a frequent pulse is present in pneumonia it is always of bad significance, even if only a small portion of the lung is involved. Moreover, when a pneumonia occurs in the cachectic or debilitated, the pulse is especially apt to be frequent, often 120 to 160, and such cases usually die.

3. When complicated with heart disease, the frequency of the pulse is significant. Traube asserts, when in a strong robust person you find a pneumonia with a pulse of 120, you may be sure that there is present some form of heart disease.†

c. In the diagnosis of incipient phthisis a sustained frequency of pulse is thought to be of importance by Sir Thomas Watson, and others.

d. In pleuritic effusions the pulse may be very frequent, especially when there is displacement of the heart.

e. In pericarditis and myocarditis very great frequency of the pulse is observed at times—especially on any movement by the patient—130 to 160. The change in rate may be very sudden, and is of some importance in diagnosis and prognosis.

f. In acute articular rheumatism unaccompanied by peri-, endo- or myocarditis, a pulse of 120 or more indicates great danger (Ringer).

g. In the last stages of meningitis of the convexity, and particularly in tubercular meningitis, a very frequent pulse is often observed.

3. Diseases of the nervous system:

a. In diseases affecting the medulla oblongata—in glosso-labio-laryngeal paralysis the pulse is quite frequent.

b. In the early state of locomotor ataxia a frequent pulse is a quite constant symptom.

c. In Basedow's disease a pulse of 120 to 140, and even of 200, is often observed at times.

d. In hysteria an exceedingly frequent pulse is not uncommon, 130 to 160 and more.

e. In puerperal mania, Sir James Y. Simpson insists upon the very great importance of the frequency of the pulse in prognosis, and he states that where the pulse is 110 or over, the outlook is very bad, and that in his experience no case had ever recovered.

f. In certain cases of peripheral irritation a very great increase in the rate of the pulse has been observed:

1. Where tumors in the neck have pressed upon the pneumogastric or sympathetic nerves.

2. In cases with intra-thoracic tumors.

3. Where there has been some inflammatory process in the sheaths of the pneumogastric or sympathetic nerves.

4. In cases of irritation of nerves in the abdominal cavity as by over-distention of the intestines

by gas; in the passage of hepatic and renal calculi; worms in the intestines, etc. As showing the very great disturbance of the pulse, which may be occasioned by the presence of entozoa in the intestines, a case was reported in the *British Medical Journal*, June, 1867, in which attacks of palpitation of the heart with a pulse of 240 were observed, and after the expulsion of a tænia from the intestines the attacks entirely disappeared.

g. In nervous exhaustion the result of venereal excesses, of over-indulgence in alcohol, coffee, or tobacco, or from excessive mental or physical labor, or as the result of previous disease, a very frequent pulse is often observed, and this may, when very frequent, have an alarming significance. Dr. Latham, in the new Sydenham edition of his works, vol. ii., p. 538, describes most eloquently the significance of the very frequent pulse. likening the heart to the finger of the clock, he says: "We have already seen in these two cases the index hurrying rapidly round the dial-plate, and telling that, from some cause or other, the mechanism within was running down, and if it were not arrested that it would quickly stop. Even prior to any outward presentments to give assurance of disease, even earlier than its known beginning, we have seen countless fluttering of the heart and arteries give token of the nervous system already under trial of mortal suffering, and ready to let life go for ever."—*N. Y. Medical Record*.

SUMMER DIARRHŒA OF CHILDREN.

By JAMES I. TUCKER, A.M., M.D., Chicago.

In the broader sense of the term the summer diarrhœa of children is a neurosis. As medical science advances this doctrine will throw off the disguise of the transcendental, and its true significance becoming more and more practically recognized, will finally be accepted by every practitioner from the centre to the periphery of the profession. There is no other rational explanation of the phenomena with which we meet in the complex of symptoms which constitute the disorder in question. The disharmony of function amounts to a pathological entity. To restore harmony is the sole duty of medicine. Medicine thus becomes not only a *fine art*, but the finest of the fine arts, because it deals with human life. Unless we are guided by this principle we will oscillate between the *gloria in inferno* of allotherapy and the *gloria in excelsis* of homœotherapy, and have no resource except in the pitiless and pointless pædriatics of a pathy. Let the etiology be what it may, certainly heat is a prime factor, but be it what it may a specific disharmony of bodily function exists belonging to the first and second periods of anthropological evolution. The first period is brief, extending not beyond the seventh month, when the first teeth generally appear. But some time before the appearance of the teeth there are many

† Die Symptome der Krankheiten des Respirations, und Circulations Apparats. Traube. Berlin, 1867, p. 37.