

ble. The bowels should be well evacuated by any mild purgative, as castor oil, or calomel alone, or followed by a saline. To promote elimination by the kidneys and skin, potass. citr. and liq. ammon. acet. may be given with advantage, for, you know, that in all acute diseases, the symptoms are, in a large measure, due to the waste products in the blood. To maintain uniform warmth and prevent chilling, the chest may be wrapped in cotton-wool, covered with flannel. This is much more convenient than poultices, and with mustard or turpentine applied over the seat of pain, does all the good that poultices do, and none of the harm that the latter may do if not well managed. Mild cases of pneumonia require nothing more to be done for them than this. You have seen several such cases lately, and these charts of their temperature, pulse, and respiration, are quite familiar to you.

Severe cases will demand more active interference. We seldom see the patient till after the chill. If a robust man, we may find him with a full, bounding, rapid pulse, showing high arterial tension; with a high temperature, flushed face, and rapid breathing. This is the kind of case in which bleeding gives prompt relief, lowering the temperature, softening and slowing the pulse, quieting the breathing, and easing the pain; apparently, doing all that we could desire for the patient. But he is not cured; in fact, it has not been shown that the course of the disease is either rendered milder or shortened, or the extension of the inflammation in the lung limited, by the bleeding. Then we must remember that pneumonia causes rapid deterioration in the quality of the blood—the patient soon shows signs of anæmia; in view of this, it would seem very undesirable to rob him of any of his blood, which is destroyed by the disease much more rapidly than he can make it. If the patient's condition demands it, there are other means by which we can reduce the high arterial tension, without depriving him of any of his blood, viz., by the administration of a cardiac depressant, as aconite, or veratrum viride; the latter, which is probably the better, is strongly recommended by H. C. Wood. To understand how they benefit the patient, you must remember that while the vessels generally are in a state of high tension, the vessels the

inflamed portion of lung are greatly dilated, their walls being completely paralysed by the inflammatory process. The blood is, therefore, forced into them until they become gorged, and the circulation through them almost arrested. To be of benefit, these depressants must, therefore, be given early, to limit as far as possible this engorgement of the inflamed lung. If given, the dose should be sufficient to soften the pulse, and keep it so during the first stage; probably, only during the early part of the first stage. Very few of the cases met with in this city are sufficiently sthenic to call for either bleeding or such depressants as veratrum viride. There has not been one among the fair number we have had in the hospital this year. Such cases are more frequently met with in country practice.

As you are all aware, the chief danger to the patient with pneumonia is from heart failure; or, to be more exact, from failure of the right ventricle; occasionally, also, from congestion of the unaffected parts of the lungs, due to weakness of the heart. To appreciate the danger from heart failure, you must remember that the channel of communication between the right and left ventricles is through the lungs. If, for example, the lower lobe of one lung be consolidated, this channel will be reduced to three-fourths of its dimensions; if a whole lung be affected, or the lower lobes of both lungs, as in the patient in Ward 9, there is only half the channel left, and the work of the right ventricle, in maintaining the circulation through the lungs, will be increased proportionately. This, however, does not account for the whole of the increased labor of the heart. The æration of the blood will be less perfect in proportion to the extent of the pulmonary disease, and, as in all acute diseases, the waste products in the blood are increased. Now, you know that the less pure the blood is, the more difficult is it for the heart to maintain the circulation; the presence of the CO_2 , and the waste products, will add materially to the difficulty the heart has to contend with. At the same time its own tissues, in common with the tissues generally, are less perfectly nourished, partly on account of the impurities in the blood, but chiefly on account of the weakness of the circulation. At first its efforts are equal to the