blood. At first the minute blood-vessels, called capillaries, contract, and this contraction is accompanied by an increased flow of blood to the part. But soon the contraction ceases, and the capillaries become much larger than in health. A greatly increased amount of blood now passes through these capillaries, and the increased number of blood-disks gives the affected part a ruddy hue. A slight congestion is accompanied by increased function of the part, while a decided congestion is accompanied by increased heat and increased ennervation. In all cases the action of the heart is increased, and the arteries are the chief seats of the morbid state—as a rule the affected vessels are relaxed.

Acute congestion of the lungs may insensibly change into the passive form, and this is by no means uncommon.

The latest view of this morbid state, and one which the present writer most firmly upholds, is that in congestion of the lungs, and, indeed, in all congestions, a kind of paralysis affects the walls of the blood-vessels. The vaso-motor nerves, the nerves which control the dilatation of the blood-vessels, are paralyzed, and the enlargement of these vessels is the natural result.

To the French pathologist, Andral, belongs the credit of having first (1829) described the general character of congestion of the lungs, and for many years the French had a kind of monopoly of knowledge in this morbid state. Still another Frenchman, Woillez, demonstrated (1851) that congestion of the lungs produces an enlargement of the chest.

Generally speaking, it may be said that congestion of the lungs is most frequent in young men, also in speakers, singers, and performers on wind-instruments.

Congestion of the lungs usually begins suddenly, and is preceded by a chill. This preliminary chill may be a mere feeling of coolness, or it may be a true shaking chill like that of intermittent fever. This initial stage may extend over several days, the chilly feeling alternating with flushes of heat, or it may be merely a vague but very real feeling of discomfort. Then comes a pain in the lungs, generally in the side. At times this