

assistance, or amongst those who have been badly humbugged by quacks, until they are disposed to look with suspicion upon all medical men. We seldom find such cases in families who have learned to place confidence in the ability and honesty of their family physician; or if we do, the fault is his, not theirs; as where properly looked after they ought very rarely to occur.

Of course, aged people are more likely to suffer in this way than the young, as in them there is less of the (*vis medicatrix naturæ*) vital force which forms so important an element in every recovery.

*Case I.*—Mr. L—, aged 65, German. Visited March 25th, 1880; found him suffering from severe pneumonia of posterior portion of lower and middle and whole of upper lobe of right lung. The case, though severe, ran a favourable course under ordinary treatment, viz: mild counter irritation with saline cathartics, opium, ammonia, good nourishment, &c., internally. I saw him frequently up to April 10th, when he began to breathe easily and gain some strength, having a good appetite. He then thought he would not take any more medicine. I pointed out that he was not yet well but told him if he wished he might quit for awhile, and if he continued to improve, all right, if not, send me word. I heard nothing more from him for about ten days when I was sent for again, and informed that his disease had turned into dropsy, and, of course, nothing more could be done for him except to relieve his sufferings, as his legs and abdomen were considerably swollen. After satisfying myself that there was no organic disease of his heart, and no albumen in his urine, I gave a somewhat favourable prognosis and began with blue pill, followed by saline cathartic, also a mixture containing Tr. Ferri Mur., Tr. Nuc. Vom., and Spts. Aeth. Nit., in pretty full doses, to be repeated every four hours. Had him kept in bed, and bandaged his legs, instructing the family to remove the bandages, wash the legs, and re-apply them whenever they got loose. In four or five days the dropsy had all disappeared, and continuing his iron mixture it did not return.

*Case II.*—Mr. W—, aged 78, German. I

was first called here Dec. 13th, 1880, and found him suffering from acute pneumonia, chiefly confined to posterior portions of right lung. His cough was very troublesome, for which I prescribed an opiate to be given as required to relieve cough and procure some sleep. The treatment was much as in the previous case. On my second visit I was informed that the only medicine he would take was that for the relief of his cough, as he found that it gave relief, and he did not expect to get well any way. Finding that his resolution was fixed, I told the family that there was no use of my visiting him if he did not follow my directions; and that unless he changed his mind, and notified me to that effect, I would not come back. He continued very poorly, sending occasionally for cough mixture; but I saw no more of him until March 22, 1881, when his son came to tell me that he was very bad with dropsy—feet, legs, and abdomen very much swollen.

After a careful examination of his heart, and finding his urine free from albumen, I gave a favourable prognosis. As he was in great distress I concluded to tap at once, and by means of a large aspirator needle I took from him one gallon and about a teacup full of fluid, which gave great relief. The rest of the treatment was similar to that of the previous case. I saw him again on March 24th, when the swelling was very much reduced. He now took his medicine very willingly, and when I inquired if he would take it if I made it more bitter, wishing to add *nux vomica* to the iron, he replied that he would take anything I gave him. In fact, I found that his faith in the profession had very much increased, as he obeyed orders willingly.

He continued steadily to improve, taking the iron and compound jalap powder when costive without any return of the swelling, until my last call, as I was passing his residence, April 11th, when I was surprised to find him so hearty, entirely free from dropsy, with good appetite, being up all day, and rapidly gaining strength.

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Alexis St. Martin, the bearer of the Gastric Fistula, is dead.