

after a somewhat extended search, I have been able to find a paper, through which, or through a synopsis of which, the symptom was probably first brought to my notice. The paper is by Dr. John Shrady,⁵ of New York, on "Signs of the Moribund Condition." In this paper, published twenty years ago, he says: "The most valuable sign of inevitable dissolution is the up-and-down movement of the pomum Adami, always providing it be persistent."

In an extensive article on "Death, its Modes, Signs, and Premonitions," appearing in the *Buffalo Medical Journal* nineteen years ago, the writer gives the credit of first pointing out this symptom to Dr. George F. Shrady. Whether this is a confusion of names, and he should have said John instead of George, I am unable to say.

These are the earliest references to the symptom that I can find in the literature at my command, but it appears to me that a symptom that is so easily recognized by both sight and touch must have been noted by many observers from the time of Hippocrates to the present. In these days of advanced methods of diagnosis by means of the X-ray, blood-counts, estimation of opsonic indices, and other means, which, however, require special apparatus and an amount of technical skill which the busy general practitioner feels that he cannot readily acquire, it is well for us to not neglect those signs and symptoms which can be detected by the unaided senses. Here is a symptom that can be easily recognized by anyone, even if he happened to be blind. The symptom, however, is not quite so positive in its meaning as would appear from Shrady's statement. If, indeed, it were true, as Shrady says, that it is a sign of inevitable dissolution, a knowledge of it would be very valuable. My limited means of observation have led me to form the following provisional conclusions regarding this symptom:

(1) In normal respiration, there are no up-and-down movements of the larynx and trachea, or in other words tracheal breathing is absent.

(2) Tracheal breathing may occur during the course of any severe illness, and when it does usually indicates a serious condition, and very often points to a fatal termination.

(3) The amount of danger appears to be in direct relation to the extent of the movement—the greater the movement the greater the danger.

(4) When this symptom occurs in connection with diseases of the lungs, it is probably not of such grave significance as when occurring in cases where the respiratory tract is sound or only