

Although a fact founded on one case, perhaps imperfectly reported, may be of little value, I have thought it worth while to present the following case :—

J. M., Welshman, aged 56, was admitted to hospital about February 1st, 1888, with the following history, imperfect on account of his want of familiarity with the English language. As a boy he had been well, and had been in health up to two years before, in Wales, where he “took a cold,” which, growing worse, entirely unfitted him for his work, which was that of a miner. On inquiring more particularly as to his occupation, he said that he had been employed for about fifteen years in the slate mines of Wales, and his particular work was to split the slate. He said that there was always slate dust flying about in the air; but not in such quantities as in coal mines. Upon questioning him further, he said that the slate miners were frequently affected with a cough and a profuse gray or blackish expectoration, and that they usually died from this cough at about fifty. He said their manner of coughing was very hard, and there was much wheezing and shortness of breath. While talking with him, I noticed that he was a tall man, slightly bent, with anxious countenance, showing that he was suffering from dyspnoea or imperfect oxygenation. In fact, he suffered so violently at first that it was very difficult to examine him, and most of the history was obtained at the end of his treatment. Inspection showed a spare man with large chest cavity, but not barrel-shaped. On percussion, which was carried out with great difficulty, a possibly increased dulness was heard over the right apex in front and at the base behind. The left lung was slightly hyper-resonant from increased work. The vocal fremitus was not markedly different on the two sides. Auscultation gave coarse and fine mucus, and dry, sonorous and sibilant râles with expiration and inspiration over the whole chest, the expiration being much prolonged. Cough and shortness of breath were the troublesome symptoms, as was shown in his anxious expression, and in his entire inability to lie in the horizontal position. His expectoration had been dark and also grayish-black; but recently it was white, as it was when I saw him. In