

if the head entered a secondary bronchus and stuck there, it is the only position it could possibly occupy.

The most important lesson to be learned is from the fact that so few symptoms were caused by the presence of the pin. I have often observed this in similar cases. For example, a vulcanite tracheotomy tube, broken from the shield, which had entered the right bronchus of a child, for several days, only caused imperfect entry of air into the right lung, and a piece of bone in the right bronchus, which did certainly cause a troublesome cough and some rise in temperature, gave as the only physical signs deficient entry of air, impaired movement, and a few moist râles at the right base. So it is not right to wait for signs or symptoms, because mischief may be set up in their absence. It must not be forgotten that, although, fortunately, the removal of foreign bodies, even after a long time, has effected a cure, there are many cases on record where, even a short residence in a bronchus of such unirritating smooth body as a collar-stud, has set up chronic bronchitis and bronchiectasis, from which the patient has never recovered. This is what prolonged residence of a foreign body commonly does, and I have pointed out that it is one of the commonest causes of unilateral bronchiectasis in children. The *modus operandi* is that the bronchi beyond the obstruction are never cleared of the secretions, which then become septic, and produce, first bronchitis, and then inflammation of lung of one sort or another—a matter to which I will return later.

Another very important point is that the doctor was inclined to discredit the story. Long experience has convinced me that it is much more common for the patient or his guardians to forget the occurrence of such an accident than for the tale to be invented. I have often had to drag the history out of the parents, and will here again mention a case I have often referred to that is much to the point. It was that of the small four-year-old son of a doctor, who was brought to me with what was thought to be empyema, following whooping cough, in 1888. It was really bronchiectasis, caused by a rabbit's vertebra, which had been inspired whilst the father himself was feeding the child with mulligatawny soup seven months previously. The bone was coughed up ten months after my operation. The child is grown into a man twenty-nine years old; he is married, but still had a cavity at his right base when last heard of. The moral of all which is, never neglect the story of a foreign body; be rather credulous than sceptical, see that no pains are spared to remove the object at the earliest possible moment, and lastly, remember that a person may live a great