

very large proportion of cases, as I before intimated, to the co-existing complications or sequelæ.

In an annotation in the *Lancet*, in June, 1878, it is there stated, while speaking of the very high rate of mortality in this disease in London during that year (the average number of deaths for 25 weeks being 115 per week): "Nearly all the fatal cases occur among the working classes, and are due not so much to the disease itself as to its sequelæ, in the form of affections of the respiratory organs."

Now, in considering the treatment of any special disease, it is to my mind of the first importance to be able to locate it, if I may use the expression, in its proper class; and if this can once be done a great point is gained, and we are then limited in our therapeutics after a certain point. This is then the first difficulty we meet with in treating this affection. We cannot so locate it, as Dr. Octavius Sturges truly remarks: "It claims alliance with nervous affections, with zymotic diseases, and with ordinary catarrh."

The difficulty of determining its cause and pathology will explain at once the various views held as regards its treatment. If we are willing to allow the attack to run its own course, and content ourselves with guiding it to a favorable termination, then the treatment is conducted upon principles so well known in the management of chest affections as to need no repetition.

It must be noted here, though, that the duration, even in an uncomplicated case, is very uncertain: terminating in some cases within three weeks, in some less, and that often in moderately severe forms, while in others it will continue as many months.

If we admit that the gravity of the case is in direct ratio with its duration, and I think this view is generally held, and that the longer it lasts the greater the likelihood of unpleasant complications, even to a fatal termination, then I maintain that we are fully justified in using every available means at our command to cut short the attack, even in a mild case.

From what I have said of the nature of the affection, you will gather that I do not pin my faith upon any one specific to