

ACTIVE CONGESTION OF THE LUNGS.

Virchow defines this to be "a rush of blood" to these organs, and he considers that the arteries are chiefly affected. It consists in such a determination of blood to the lungs that breathing is more or less interfered with, together with cough, and at times hemorrhage.

This state results from any cause capable of producing a flow of blood towards the lungs. Exposure to cold is undoubtedly the chief cause, and it is directly responsible for many sudden deaths. Take the following case, reported in the *Montreal Witness* of Feb. 9th, 1889, and appropriately headed, "From exposure during Carnival":

"A fatality, which in a way was attributable to the Carnival festivities, was investigated yesterday, by a Coroner's jury. Mrs. Mercier, a hale and hearty old lady of 76, had hitherto enjoyed the best of health. She had, however, delayed too long on the streets watching the crowds of people which filled the thoroughfares in the West End, and was fatally seized with illness as she was leaving the up-town branch of the Jacques Cartier Bank. Dr. Bouchard, who was called in, gave it as his opinion that death was attributable to congestion of the lungs, brought on by exposure to the inclement weather, and the jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical testimony."

Violent exercise, loud and prolonged speaking, even mental emotion, the taking of cold drinks when the individual is heated and perspiring, running and dancing are other exciting causes. All these act by causing a sudden recession of blood from the surface of the body, resulting in a concentration of that fluid in the pulmonary organs.

Active congestion of the lungs appears, as a rule, in healthy, even plethoric individuals, but it must not be forgotten that this state is very common in persons in whom the mass of the blood has been greatly reduced by hemorrhage.

A certain amount of active congestion always precedes inflammation of the lungs, and, moreover, hemorrhage and dropsy of the lungs both imply a previous condition of congestion.

In active congestion of the lungs there is an abnormally active circulation in the part, together with an increased quantity of