

filled up again as badly as before. I went at once taking my aspirator with me, and found him about as the messenger had described, as to the distress and difficulty of breathing, though not so exhausted as before ; but you may judge my surprise when I found it was the left pleural cavity that was now filled, instead of the right, and that the right lung was all he had to use, the left being completely compressed and all air excluded from it. I at once used the aspirator as before, excepting of course, introducing the trochar on the left side, with the result of evacuating $8\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of fluid, and treated the case precisely as I had previously done, with even a better result, as convalescence was procured without any subsequent effusion in about three or four weeks, and in addition I had the satisfaction of finding the right lung had (I presume from the extra hard work it had been compelled to perform), very materially resumed its respiratory power. Now, as I have never met with anything approaching so satisfactory results in similar cases by the old method of slowly evacuating the fluid, I think I am justified in the belief that the sudden withdrawal of the fluid and consequent formation of a large vacuum, had considerable influence in the production of the favorable result. I may perhaps add another peculiarity in this boy's case. In August last I was called to see him again, and found him very ill indeed, with large peritoneal effusion, jaundiced and very emaciated and so weak that I hesitated considerably as to the expediency of tapping him, but finally concluded to give him the benefit of the doubt, and try medicinal treatment first. I therefore gave him calomel gr. viij, and pulv. jalapæ co. ʒi at once, which procured several large watery discharges, with evident relief to all his symptoms. I then gave him the following prescription : viz. pil. hydrarg. gr. iv., pulv. scillæ gr. iss ; pulv. digitalis gr. $\frac{3}{4}$, night and morning, with the following mixture three times a day : R. cincho-quinine gr. iss, acidi nitrici miiij, aceti scill mvj, spts ether. nitrici m. xx, syrupi ʒi, aquæ ʒij, under which treatment the whole effusion became quickly absorbed, and he again made a good recovery, and so far has remained well.

Sherbrooke, Jan. 22nd, 1877.