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PULMONARY ABSCESS AND GANGRENE.

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This paper is based on the analysis of eight cases of Gangrene of the Lung from the available clinical reports of the Montreal General Hospital, and three cases in my private practice. I have also collected fourteen clinical reports of Abscess of the Lung from the same service. It was my intention to confine my paper to the subject of Gangrene of the Lung, but the intimate connexion between Abscess of the Lung and Gangrene of the Lung made it necessary to make a joint study of the two conditions.

Both abscess and gangrene are rare diseases. In the Pathological Records of the Montreal General Hospital, covering twenty-five hundred autopsies in twenty-eight years,—I found records of nine cases of Gangrene of the Lung, and of Abscess of the Lung there are but eighteen. These records go back to 1877. Dr. Osler reports the first case, one of gangrenous tissue, about a phthisical cavity. In 1620 autopsies at the Middlesex Hospital, London, there were seven examples of gangrene, and Withington found and discussed thirty-six cases of abscess and gangrene of the lung in the service of the Boston City Hospital for eighteen years.

Abscess invariably precedes the gangrene. Gangrene is never a primary affection, its commonest precursors are certain diseases of the lung, namely, pneumonia, phthisis, broncho-pneumonia, peribronchitis, bronchitis, especially putrid bronchitis, foreign bodies such as particles of food, coins. Other rarer causes are pulmonary embolism, traumatism, and gangrene may even be metastatic in origin.

The implantation of saphrophytic bacteria upon soil made receptive by these causes results in softening and necrosis accompanied by putre-