

hæmoptysis. In these remarks, I confine myself to cases of pulmonary hæmorrhage due to tuberculous disease of the lungs, which make up the large majority of all cases of severe hæmoptysis.

I attribute the success of my practice in this respect mainly to the use of ergot of rye ; because it is quite true, as already suggested, that, in nearly every consultation-case of appalling hæmoptysis that I have seen, "everything has been done, and every remedy tried," with the one exception of ergot of rye ; and the use of this remedy has generally turned the fate of the patient. It has always struck me as a singular fact, that general practitioners, who are so well acquainted with the effects of ergot in uterine hæmorrhage—who use it more frequently than any other class of practitioners—with whom, in fact, it is almost a "pocket-companion"—never seem to think of using it in pulmonary hæmorrhage. I find, from frequent enquiry of my medical friends, that this is explained by the prevalence of the idea that ergot only acts by inducing contractions of the muscular tissue of the uterus ; its remarkable power of inducing contraction of the blood-vessels being lost sight of. This is so generally the case, that I never met with but one general practitioner in the London district (in the country, it seems to be better known) who was at all aware of the power of ergot to control hæmoptysis. This exception was Dr. Betts, formerly of Highgate, now of Ventnor, who has as much confidence in the remedy as I have myself, and dates his confidence from the occurrence that, when a student at Guy's Hospital many years ago, suffering from profuse and intractable pulmonary hæmorrhage, under the care of the late Dr. Addison, his case was on the point of being given up as hopeless, when the bleeding was suddenly brought to a standstill by a large dose of ergot, administered at his own request ; the idea having occurred to him, that, as it so often arrested uterine hæmorrhage, it might also answer in hæmoptysis.

But I have said that, in the appalling cases to which I have referred, "everything else had been done, and every remedy tried," before I ordered the ergot ; and I desire to attach the greatest importance to this fact. Ergot is only competent to do one of the many things necessary to stop a severe pulmonary hæmorrhage ; viz., to contract the vessels. It is necessary to do much more than this.

1. The vital power must be supported by brandy, iced milk, and beef-tea, if indicated by the general symptoms.
2. The heart must be kept steady by digitalis.
3. Congestion must be relieved by saline purging.
4. Clotting of the blood must be promoted by styptics, and by the free admission of cold air.