

is required for a simple case of acute bronchitis is practically detailed.

The worst forms of Bronchitis occur, at the two extremes of life—in first and second childhood. In young children, the affection frequently follows one of the infectious fevers, such as measles or scarlet fever, and is a frequent accompaniment of whooping cough—a fact which illustrates very well the difference between a simple and a dangerous attack—because, in general terms, this may be said to depend upon the general health of the patient.

In most cases in healthy people, bronchitis occurring as the result of a cold will probably only affect the larger bronchi; and as soon as the congestion has passed off, and the phlegm is easily expectorated, the attack rapidly ends. But if the patient be weakened by some other illness, or for any reason be much out of health, the congestion may spread down into the smaller bronchi, and even into the smallest branches, and what is known as capillary bronchitis, or inflammation of the minute bronchi, occurs. It can then be easily understood that a double difficulty will exist; the mucus cannot be easily expectorated because there is little or no force of air in the tubes behind it, and it therefore clogs up the air passages and prevents the proper access of the air to the air cells. A moment's reflection will show how serious this condition may become; because if the smaller tubes become choked up, throughout much of the lung, the affected part of the organ will be disabled from performing its work of oxygenating the blood, and throwing off carbonic acid. If both lungs, as will probably be the case, are affected to an equal degree, the patient will then probably exhibit the ordinary signs of the accumulation of carbonic acid and the want of oxygen in the system. Then the weakness of the patient will necessarily be increased, and thus his difficulty in clearing the bronchi by expectorating their accumulation of phlegm will be intensified. Events, therefore, tend to move in a vicious circle, and it is obvious that the first indication is to carefully husband the patient's strength. So the nursing in these cases largely consists of administering food and stimulants at short intervals. As a general rule, therefore, bronchitis in the very young or very old may become a most dangerous affection, and for the same reason it may become formidable in adults whose general health has been weakened by some other exhausting disease.

(To be continued.)

Medical Matters.

NASAL DISEASE.



It is an old aphorism that when one part of the body is affected, all other parts suffer more or less in sympathy with it; but in a certain sense modern discoveries have shown that this is peculiarly true with respect to diseases of the nose. This fact is the more noteworthy because it is only within recent times that its extreme importance has been recognised. We have noted from time to time, in these columns, the evil effects of adenoid growths in the nares by preventing the proper passage of air to the lungs and by pressing upon the nerves and vessels. It is a well recognised fact that in many children of stunted mental and physical growth the removal of such adenoids leads to an immediate and rapid improvement in the child's health and bodily condition. The close connection also between deafness and thickening of the mucous membrane of the throat, is also well recognised; and many cases which were formerly regarded as hopeless, are now rapidly cured by local treatment of the throat. The connection between a definite form of asthma and the presence of some nasal irritation, is also well defined; and, at present, it is being discussed amongst American physicians whether some forms of epilepsy are not also due to similar nerve irritation, and are not therefore entirely curable. This is comparatively a novel problem, and its solution will be carefully watched by medical men throughout the world. Finally it is being argued, and with considerable force, that many cases of headache, which persist in spite of all ordinary treatment, are probably due to some pressure on the nerves of the nose. This view is exemplified by a case recently reported in which a patient had suffered from extreme and intractable neuralgia for many months, but which was instantly cured by the removal of a spur of bone projecting from the middle turbinate bone of the nose.

NEGRO DEGENERATION.

MANY American statesmen have expressed the most gloomy views with regard to the negro question, in the United States. In fact, only a short time ago, it was gravely prophesied that the darker race would increase and multiply to such an extent that it would

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)