entirely a lung which is already almost incapable of function is physiologically a *vile damnum*; but from the point of view of restraining the output of toxins it may be an enormous gain.

A CASE OF ARTIFICIAL DOUBLE PNEUMOTHORAX.

BY

ARCHIE MCCALLUM, M.B.,
TEMPORARY SURGEON LIEUTENANT R.N.

IN a recent edition of a popular textbook on physiology the following sentence appears in the chapter on the mechanism of breathing: "A perforation of the chest wall would mean that the lung on that side would no longer be of use; a similar injury on the other side (double pneumothorax) would cause death." This statement, along with the impression so many, as well as myself, have always entertained, that the so-called vacuum in the parietal "space" must be retained on at least one side of the thorax, seemed at variance with the continued viability of the patient in the following case.

From the use of artificial pneumothorax in the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis it is well known that one lung may be very greatly collapsed with little or no embarrassment to respiration. Through a fluoroscope the lung, which is under great collapse, can be seen to undergo a limited respiratory movement, and even when there is a decided positive pressure of gas this lung does not entirely cease to function. I was, however, not a little surprised to find a patient breathing quite comfortably and moving about the grounds of the institution with no embarrassment, although, in the routine treatment of a case of pulmonary tuberculosis by artificial pneumothorax, I had produced a double pneumothorax of some considerable size, through a patency existing between the right and left pleural spaces.

Mr. C. was considered a suitable patient upon whom an artificial pneumothorax should be produced in order to rest the right lung, which was extensively involved and gradually becoming worse, whilst no definite active lesions were found in the left lung.

The first four introductions of nitrogen were of small amounts, averaging about 250 c.cm. each time; and these probably went into pockets between adhesions, judging from the oscillations and readings of the water manometer. But on the fifth introduction a definite pocket of gas between the base of the lung and the diaphragm was discernible through the fluoroscope.

Pressures (Water Manometer), and Accompanying Amounts of Gas Introduced.

Treatment.	Interval.	Gas.	Pressure at Start.	Pressure at Finish.
Initial	—	Oxygen 100 c.cm. Nitrogen 250 c.cm.	-8	+10
Second	1 day	N 300 c.cm.	-3	+10
Third	6 days	N 235 c.cm.	-20	+10
Fourth	4 "	N 260 c.cm.	-8	+20
Fifth	3 "	N 450 c.cm.	-9	-4
Sixth	4 "	N 425 c.cm.	-6	0
Seventh	8 "	N 700 c.cm.	-4	+6
Eighth	2 "	N 800 c.cm.	-4	+8
Ninth	8 "	N 1,000 c.cm.	+5	+12

After the eighth treatment the area above the diaphragm on the left side showed a slight transparency with the fluoroscope, but after the ninth treatment a very distinct pneumothorax was seen on both right and left sides, lifting the bases of both lungs away from the diaphragm. The highest part of the bases of the lungs was at the level of the fourth intercostal space in the mid-clavicular line. The patient said he was "a little short of breath," and felt that he "had gas on the stomach," but, as stated before, being an "up" patient, he continued to walk about the grounds with little discomfort.

It was obvious that the continuance of the artificial pneumothorax was not advisable; so the next day I withdrew the gas by reversing the method of its introduction.

Quantity of Gas Removed and Changes in Pressure.

Quantity of Gas Removed.	Pressure after Removal.
Initial pressure ...	... +12
400 c.cm. ...	... +6
600 c.cm. ...	... +4
915 c.cm. ...	... +1
1,175 c.cm. ...	... +1
1,325 c.cm. ...	... -2

As soon as a negative pressure was obtained the operation was discontinued, but, as is shown in the x-ray plate, a considerable quantity of gas still remained on the right side. The gas was withdrawn at the same site as it was introduced in previous operations—namely, the eighth intercostal space in the anterior axillary line on the right side.

A study of the two x-ray plates showing the conditions before and after the withdrawal of the gas was instructive. The patency between the right and left pleural spaces was quite well defined at the time, when viewed through the fluoroscope. The extent of the involvement of the right lung was shown by the mottling of the organ. The adhesions in both lungs were well marked, and probably accounted for the marked depression of the diaphragm on both sides. Even after withdrawal of the gas the left lung showed a triangular transparent area indicating some retention.

Besides the physiological features mentioned and the anatomical peculiarity of a patency between the pleural spaces, which, of course, may have been the result of a tuberculous focus perforating the "partition" between the spaces, there is the further lesson conveyed of the indispensability of the fluoroscope, or x rays, in conjunction with the use of artificial pneumothorax, if the dangers of compressing a healthy lung at the same time as compressing the diseased one are to be avoided.

EPIDEMIC PNEUMONIC INFLUENZA AS SEEN IN MALAYA.

BY

G. WAUGH SCOTT, M.B.,

ESTATES MEDICAL OFFICER, SUNGET SIPUT, FEDERATED
MALAY STATES.

PNEUMONIC INFLUENZA broke out during the month of October, 1918, amongst the Tamil labour force on a rubber estate of which I was in medical charge, and was very fatal.

Lobar pneumonia is endemic in Malaya, and causes a fairly large proportion of the deaths among all classes of the community. Thus it may easily happen that the first few cases in an epidemic of this kind are regarded merely as an unusual incidence of ordinary lobar pneumonia. In this way valuable time may be lost ere precautions against the spread of the epidemic are taken.

While the disease produces a true pneumonia, there are many symptoms which serve to distinguish it from the ordinary lobar type of that disease.

The onset is usually heralded by a rise of temperature with hacking cough and a pain, which is almost invariably located by the patient in the front of the chest, and not at one side or another as in lobar pneumonia. The onset of this pain is preceded by sore throat and a nasal discharge; the latter persists during the illness. The coughing is painful, but the cough is not of the kind usually found in ordinary pneumonia. It is deep and full, and pain excited is much more generalized. The coughing occurs in long bouts, and in the intervals there is great exhaustion with the vocal breathing or groaning present in most grave illnesses. The facies is marked by an anxious look, which persists even after delirium has set in. The complexion is a yellowish-grey. The nostrils are dilated, and the reddened mucous membrane coated with encrusted haemorrhagic discharge is a notable feature in severe cases. The sputum is rusty and of the nummular form at first, but very speedily becomes more profuse and greenish-yellow, though remaining glutinous. Profuse epistaxis is common and of unfavourable import. Haematemesis and haemoptysis have both been seen in very severe cases, always as a terminal phenomenon.

The temperature exhibits a much greater diurnal variation than in lobar pneumonia, varying between 99° and 103° F., and usually touching both these limits in