

BRONCHITIS.

This disease consists in an inflammation of the mucous membrane of the air passages after they enter the lungs. It may be acute or chronic. Acute bronchitis manifests the same symptoms, and requires the same treatment, as pneumonia, or lung fever, which see.

CHRONIC BRONCHITIS.

This disease is seldom fatal, yet it may lead to a fatal disease. The first attack usually occurs in the winter. The majority of winter coughs are examples of it. In the mild form, there is but a slight cough, with shortness of breath, and a copious expectoration, these symptoms being always aggravated by exposure to cold or wet, or by bad living. This disease may, if the inflammation is confined to the larger tubes, exist for many years, and the patient experience no very great distress other than the discomfort of a frequent cough and expectoration. But if the capillary vessels become involved in the inflammation, the symptoms are more violent, the breath is short and very difficult, and there is an excessive secre-

tion of opaque, frothy mucus, mixed with pus.

Treatment.—With the exception of wearing the chest-wrapper nights— see chest-wrapper— and applying once or twice a week the hot fomentation alternated with cold, for thirty minutes, and once or twice a week applying cold to the chest and hot to the shoulders, the treatment should be as directed for constitutional treatment.

