heart, with sounds extending further to the right than to the left. There was no cough nor bloody expectoration. Her voice was reduced to a whisper, but her intellect remained clear. At five P. M., Dr. J. H. Warren saw her with me, and judged in the case as I did. The temperature under her tongue at this time was 99.50° F. Her friends and herself were informed of the nature of the case, and what would most likely be the result. She grew gradually worse, more and more cyanotic, short of breath, and weak, and died at midnight, eighteen and a half hours after the first symptoms of danger. It is not to be assumed that the pain originated on the instant the local infarction began, but only when the obstruction to the circulation became sufficient to be embarrassing to the heart. That the obstruction was not in the right heart itself is plain from the clear though loud sound of the valves, nor was there any evidence of regurgitation, as there would have been had the valves been tied down. It is equally plain that the blood did not return to the left heart except in partial amount; hence its collapsed and inactive condition, as also that of the arteries and capillaries of the systemic circulation. Hence, also, the profuse sweating. The prominent symptoms about the heart were clearly brought out in an experiment on a dog, a few days later, when, having him under ether and his abdomen laid open, the diaphragm was punctured, allowing of collapse of the left lung, with obstruction, of course, to the left pulmonary circulation; then quickly raising the chest wall the heart was brought into full view and handled. As the obstruction to the circulation in the lung came on the right heart enlarged, and put forth unusual effort to overcome the hindrance, while the left heart became shrunken and ineffectual in its efforts to supply the aorta, which also fell into collapse. By reason of the engorged right side the heart was drawn towards the right, and its impulse was carried further in that direction and in front than normal, with a corresponding recession from the left, both as to impact and valvular sounds. Thus what was here seen was in perfect accord with what was felt and heard in the case of my patient.

In September, 1875, a case of double thrombosis came under observation, in a lady forty-six years of age, the clots forming three hours from each other, and arising, without doubt, from blood-stasis, as she had been sick for some time with malignant right ovary. After the first attack, which occurred at three A. M., I saw her. Her symptoms were then precisely like the case I have detailed. Warmth, friction, and stimulants changed the character of the surface a little, and rendered her somewhat more comfortable for a time, when I left her. At six o'clock another attack occurred, and she almost immediately expired, her face being almost as cyanotic as if she had been hanged.

Dr. R. H. Fitz kindly conducted the autopsy for me. According to the general fact, the right lung had the older clot, being the one usually obstructed when only one is involved. The clot dipped into the three branches of the artery. On the left was a similar clot lodged in the bifurcation, more recent than the former, but distinct in character from the post-mortem coagula. The age of the two clots doubtless corresponded with the two seizures.

Notwithstanding Bristowe teaches that "the symptoms of pulmonic obstruction are by no means typical," we feel that, with the above facts before us, we are on safe ground for concluding that the case of our late patient was a case of pulmonary obstruction, probably of the right side, from a clot either originating on the spot or brought there from a distance.

ELASTIC CAUSTIC PENCILS OR BOUGIES.

BY WILLIAM A. BYRD, M. D., QUINCY, ILL.

IN the JOURNAL for March 20, 1879, page 405, appears: "Dr. Pajot prepares an elastic pencil of caustic by dipping a laminaria tent, diameter two millimetres, into a rather thick mucilage, and afterward rolling it in finely pulverized nitrate of silver; when dry it forms an elastic pencil which may be readily introduced into the uterine or other cavity without fear of fracture."

The first article I ever contributed to a medical journal was to the *St. Louis Medical Reporter* in 1867 or 1868, describing the treatment of a case of prostatitis by means of slippery-elm-bark bougies dipped in a saturated solution of nitrate of silver and allowed to remain until thoroughly impregnated with the solution; then taken out, dried, and passed down the urethra to the affected spot, and allowed to remain until the nitrate had exerted its cauterizing

ing effect. Since then I have used the medicated bougies or "caustic pencils" frequently, especially in the treatment of suppurating chronic sinuses and granular erosion of the cervix uteri. Some time in 1868 I commenced preparing the bougies or "pencils" by placing them with their ends in water until well coated with mucilage, and then rolling them in finely powdered sulphate of zinc, then allowing them to dry, when they would be ready for use by simply moistening and inserting into the cavity intended for treatment. Other caustics may be used the same way. The slippery-elm-bark pencils can be easily and quickly made by any one, of any desired length or thickness, very much cheaper than laminaria. They furnish their own mucilage, can be had on short notice in country localities, and by leaving them in the cavities being treated they swell up by imbibing moisture, and produce, as does laminaria, "over-distention," which is a great adjuvant to their cauterizing property.

REPORTED MORTALITY FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 5, 1879.

Cities	Popula- tion estimated for July, 1879.	Reported Deaths in each.	Annual Death-Rate per 1000 during the Week.	Percentage of total Deaths from					
				The Princ- pal "Zymo- tic" Diseases.	Pneumo- nia.	Diphtheria and Croup.	Scarlet Fe- ver.	Diarrhoeal Diseases.	
New York.....	1,085,000	534	25.66	17.97	14.23	4.12	7.86	2.48	
Philadelphia.....	—	266	—	12.90	8.04	3.84	3.49	0.35	
Brooklyn.....	564,400	283	21.98	18.85	15.55	4.20	6.30	1.26	
Chicago.....	—	138	—	28.98	6.52	8.69	8.69	0.78	
St. Louis.....	—	97	—	5.15	17.53	—	—	—	
Baltimore.....	865,000	139	19.86	12.95	8.63	5.04	4.32	—	
Boston.....	860,000	127	18.39	18.11	11.81	10.23	1.58	4.74	
Cincinnati.....	—	104	—	31.73	8.65	3.84	20.19	—	
District of Columbia...	160,000	72	23.46	11.11	11.11	4.17	2.78	—	
Cleveland.....	—	51	—	13.73	11.76	11.76	—	—	
Pittsburgh.....	—	30	—	—	—	6.66	—	—	
Milwaukee.....	—	38	—	15.79	10.53	15.79	—	—	
Providence.....	101,000	27	13.93	25.98	11.11	7.41	7.41	—	
New Haven.....	60,000	19	16.50	5.26	10.52	5.26	—	—	
Charleston.....	57,000	27	24.71	14.82	3.71	3.71	—	3.71	
Nashville.....	—	11	—	18.18	9.09	—	—	9.09	
Lowell.....	53,300	15	14.67	6.67	20.00	—	—	—	
Worcester.....	52,500	20	19.86	15.00	5.00	—	—	—	
Cambridge.....	51,400	7	7.10	14.29	14.29	14.29	—	—	
Fall River.....	48,500	16	17.20	12.50	—	—	12.50	—	
Lawrence.....	38,200	17	23.21	29.41	—	23.53	—	—	
Lynn.....	34,000	13	19.94	23.08	7.69	—	15.39	—	
Springfield.....	31,500	11	18.21	18.18	—	18.18	—	—	
New Bedford.....	27,000	16	30.90	6.25	18.75	—	—	—	
Salem.....	26,400	9	17.78	—	—	—	—	—	
Somerville.....	23,850	6	13.40	—	16.67	—	—	—	
Chelsea.....	20,800	7	17.55	—	14.29	—	—	—	
Taunton.....	20,200	9	23.23	22.22	11.11	—	11.11	—	
Holyoke.....	18,200	6	17.19	—	50.50	—	—	—	
Gloucester.....	17,100	4	12.20	—	50.00	—	—	—	
Newton.....	17,100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Haverhill.....	15,900	4	13.63	—	25.00	—	—	—	
Newburyport.....	13,500	6	23.17	—	16.67	—	—	—	
Fitchburg.....	12,500	5	20.83	—	20.00	—	—	—	

¹ Not reported.

As compared with the previous week, there is an increased mortality from cerebro-spinal meningitis and diarrhoeal diseases; decreased from acute pulmonary diseases and whooping-cough; no other marked change. From *whooping-cough* 12 deaths were reported in New York, five in Philadelphia, three in Brooklyn and Cincinnati, one in Baltimore, Providence, and Taunton. From *typhoid fever*, five in Philadelphia, two in Chicago, St. Louis, and Cincinnati, one in New York, Baltimore, Boston, District of Columbia, Providence, Charleston, Lowell, Lawrence, and New Bedford. From *erysipelas*, six in Chicago, three in New York, Philadelphia, and Cincinnati, two in Brooklyn, St. Louis, and Worcester, one in Baltimore, District of Columbia, and Providence. From *cerebro-spinal meningitis*, seven in Chicago, two in New York and Philadelphia, one in St. Louis, Boston, District of Columbia, Charleston, Nashville, and Lynn. From *measles*, two in Baltimore, one in New York,