

A.M.'s notes of W.O.'s illness...6.

Wander

25.XII.19. No morphia and slept well. T. 99'. Some brownish blood and some fresh streaks in the sputum. Not so much had collected in wound. Rt. side moves really very well. A quiet restful day, and in evening looked better and stronger. P. about 98.

Wander

26.XII.19. A disturbed day and had to have castor oil. Dressing at 11, and Gibson and I could make out nothing fresh on same side. Gordon Watson came down at 3 and looked at wound etc. Thinks this all right but does not consider that W.O. is picking up quickly enough. Does not eat enough and is so drowsy. T. only 99'. P. just above 100 and R. about 28. He was wandering a bit to-night.

Wander

27.XII.19. Got Gibson to (do) a w.b.c. count. It is 39,000 (37,000?) Must be pocket somewhere. No pneumonia on opposite side. Can make out so little on same side ob(?) wound. Am a bit suspicious of rt. lower axilla and yet it is over liver. Cannot feel convinced that all is right with the empyema cavity and every day ask about all the corners (?). Urine is O.K.; no albumin G. says, ate better, not wandering. Got him some beef juice. Had a little irritating cough all afternoon. Said to me "I'm not too far gone to know that the 'successful operation' has not cleared up everything; there must be some pus in a pocket somewhere - perhaps in the lung". Slept last night again sans morphia.

? no entry for Dec. 25-27??
11.4.7. 1942?

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From Dr. Malloch's Journal.
Dec. 28, 1919.

Sunday

28.XII.19. Sister Schott reports that he had the best night since the operation. Gordon Watson came down and explored all the cavity with his finger but could find no block. We could not make out anything definite to suggest another pocket of pus. The right lower axilla was , but there had been dulness there and extensive pleural friction weeks ago. I percussed out (Over?) liver and it was not down. There was quite marked abd. pulsation but much more beneath upper part of right rectus than on left side. Nothing felt on palpation. No sounds of pericarditis and no heart murmurs. He was more comfortable in the afternoon and T. still about 99'. We shall try to get better drainage. Had many discussions of possibility of pockets and I do not feel as if we could be sure whether he ever had an abscess in the lung or not. I spoke to him and asked him if he really was so drowsy or was he trying to rest, and he said "No, I'm unnaaturally drowsy and feel curiously orientiert". He had quite a long natural sleep in the afternoon. His pulse was about 108 when I counted it and more irregular than it had been lately. I said that there must be a good deal of absorption going on and said it would be such bad luck if there were another pocket. He said "I don't think there is one". After the evening dressing and rolling him on his right side there was much discharge (had been irrigated by Parker with weak iodine solution). He said "I feel more comfortable in the chest and I think I shall have a good night. He said to me "Good-night, dear, I've had a bully day".

Sunday

29.XII.19. Had a good night and P. about 6 or 7 a.m. about 98. When I saw him after breakfast he said "I had a good night" and that the outlook was more favourable. I asked if he were drowsy and he replied "I'm just beginning to get drowsy". He looked brighter. But his pulse was 118 then and of very poor volume and very irregular in volume. I could not understand this. Horder came at 11.15 and I met him. He examined Sir Wm. (except in front) and said "Left side quite clear and nothing to be made out in it except air is entering well into upper part of right l.l. behind". The discharge was yellowish rather than brown this a.m.. With novocain Parker cut skin and muscles, not pleura at right angles down from centre of wound for 2-3 in. and washed out with H₂O. in order to get better drainage. Then washed out with sterile water or saline. T. was about 99.6' last night and R. this morning up to 32. Horder thought it a very bad pulse. On coming down to lunch about 3/4 of an hour after dressing, Lady O. said that Sir Wm. was feeling his heart and thought it was the novocain as on one occasion before. Then Sister Edwards came down and asked Horder to go up. He told me later that W.O. had said a little time before that "he thought he had made a mistake about the bed-pan". Then he vomited and coughed. When I got up he was almost pulseless, blanched (or so for him with his dark complexion) restless and coughing and difficult respiration. He was given strychn. one-thirtieth, and then morphia 1/2. Dressings covered with blood. Horder took off dressings - quite a handful of clots came out of pleura. Could see no bleeding - plugged. Dressing this W.O. said to me "Hold up my head". Parker came a little later, could see nothing more. Intravenous given by Gibson and Parker - 2 pints of saline. P, down to 124, and then to 120 and better volume. No more coughing but in an hour as bad as ever. Dressing not soaked Unconscious - rectal coffee and brandy. P. not felt and died about 4.30 - with no agonal convulsions. Lady Osler,, Bill, Mrs, Chapin and I at right side of bed and Sir Thomas Horder on other. Miss Edwards and Miss MacLaws in room and Dr. Gibson at doorway. Requiescat in pace.