

M0019004EB: Excerpt describing the use of a stethoscope in Scotland, 12 November 1820

Publication/Creation

March 1962

Persistent URL

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heard penetrating the air cells. (puerile.) But the left side gives on percussion a dull sound and an obscure sense of fluctuation. The entrance of the air into the lungs on this side is indistinctly heard in all parts, a little more distinctly along the side of the dorsal vertebræ, and above and beneath the clavicle. The action of the heart is faintly heard in the præcordial region, but is very evident in the right side of the sternum. The centre of this action corresponds with the cartilage of the fifth rib. On the upper and inner part of the left breast there is a circumscribed hardness of about two inches in diameter, the centre of which is soft, and gives an emphysematous sensation to the finger. This tumour is unattended with soreness, but pressure excites coughing, and causes to the patient the sensation of a fluid rising in the trachea.