

a bad case several years, but the earlier the treatment is begun the better, and electrical intervention in the very beginning, especially during the febrile period, is of the very greatest importance. The author does not mean it to be supposed that certain cornual cells which bear the full brunt of the disease will subsequently recover, but he is firmly of opinion that the disease is a selective one, that is to say, that side by side are cells severely affected or disorganized, and others only slightly so. These latter may become affected or escape, and this result will depend on electric application. Hence the importance of early treatment.—*British Medical Journal*.

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CROUPOUS PNEUMONIA.—Weismayer (*Zeitschrift für Klinische Medicin*, bd. 23, Supplement) discusses the course of croupous pneumonia. He first briefly reviews the literature on the subject, dwelling particularly upon the work of Finkler, who makes a clear distinction between the pneumonia due to the diplococcus of Frankel and that due to the streptococcus pneumonia. Finkler, it will be recalled, recognized three forms of streptococcus pneumonia: and an acute pernicious, an acute benignant, and a subacute or chronic form, and contended that both clinically and pathologically the two forms ought to be distinguished. Weismayer has observed thirty-nine cases clinically, making in each case a bacteriological examination of the sputum. In thirty-four of these cases there was found in the sputum merely the diplococcus of Frankel. Three of these cases were fatal; one in an aged person, one complicated by fibrinous bronchitis, the third in an alcoholic. All the cases terminated before the twelfth day, and in all there was a rapid disappearance of the signs of consolidation. In two cases the sputum contained, in addition to the diplococcus, the streptococcus. One of these cases, complicated by diabetes and peritonitis, terminated fatally on the nineteenth day; the second after a febrile course of thirty-seven days, made a slow recovery. In three cases merely the streptococcus was found in the sputum. Symptomatically these cases differed but little from typical frank pneumonia. The physical signs, however, were peculiar in that in one case dulness with the other evidences of consolidation did not appear before the ninth day and remained to the thirty-first. In the other cases resolution was made out as complete on the twenty-fifth and nineteenth days. In these three cases of true streptococcus pneumonia the physical signs resembled in every particular those of croupous pneumonia. The chief characteristic was the unusually late disappearance of the exudate. Weismayer concludes that the examination of the sputum in cases of pneumonia is of practical