

without interference, 54 were operated on, trachæotomy being done. 31.5 per cent. of these cases died.

There is no report of intubation having been attempted.

Albuminuria did not appear to follow the use of the serum.

No outward effects of the serum working was traceable in any of these cases.

In 291 cases the bacteriological examination established the diagnosis and the mortality in these cases was 13.05 per cent. The other cases were diphtheria clinically.

OSLER. "Features in the Prognosis of Pneumonia."—*The American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, January, 1897.

The circumstances influencing prognosis Prof. Osler has set down in two groups:—General, as age, race and habits; special, as the degree of lung involvement, fever, complication, etc.

Beyond 60 years of age the death rate is very high, 50 to 60 or even 80 per cent.

The negro succumbs more frequently than the white. Then of course the previous habits of life and the condition of health at the time of the attack influence the prognosis very greatly. We are led to remark that the chief point which this instructive article of Prof. Osler's emphasizes is the element of toxæmia to which pyrexia and consolidation are subsidiary as prognostic points in this disease. This may be manifest in severe chill, early onset of cerebral symptoms and a case picture which is out of all proportion to the extent of the physical signs.

The blood may present no leucocytosis. Sudden death in many cases of pneumonia Dr. Osler attributes in all probability to the action of specific toxins on the heart-centres, thus favouring this view above that which attributes such a termination to the action of fever on the myocardium, or to the direct results of mechanical obstruction. Such influences however must be considered as factors.

W. F. Hamilton.

The Paraplegia of Potts' Disease.

At a recent meeting of the Neurological Society, of New York, several valuable papers on the treatment of the paraplegia of Potts' disease were read. The contributors, chiefly orthopædic surgeons, were unanimous in the importance of mechanical treatment, carried out, if necessary, for a year or longer.

Dr. N. M. Saffer's paper was based on forty cases treated among the poor in the out-patient service of the New York Orthopædic Dis-