

## Selections.

---

**Pneumococcic Influenza.** By Prof. Curschmann, *Münch. Med. Woch.*

Influenza is clinically a term applied to various acute catarrhal conditions of the upper air passage, which are accompanied by more or less severe circulatory and nervous disturbances, are eminently infectious, and tend to assume endemic or epidemic proportions. The disease is attributed by pathologists to the organism known as the influenza, or Pfeiffer's bacillus, which has usually been found in previous epidemics. But the writer's investigations show that a disease clinically indistinguishable from influenza may be due to the pneumococcus of Fränkel.

In the autumn and winter of 1907 and the early spring of 1908 a complaint was prevalent in Leipsig which was universally regarded as influenza. The onset was usually marked by shivering or chilliness, and occasionally by a definite rigor. Almost all patients had violent headache, with general muscular pains, most marked in the lumbar or sacral regions. There was frequently great prostration from the first, and in half the cases complete anorexia. Gastric pain, nausea, and vomiting, were rare complications. In almost all cases there was pain in the throat, with marked redness and swelling of the pharyngeal mucosa. Not infrequently there were also coryza, conjunctivitis, and hoarseness. In every one of 77 typical cases seen at the hospital by the writer there was acute bronchitis with or without expectoration. The latter variety was the less common and was characterized by a violent spasmodic cough often resembling that of pertussis. Bronchial asthma, and occasionally emphysema, were also observed. In 17 of the 77 cases broncho-pneumonia occurred. The patches of consolidation were mostly small and scattered, and lobar pneumonia was rare. Cardiac symptoms among the younger patients were seldom disquieting, but among those with former heart disease and among the older patients they were often alarming. Twenty-two of the 77 patients were apyretic when admitted to hospital. In the remainder the pyrexial period varied from a few hours to three or four weeks. The duration of the disease varied, as a rule, between one and three weeks. Of the rarer complications pleurisy and peripheral neuritis with severe neuralgic pain may be mentioned. All the hospital patients recovered, but a considerable number of fatal cases, especially in elderly patients, occurred in the town.