

LOBAR PNEUMONIA IN A CHILD AGED THREE, HIGH AND PROLONGED PYREXIA AFTER ALL PHYSICAL EVIDENCE OF THE PNEUMONIA HAD DISAPPEARED.

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The following case of pneumonia presents several features of more than ordinary interest. The course of the disease may be briefly summarized as follows:

A previously healthy child, aged 3 years, was suddenly taken ill on the 3rd of December, 1897. The general symptoms were those of an acute pulmonary affection.

On admission to hospital on the 4th of December, and on subsequent examinations, it was definitely determined that we had to deal with a lobar pneumonia of the left lower lobe. On the 6th day of the disease the temperature suddenly dropped to below normal, where it remained for about three days.

In the course of the next few days the physical signs of consolidation gradually disappeared, but the temperature began to present the features of a marked and characteristic septicæmic process. For a period of six weeks it varied from subnormal to 108° .

On several occasions the latter point was reached. In spite of the high pyrexia, the child took nourishment and stimulants freely, and did not appear to suffer particularly. He was bright and cheerful throughout his prolonged illness. When the temperature rose after the crisis, it was naturally thought that we had to deal with a pneumococcus pleurisy but repeated tapplings proved negative. Repeated cultures from the blood were also negative, as was also Widal's test for typhoid. We were unable to discover any likely focus for the septicæmic process. There was no evidence of unusually delayed resolution or of any pleural, pericardial, peritoneal or meningitic complication.

C. H., aged 3, was admitted to the Royal Victoria Hospital on December 4th, 1897, complaining of pain in left side of chest (2), cough (3), sore throat.