

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

THE PNEUMO-CATARRHAL DIATHESIS. PREVENTION AND
TREATMENT OF PNEUMONIA AND OTHER RESPIRATORY
INFECTIONS BY MIXED VACCINES.MAJOR J. PRATT JOHNSON, M.C., M.B., Lond., D.P.H., Oxon., D.A.D.M.S.
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THE scope of this subject is so wide and expansive that no more can be attempted in this preliminary communication than a rough outline of the general principles governing the prevention and treatment of bacterial infection of the respiratory tract.

MATERIAL AVAILABLE FOR INVESTIGATION.

Diseases of the respiratory system are common in South Africa; and the community scattered along the sixty miles of "Reef," aggregated into various townships of the Witwatersrand is no exception. The prevalence of these infections on the Rand is partly due to the dry, dusty climate, with its rapid changes of temperature, partly to the almost universal incidence of catarrhal infections among workers, native and European, on the Witwatersrand Goldfields, the inhalation of the fine particles of silica, always present in mine air, and the rapid changes in temperature experienced in gold mining being contributory causes. Considerable material, therefore, is available on all sides for the study of this most interesting and important group of diseases.

As Acting Bacteriologist for the Transvaal, Acting Pathologist to the General Hospital, Johannesburg, subsequently Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Johannesburg, and later as Director of the Clinical Research Laboratories, my various duties have brought me into close contact with these problems in South Africa during the last eight years. In addition my researches into the pathology of Silicosis in Man and White Rats, and Tuberculosis on the Witwatersrand, in association with Drs. Andrew Watt, L. Irvine and W. Stewart, afforded me valuable material for study. Furthermore, a considerable proportion of my private practice as a consultant and bacteriologist in recent years has been composed of this type of case. Recently, however, during the widespread incidence in South Africa of pneumonia and other diseases associated with or following on "Spanish" influenza, I have had a unique opportunity of testing the soundness of one's conclusions in this matter on a very large scale. A large number of doses of a compound catarrhal vaccine have been issued