

sembling those of pneumonia, such as bronchitis and pleurisy, of which many cases in pre-stethoscopic days were probably counted in as cases of pneumonia, and so have reduced the mortality. The clinical thermometer has drawn the line between typhoid fevers of rapid onset and pneumonia. Some cases of typhoid fever with high temperature and cough bear a strong resemblance to pneumonia, and without a thermometer or a stethoscope a mistake might easily be made. Added to these, there are a number of cases of pneumonia met with in hospital practice, secondary to other morbid conditions, usually fatal ones, which now-a-days are recognized, while they may formerly have been classed as "shock," "blood-poisoning," "purulent infection," and the like. The only true method of comparing the results of treatment in different decades would be to select a number of cases of the same age, same sex, cases where there was no history of alcohol and no complication, and to exclude from this list all cases where the diagnosis had not been verified by post-mortem examination.

THE CREOSOTE TREATMENT OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

At the present time the creosote treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis is attracting considerable attention. It is no new treatment, for it has been alternately used and discarded for more than a century as a remedy in pulmonary consumption. Some of the recent statements made as to its action by most authorities are of such a character that we consider it to be our duty to place them before our readers. Prof. Sommerbrodt of Breslau, in the current number of the *Therapeutische Monatshefte*, gives the result of his experience of the treatment of upwards of five thousand cases of pulmonary tuberculosis with creosote. Sommerbrodt advances very extraordinary claims for this drug. He says it not only is of marked value as a symptomatic agent, but that it actually is truly and directly curative. He claims that it so influences the diseased epithelial structures that they no longer are adapted for the proper nourishment of the tubercle bacilli; that, in other words, creosote is an indirect