

the *S. hemolyticus*. Because of the widespread occurrence of the epidemic it came to be found in normal throats and as a secondary invading organism in ordinary lobar pneumonia. In general, epidemic diseases are assumed to be introduced from without, but no such importation of the inciting streptococcus needs to be assumed in this streptococcus pneumonia. It is probable, and practically certain, that an excessively virulent strain was developed by its transfer from person to person. The mechanism or its mode of infection may be said to be clearly understood. As regards poliomyelitis, we have the essential data as to the exciting organism and no foundation for assuming that it is conveyed by persons other than by those who harbor it. As regards influenza, wide divergences of opinion still prevail. While other epidemics proceed from bad to worse, the influenza seemed to strike wide stretches of territory at once in full force. Its sudden wide onset seemed to be absolutely independent of personal communication. Nevertheless accurate observations in the past and present show that it follows the usual course of epidemics. Early cases are apt to be mild, and the free and unrestricted commingling of sick and well, and doubtless healthy carriers of the still uncertainly known agents, may account for the sudden apparently simultaneous severe outbreaks. There are very good reasons for believing that influenza by itself is not a serious disease, but its sinister character is due to the remarkable frequency with which under special circumstances it is followed by a pneumonic infection with high mortality. If we note the conditions in the cantonments in 1917-18, we see at once that severe effects and high fatalities arose from germs commonly resident in the nose and throat in health. "Whatever we may have to learn of the micro-organism inducing measles, still undiscovered, and of influenza, still under dispute and their mode of invasion of the body, no one would question that the bacteria inducing pneumonia are personally borne." Discussing the efficiency of public health measures, Flexner says respiratory infections such as caused these epidemics are the most difficult to prevent by hygienic regulations. We know the essential facts as regards poliomyelitis, but we can hardly claim to have made it manageable as yet. The difficulties of diagnosis in its atypical and aborted forms, and the wide dissemination of the inciting micro-organism before its epidemic character is recognized and preventive measures instituted, are good reasons why our efforts have not been more successful. The epidemic pneumonias, on the other hand, represent theoretically two diseases which should respond to means of control. In streptococcus and influential pneumonia, the microbes concerned are only intensified strains of almost omnipresent species in the nasopharynx. The lesson to be learned from experience is that influenza and measles patients are not to be assembled