

Although an infection of the cornea by the pneumococcus as an ulcer serpens will follow an insignificant abrasion of its protecting epithelium this complication fortunately seldom occurs where the corneal epithelium remains intact. In support of this statement Coppez has shown that in the intact cornea colonization of the bacteria in this tissue seldom occurs. The marked importance of the pneumococcus infection of the conjunctiva in the new-born has been commented upon by several authorities. The concensus of opinion points to the fact that this form of inflammation is of a benign nature, more so at least than that produced by the gonococcus. Cases of blenorrhoea neonatorum due to the pneumococcus are comparatively rarely seen. The existence of follicles in pneumococcus conjunctivitis is very occasionally noticed and when found in any quantity they can generally be attributed to causes other than the pneumococcus. Gasparrini and Ferri report cases where conditions of trachoma have been improved after a subsequent infection by the pneumococcus; but Gifford and Junius have not been able to substantiate this optimistic view.

Inoculation of the disease into animals very seldom produces positive results and a reaction in rabbits has only occurred after scarification of the conjunctiva or after abrasion of the corneal epithelium. The results in man, however, as I have already stated, are very variable; the occurrence of epidemics with the demonstration of the pathogenic cocci is the best proof that the disease is one that is transmitted. Veasey and Gifford have produced the disease by installing a pure culture of the pneumococcus into the conjunctival sac. Gifford had no success at first with aerobic growths but with anaerobic forms, conjunctivitis with flecks of secretion was present after an incubation of 24 hours. Halle observed the onset of the attack of conjunctivitis seven days after some discharge containing pneumococci had accidentally found its way into the eye; on the other hand Axenfeld reports a series of eight cases, one a child, with negative findings. From the foregoing is deduced the fact that in addition to contact infection there is a distinct individual susceptibility; one must also consider the possibility that some secretions do not possess the same power of producing as others. From this inference we can thus account for many isolated or sporadic cases where, in spite of conditions of profuse discharge, contagion does not occur. The fact that adults remain uninfected in many epidemics endorses this conclusion. That many foster the pneumococcus in a normal conjunctiva and tear sac where little or no reaction is present is admitted; and inflammation of the conjunctiva due to an increased