

local one with general symptoms is no longer held, but we now recognize it as a general disease, with only local manifestations in the lung.

And more recent research leads us to believe that it should be classed among the acute infections; that it is in all cases a microbic disease, yet not always due to the same organism.

As in different periods the conception of the disease has varied so has the treatment varied, the pendulum of medical opinion swinging widely.

Hippocrates made but little difference in the details of his treatment of peripneumony and pleuritic affections. For severe pain passing up to the shoulder or arm, he bled early and boldly, even to the extent of syncope if the pain was acute. If confined to the lower part of chest and abdomen he purged gently, withholding food during the purging, and relieved the pain with fomentations, cerates, or linseed poultice. Cupping and the actual cautery are mentioned as useful in certain conditions.

Mild expectorants are advised, particularly after the seventh day. His directions as to diet are very full, generally giving but little food, and that entirely liquid during the fever, and feeding very carefully during convalescence, gradually changing to soft food and then to full diet. Fatty and saline foods are advised, and barley water is perhaps the principal article of food at first; later, wine and honey are added.

The treatment advised by Celsus was as follows:\*

"It is right, if the powers are sufficiently strong, to let blood; but if less, to apply to the precordia cupping glasses without the scarificator; friction on the shoulders, on the arms, feet, and legs, gently over the lungs; and to do that twice daily. As pertains to food, there is need neither of salt, nor sharp nor bitter foods, nor those binding the bowels, but a little lighter food; on the first days gruel is to be given of ptisan, or of maize, or of rice; with this a sorbile egg, pine nuts, bread out of honey, or washed maize out of hydromel; then, for drink, not only pure water, but also luke-warm hydromel, or, if it is summer, also cold. If the disease is increasing, it is sufficient to give these every other day, while it remains in the increase, he should abstain, as much as circumstances allow, from all things except luke-warm water. If the powers fail they are to be assisted by hydromel.

"Against pain warm fomentations are to be applied. Salt, well bruised, mixed with cerate, is serviceable, because it erodes the skin slightly and draws thither the impetus of matter by which the lungs are disordered. A plaster made from those things which draw matter is useful. Nor is it improper while the disease oppresses to keep the patient with closed windows; when it is lessened a little to admit the air three or four times daily, the windows being open a little. Then, in recovery, to abstain from wine for several days; to use gestation, friction, to add to

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\* *De re Medica*, Steggal's translation. London, 1837.