

During the first few days after the laparotomy there was a marked improvement of the symptoms. The temperature fell; the pulse became better; the strength and the general condition were perceptibly re-established. Beginning on the second day, the abdominal cavity was irrigated daily through the opening in the Douglas' cul-de-sac. At this time examination of the chest revealed the existence of a double bronco-pneumonia. On the tenth day, a profuse diarrhea again set in, and the condition of the patient became notably worse. During the night the abdominal wound opened at its upper end, and there flowed from it abundant blackish fecal matter. From this time the patient's symptoms were rapidly aggravated; delirium and want of appetite appeared; the temperature rose; the pulse quickened. Death took place on the sixteenth day after the operation.

It is only recently that the infectious nature of pneumonia has been admitted. We can distinguish, chemically at least, four different types of pneumonia. These are (*a*) pneumonia caused by Frankel's pneumococcus; (*b*) pneumonia due to Friedlander's pneumo-bacillus; (*c*) staphylococcic pneumonia; and (*d*) streptococcic pneumonia (Whitla). To these types we must add many varieties resulting from the association of these different pathogenic agents (King). The pneumococcus is represented by a characteristic microbe, of elongated form, elliptical, surrounded by a clear, transparent zone or capsule (Panc). From the biological point of view, the pneumococcus is developed neither below 24° nor above 42°. Gelatine is not suitable for its culture—we must use other media, such as bouillon. Certain animals, as well as man, are very susceptible to pneumococcic infection. The reactions following inoculation differ according to the susceptibility of the organism attacked, the virulence of the infecting agent, and the point of entrance of the microbe. In severe cases, when death takes place after a short time by pneumococcic infection, we find the germ in the blood, the spleen, the viscera, the peritoneum, the bone-marrow, etc. When, on the contrary, under the influence of certain causes, the inoculation has been insufficient to cause death, it is affirmed that the animals surviving have become insusceptible to a further inoculation. Resting on this established fact, we have for some years made efforts at vaccination, both preventive and curative, which, although not yet absolutely conclusive, are none the less very encouraging in their results.—Translated from *Annales de la Société Belge de Chirurgie* by HARLEY SMITH.

(To be Continued.)