

ledge, would scarcely be quite correct. The views of the more important writers on this subject are widely different. Whilst some maintain, as of old, that all cases of pneumonia are the effects of cold, others are equally decided in their opinion, indeed more so, that all cases of pneumonia are of an infectious nature. Others, again, believe that both views are too exclusive, and that really two distinct forms exist. Without committing ourselves decidedly to any one of these views, we cannot help thinking that clinical experience appears, at any rate, to support the latter view. That there is an infectious form of pneumonia there can be little doubt. Hirsch and V. Ziemssen long ago advocated this theory. The evidences in support of such a view are of so convincing a nature, and, now that attention is being drawn to the question, are accumulating so rapidly, that we propose placing before our readers a synopsis of some of the more important ones brought forward. This evidence is of a two-fold character. On the one hand, we have histories of epidemics that can be accounted for only on the ground of the existence of a specific poison. On the other hand, we have microscopical investigations which, though as yet incomplete, even in this state add great weight to arguments derived from these epidemics. To refer first to some of the epidemics recorded.

The evidences of the occasionally epidemic character of pneumonia are so strong that even the most skeptical must admit it. Langer* quotes from Laveran† an epidemic which broke out on board the ship *Saint Jean d'Arc*, in mid-ocean, during the months of June and July, 1860, during which time fifty cases occurred. By the commencement of October, 86 men had been attacked. The disease disappeared from this vessel only after transference of all the sick to another ship. In 1861, when this same vessel was again manned, the disease returned with increased virulence, necessitating disembarkation at Plymouth. Butry‡ mentions the occurrence of an epidemic of pneumonia

* Wiener Medizinische Wochenschrift, 1883, Nr. 27, Seite 842.

† Gaz. hebdom., 1865.

‡ Deutsches Arch. f. Klin. Med., xxix, s. 193, quoted by Centralblatt f. d. Medicin. Wissens., 1882.