

one. In my service attempts have often been made to obtain cultures from the joints and blood of rheumatic patients, but have hitherto failed. I would like to know if it is possible to increase the virulence of the pneumococcus so as to produce pathological effects.

C. W. DUVAL, M.D.—Dr. MacCordick's case is of great interest in that he obtains an organism from various parts of the body which, in my opinion, resembles that described by Poynton and Payne. I have tried to isolate their organism from the joints of acute articular rheumatism, but have always failed, which is also the experience of other laboratory workers. Here is presumably a fatal case of multiple acute arthritis caused by a coccus corresponding to Poynton and Payne's organism. Whether it is the cause of acute articular rheumatism or rheumatic fever cannot be stated. The most interesting feature in the case is the absence of a primary focus of infection,—such as a pneumonia, or a nasopharyngeal condition. The question of its virulence for rabbits is of no etiological importance in this connection. Virulent cultures of pneumococci or streptococci from cases of fatal pneumonia or streptococcic endometritis, etc., may be completely virulent for the ordinary laboratory animals. At present in the laboratory of the Montreal General Hospital we have cultures of streptococcus pyogenes and pneumococcus from fatal cases of pneumonia that are not virulent for rabbits, guinea-pigs and mice. The virulence of these, however, can by repeated animal passage be raised. The organism described by Poynton and Payne is, in my opinion, a strain of the pneumococcus or streptococcus pyogenes.

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