

drugs not only empirically but also irrationally. Why is this so? There are several reasons. First there are physicians and physicians. There is the intelligent physician who desires to thoroughly understand his cases as to their causation and their pathological nature and who endeavours to find and to use a remedy which has been demonstrated to have the power of counteracting the effects of the exciting cause of the disease or where that is possible of removing or destroying that cause. The latter physician always seeks to have a reason for what he does and seeks to have that reason founded upon well established knowledge. In the second place all preconceived ideas die slowly, and so we find that a line of treatment which was considered orthodox a few years ago is still followed by some practitioners who may perhaps be conversant with the latest and most approved method of treating a particular disease but who for various reasons hesitate to discard the old and to adopt the new. An example will perhaps best illustrate what I mean. It is now well known that pneumonia is an acute infectious disease and that like others of that class tends to run a definite course and that the main indication for treatment is the maintenance of the patient's strength. Now formerly this was considered a local disease of the lung and the physician's efforts were directed to that organ and drugs were administered that had or were supposed to have the effect of softening the exudation in the lung and of thus enabling the patient to expectorate this exudate. When this could be accomplished the patient was well. Now if our present views as to the causation and nature of pneumonia are correct, if pneumonia is an acute specific affection, if it is due to the presence of a germ, if that germ can be found not only in the diseased lung but in other organs and tissues of the body including the blood, if the constitutional symptoms are due to the presence of a toxine generated by these germs, the rational mode of treatment would be to administer something which had the power of destroying these germs or of neutralizing the toxine generated by them, or of counteracting their deleterious effects. An antipneumotoxine has been prepared and apparently successfully used by some