

and impede convalescence are aggravated by every hour's delay. In diphtheria a very common complication is paralysis. If the antitoxin is used on the first day, this paralysis occurs in but three per cent. of the cases, but if it is not used until the second day there is a jump to twelve per cent. If, finally, immunization is put off until the third day, one patient out of every five will be paralyzed. It may be set down, indeed, as a general rule that the more liberally antitoxin is used, and the earlier, the less chance there will be of distressing consequences. Most antitoxins are expensive and their administration is often painful, but it is extremely dangerous to take such consideration into account.

So far the pathologists have perfected few antitoxins of value beyond the three described. But the good work is going on apace, and we are plainly on the brink of marvellous advances. Pasteur said truly, "It is in the power of man to drive infectious diseases from the earth." Pneumonia is one of the maladies that will be conquered, I believe, before long. Now that the death rate in tuberculosis is fast declining, this other and more terrible malady of the lungs is gaining the dubious honor of being the principal cause of death in the United States. But we are no longer fighting it in the dark, for the germ which causes it is now known to every student, and success in stamping it out is only a matter of time. Several pneumonia antisera and vaccines have been put forward, but as yet it would be hazardous to attempt to determine their value. Meanwhile all the old "cures" for pneumonia are being thrown overboard and fresh air is nature's only ally.

That fresh air is no inconsiderable remedy, and that the discovery of its value is not the least of medicine's achievements in recent years—these things are well demonstrated by the world-wide war upon tuberculosis now in progress. Twenty, or even ten years ago, the unfortunate person who developed the more visible symptoms of consumption was doomed to almost certain death. The medicinal standbys were cod liver oil and alcohol—one a nauseous food and the other a poison. To-day the consumptive knows nothing of either. Instead he is fed upon meat, vegetables, milk, and eggs, and sent into the open air. He takes no medicine whatever—not even a dose of camomile tea or a gill of sweet spirits of nitre. A year or so of this treatment and he is a new man. Pure air and nourishing food have given him rich, healthy blood, and this blood has fought and conquered the germs in his lungs.

It is always blood that does the work. In the child suffering from diphtheria or lockjaw or meningitis, it is the horse's blood. In tuberculosis, pneumonia, and typhoid it is the blood of the