

holds, however, that this action is only seen to any marked degree in the croupal stage of the disease. When the fibrinous exudation takes place, not only on the surface, but also into the substance of the mucous membrane, not infrequently the latter becomes eroded, even gangrenous. Here we are apt to meet with those fatal secondary effects, septicæmia, pneumonia, hæmorrhage, &c.

The secondary results are not infrequently the direct results of a mixed infection. Here the antitoxic treatment is of much less value.

As far as he is able to judge from the experience of the 75 post-mortem examinations made, he does not believe that there is any difference in the changes met with in the heart or kidneys as the result of the serum, as contrasted with other methods of treatment. The same changes have been met under both methods.

The evidence here sketched is certainly very strong as to the efficiency of the antitoxic serum, coming as it does from a thoroughly trustworthy, very able and experienced observer.

From some quarters reports of an injurious influence on the kidneys by antitoxic serum have been published. Kolisko, however, clearly shows that even large doses of this agent have no such deleterious action.

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## THE PREVALENCE OF PNEUMONIA.

Pneumonia at the present time is unusually prevalent in many districts of the North American Continent. It is especially frequent and fatal in the City of New York. During the week ending January the 26th, out of a total of 993 deaths, no fewer than 199 were due to pneumonia.

The increase of pneumonia in recent, as compared with former, years is strikingly brought out by the figures published by Dr. John T. Nagle, the Registrar of Vital Statistics.

In the year 1830, when there were 5,498 deaths in New York, only 228, or 1 in 22.8 were due to this disease, while