

from each other, and their conditions, too, were in all respects apparently excellent.

As to age, the youngest patient was six, and the oldest close upon eighty. Of the remaining twenty-one, eleven were between fifteen and twenty-five, and ten between thirty and fifty.

As to local treatment, it was out of the question in several of these cases; and in several cases, too, all possible care and supervision on the part of the surgeon would have been of no avail. Of the twenty-three cases, eleven were under such circumstances.

In conclusion, pyæmia, it has been said, is caused, for the most part, by hospital air, by foul air consequent upon the aggregation of surgical cases in the wards of our large hospitals; but pyæmia occurs also in cases, even when placed under the most favourable conditions—perfect isolation, large airy rooms in the country, with plenty of fresh air, and in every way well cared for. Pyæmia appears, too, at times to be connected with atmospheric conditions; several cases occurring without any apparent cause, at or about the same period, in different places. The two cases of amputation of the breast, which were within a month of each other, followed exactly the same course, one, however, being in town, and one a few miles out of town. And at the same time that these cases were under my care, other cases of pyæmia, which occurred in private practice at the same period, subsequently came to my knowledge.

Moreover, cases occur in which patients are apparently prone to pyæmia; the case of a gentleman who recovered from an attack of pyæmia, and a few years afterwards died of another attack.

The truth is, the causes of pyæmia are still to be worked out; and this, gentlemen, is a problem, the working out of which I would strongly urge upon the Clinical Society.—*Medical Times and Gazette.*