

pneumonitis is important in prognosis and therapy. The diagnostic clue will, the author thinks, be found in the study of the blood in comparison with the clinical course of individual cases. The author records some cases as examples of the general infectiousness of the disease to prove that the lung involvement is not always present and that pneumococcus infection of other portions of the body or of the blood may occur with or without lung involvement.—*New York Medical Journal*.

Unconscious Accouchements.

Sr. Guillermo Serra (*La Semana Medica*, May 10th; *Indépendance Médicale*, July 4th), says that unconscious accouchement is now admitted to be possible even in healthy women, sound in mind and body, and this fact must therefore be borne in mind in legal medicine. Among the most frequent causes are enumerated: multiparity of the woman, abnormally great pelvic dimensions, excessive development and exaggerated irritability of the muscular elements of the uterus, the absence of pains in the early period or even during the entire labor, as well as possible ignorance or misconception concerning pregnancy. In most cases several of these causes co-operate. A frequent factor is the sensation of an urgent need to urinate and defecate during labor, the efforts to satisfy this imaginary need at times inducing sudden accouchement without the woman experiencing any particular impression thereof. The author records a case of this character, in which one child was born in the night-chair, while a second was born immediately afterward on the patient getting to bed. The puerperium was normal. The case of the author's daughter is even yet more curious. She had conceived while suckling a previous child and did not experience any of the morbid symptoms usual in the early stage of pregnancy. She was quite unconscious of her condition. One night she summoned the author in consequence of abdominal pains which compelled her to keep her bed. The author prepared a calmative for her, returned home but hardly had he arrived there when he was again summoned. The patient had pains in the genitalia, but before he could examine her the cry of the infant announced what had occurred. These unconscious accouchements must not be confounded with cases in which labor surprises the woman in the street or in a vehicle. The distinction between the two is of great medico-legal importance.—*New York Medical Journal*.

NO SIGN.—Dr. Jalap: "Let me see your tongue, please."
Patient: "Oh, doctor, no tongue can tell how badly I feel."
Tit-Bits.