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TREATMENT OF PNEUMONIA WITH QUININE.*

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Mr. President and Gentlemen,—I was asked some time since by you, sir, to say a few words on the treatment of pneumonia with quinine, a matter which to my mind is of great importance. There is every reason to hail with joy any treatment of pneumonia which even approaches specificity, for Osler voices the general view of the profession when he says, as he does in his last edition, there is no specific treatment for pneumonia. We have the expectant plan put before us in all the works on medicine, and we know what that means. Leaving nature to deal with the pneumococcus or its toxins by antibodies, and meeting serious conditions as they arise by digitalis, strychnine, alcohol, saline injections, oxygen, etc.

The serum therapy has not as yet proved adequate in this disease, though it is used here and there when the expectant or other plans markedly fail.

Now it is scientifically certain that the pneumococcus is causative of pneumonia. But mixed infections are undoubtedly common and add materially to the gravity of this disease—the measure of gravity depending upon the nature or virulence of the adventitious germ or germs present.

If some agent exists which acts upon the pneumococcus in the blood, or in the alveoli of the lungs, or where not, as defin-

* Read at meeting of Toronto Clinical Society, March 6th, 1907.