

in consonance with the scientific trend of present-day medication. They are being used with a gratifying measure of success. The way in which they are marketed (sterile solutions in hermetically sealed bulbs and in graduated syringes, ready for injection) appeals to the modern medical man, since it assures both safety and convenience. The moderate prices at which they may be purchased also tend to give them vogue.

GERMS NOT CARRIED BY THE AIR.

Whereas thirty years ago it was believed that most infectious diseases were transmitted by the air, it is the general opinion among physicians to-day that few, if any, diseases other than tuberculosis and anthrax can be so transmitted.

It is the science of bacteriology that has brought about this change. The life and habits of bacteria have taught us that nearly all of them die as soon as they are exposed in the air. Those of influenza, for example, cannot resist the air.

The theory advanced by Fluegge that the bacteria were carried on particles of dust has also fallen to the ground, except for those of a very few diseases.

It is Dr. Chapin's opinion that:

Typhoid fever is spread only by contact.

Cholera, dysentery and diarrhoea can be treated in general hospitals freely, without danger of extension to other patients.

Air infection of wounds is not impossible, but practically no wound infection is to be considered except from contact.

Malaria and yellow fever are caused only by mosquitoes.

Typhus fever and plague are carried from person to person by vermin.

It is almost certain that contact alone can spread smallpox.

It is highly probable that influenza may be spread within a few feet of a coughing and sneezing patient by means of visible droplets. That it is transmitted by floating droplets or by dust is not likely.

Nothing is really known about the way germs of pneumonia reach the lungs. Nearly half the population at times carry the germs in the mouth.

Also the English hospital superintendents agree that diphtheria is not air-borne.