

was a normal or slightly diminished systolic blood pressure in the moderate cases, also a somewhat lowered diastolic pressure. In the female cases, practically all menstruated between the first and third days of the disease, and many had menstrual troubles following the disorder. Positive blood cultures were without diagnostic significance. Bacteriologic findings are shown in a table. The *Bacillus influenzae* was found only in small numbers in the sputum and throat, the pneumococcus was found in a high percentage of throat cultures, and was next to the staphylococcus in frequency. *S. viridans* seemed next in frequency. Complicating conditions were not necessarily of unfavorable import, with the exception of pregnancy in which the mortality was high. The clinical course ranged all the way from a few days to two weeks of acute symptoms, and convalescence was often prolonged. In no disease was the prognosis so difficult to make, and no specific treatment of value was discovered. The treatment was, therefore, necessarily symptomatic. The contagiousness of the disease was remarked; in spite of precautions, a number of the interns and nurses contracted it. The air in one of the wards on culture revealed the hemolytic streptococcus. The disease is a most treacherous one.

INFLUENZA.

Ruth Tunnicliff, Chicago (*Journal A. M. A.*, Nov. 23, 1918), reports experiments made to determine the relation between influenza and its complicating pneumonia and the green-producing streptococcus isolated at Camp Meade, by the late Capt. George Mathers. "He isolated a green-producing streptococcus from the sputum in 87 per cent. of 110 cases of influenza and pneumonia examined. The cultures were made on the first or second day of the disease. The influenza bacillus was also isolated in 58 per cent. of the sputum cultures. The coccus appeared in the sputum smears as gram-positive diplococci, 2 microns in length, with slightly pointed ends and a capsule. In the cultures they grew in pairs and long chains and showed a capsule. On human blood agar plates the colonies were large (from 0.25 to 0.5 cm. in diameter), green, flat, moist, with regular edges, and had a tendency to become confluent. The colonies often showed umbilication in forty-eight hours. Cultures of this organism were not soluble in bile. They grew as a flocculent growth in glucose and plain broth, the fluid generally remaining clear. They fermented glucose, lactose, and saccharose, but neither mannite nor inulin, except in one instance. Sputum injected intraperitoneally into mice was virulent, killing them within twenty-four hours. These cocci were not agglutinated by type pneumococcus serums." It is generally recognized that opsonins are the only antibodies easily demonstrated in streptococcus infection, and the experiments were mainly directed by this fact. The conclusions are,