

able vaccine is one derived from the patient's own pneumococcus, but as this takes fourteen days or so to prepare, the patient will be dead or well before his own vaccine is ready. If this vaccine is to be useful, it must then be for the empyemata or other complications which may follow. With so acute a disease as pneumonia, the serum or vaccine must be ready for use at once, and though we have nothing of the kind at present, with the example of diphtheria before us, it is not too much to hope that before long we shall have some anti-toxic method applicable to pneumonia.

Symptomatic. The third method of treatment is to watch the symptoms as they arise, and modify and control them as seems necessary. The study of the natural history of pneumonia shows that it is a disease which, in the healthy and young, tends to get well of itself. This has led to what is called the *expectant* method of treatment, as opposed to the more active virulent measures formerly in vogue. We now assist nature to throw off the disease, rather than lay heavy hands on what was thought to be the disease itself, lest by that means we do a fatal violence to the patient. Symptomatic treatment implies that, for a mild case of pneumonia, in a young and healthy person, where no symptoms are in excess, little special treatment is required, and that such treatment only becomes necessary where the symptoms are severe or out of the common.

GENERAL TREATMENT OF A MILD UNCOMPLICATED CASE.

The patient will, of course, be put in bed, for he has rarely either inclination or power to leave it. The room should be kept cool and fresh, at a temperature not above 60° F. The windows may even be open, for fresh air does nothing but good, provided the patient is not in a draught. Actual open-air treatment has been advocated, but though it may be possible in a hospital to place the patient at once in the open air, it is impracticable under the conditions in which pneumonia develops in private practice. The patient should not be too warmly covered up. A rough blanket may be quite sufficient covering.

The diet should consist chiefly of milk and beef-tea, with which one or two eggs may be beaten up. Two or three pints of milk and two eggs in the twenty-four hours are ample for an adult. It is important to bear in mind that harm may be done by giving more milk than can be completely digested. The fever causes a craving for fluid, and milk is often given in quantities too large to be properly digested; it then lies in the stomach and undergoes fermentation, producing much discomfort, and even troublesome vomiting or diarrhoea. It is best where the thirst is extreme either to dilute the milk with some effervescing water, or, if sufficient food is taken, to slake the thirst with water acidulated with lemon-juice or with phosphoric acid. A prejudice seems to exist against giving