

The type of infection was extremely mild. Many writers refer to the virulence of epidemic pneumonia, but there are several instances recorded of a mild form, hence transmission should not be ruled out even in benign types of the disease.

The two cases in which pneumococcus infection occurred, as shown by blood cultures, and without evidence of disease elsewhere, are not without parallel. Proxhaska has reported four cases in which there was no pneumonia and no evidence of other local pneumococcal infection, except bronchitis, and in no case hæmorrhagic nephritis. Baduel and Gargagne, in a household of eleven members, some of whom were seriously ill, and others suffering from catharrhal affections, showed that pneumococci were present in the blood of all eleven cases.

A review of the literature of epidemic pneumonia makes it practically clear that infection may occur, (1) through widespread atmospheric dissemination; (2) through the agency of some local source; (3) through direct contagion from persons sick of the disease.

The chief evidence that contagion takes place in pneumonia is afforded by the large number of instances which have developed in a household after one of their number had contracted the disease. In many cases the person or persons acquiring the disease had slept in the same bed or room with the original patient. That even slight exposure may result in transmission of the malady is suggested by a recent observation by Spaet, when five individuals fell ill with pneumonia in from ten to twelve days after attending the funeral, held in the house, of an individual dead of the disease. The value of the inference is, however, in our opinion, impaired by the somewhat long latent period, and further, by the fact that the disease had been epidemic in the district.

The circumstances attending hospital epidemics, such as that recorded, form the most striking evidence of the contagiousness of the disease. Such epidemics are usually limited to a ward, and the probability that they spread by contagion is very great. Atmospheric conditions seem to be responsible for exclusive and widespread epidemics. v. Holwede and Münnick record an epidemic in a village of 400 inhabitants, chiefly among children, of whom there were about 50. As most of these had been kept at home during inclement weather and in widely separated houses, between which there had been no intercourse, it seems impossible to explain the origin in any other way but by atmospheric infection.

Evil sanitary conditions have been found in areas in which there were local epidemics, and interesting examples of this are quoted. Of late years it has been shown that the pneumococci may retain their