

THE
MONTREAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

VOL. XXXIX.

OCTOBER, 1910.

No. 10.

PNEUMOCOCCUS POLY-ARTHRITIS, RESEMBLING ACUTE
RHEUMATIC FEVER.

BY

A. H. MACCORDICK, M.D.

First Assistant, Pathological Laboratory, Montreal General Hospital.

The rarity of pneumococcus arthritis is sufficient excuse for the reporting of five fatal cases followed by autopsy and corroboration made by microscopic examination. Four of the cases had a previous history of acute rheumatism, and one had chorea. In four the arthritis preceded other affections by an average period of about 6 days (cases 1, 2, 3 and 5) and in case 4 the arthritis occurred three days after the onset of pneumonia. Two of these cases (4 and 5) developed broncho-pneumonia, one lobar pneumonia (case 2), and all had acute and chronic endocarditis. The two cases (1 and 3) without pneumonia, simulated closely in their course acute rheumatic fever.

The papers by Cole (*American Medicine*, May 31, 1902), and Howard (*Johns Hopkins Hospital Bulletin*, Nov., 1903), make an extended discussion in this report unnecessary. The three cases reported by Howard brought the number to 72.

The organism isolated in the present series of cases corresponds to the pneumococcus in every respect. Those obtained in all the cases were identical, and the only points of special interest are low virulence for animals, an unusual vitality upon culture media in the case of the organisms obtained from fatal cases.

Case I.—Clinical Summary.—Rheumatic fever at seven years of age. On first day of present illness, arthritis of left ankle. 2nd day, arthritis of right foot. 3rd day, arthritis left shoulder. 5th day, acute pericarditis. 6th day, hydrothorax. 9th day, death.

M. E. D. Female, age 16. Service of Dr. Finley. Admitted October 8, 1908, complaining of pain in left shoulder and both ankles.

Personal History.—She was born in Montreal, and had always lived there. She had whooping cough and measles when a child, but never had scarlet fever, diphtheria, tonsillitis or chorea.

When seven years of age she was in the General Hospital two months