

but the more minute changes in the cellular elements are still under investigation. Sections from the other organs showed no features of special interest in connection with the case.

The presence of a pericardial exudate containing the meningococcus is quite evidently of extreme rarity, and the entire absence of fibrin on the serous coats is remarkable in view of the amount of pus present.

It will be seen, then, from the foregoing that the case recorded was quite evidently of the nature of an epidemic cerebro-spinal meningitis, while the organism associated with the lesions is undoubtedly the meningococcus described by Weichselbaum in 1886, and much more fully within the last twelve months by Dr. W. T. Councilman, of Boston. As is already well known, it has been generally accepted until quite recently that this malady is due to the diplococcus lanceolatus, while the organism described by Weichselbaum has been practically disregarded.

Observations made, however, since 1895, more especially by Jæger, of Stuttgart, and Councilman, Mallory, and Wright, of Boston, rendered it undoubted that in the epidemic form of this disease, not the pneumococcus, but the meningococcus of Weichselbaum is the chief etiological factor. The above-mentioned Boston pathologists had occasion to examine thirty-five cases post mortem, and the meningococcus was found in all but three cases. Certainly no such complete series of observations of any epidemic has hitherto been made commensurate with these, and the uniformity of their results in examining so extensive a material, places the nature of the disease beyond any doubt. It is true that in a number of cases the pneumococcus has been frequently found in pure culture, but so far as we are aware, it has never been demonstrated with a satisfactory uniformity. Flexner and Barker, of Baltimore, have recently published a most interesting and valuable article giving a detailed account of the conditions under which an epidemic of cerebro-spinal meningitis had occurred in a small mining town of Maryland. Sixty-eight patients were observed but unfortunately it was possible to obtain autopsies in only two instances. The pathological lesions in these cases are most minutely described, and the bacteriological examinations would seem to indicate that the pneumococcus was the chief organism present. Smears made from the exudate on the meninges showed a lance-shaped diplococcus which stained by Gram's method, but the cultures and inoculation test did not afford very satisfactory results. The authors, however, are of the opinion that the pneumococcus was undoubtedly present, although the trying circumstances under which the investigations were made rendered it impossible to obtain eminently satisfactory results.