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SERUM TREATMENT OF LOBAR PNEUMONIA

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The paralyzing multiplicity of the treatments advocated for that formidable disease, "Acute lobar pneumonia," is such that it tends, at first, to drive most thoughtful young practitioners into the unfortunate position of Nihilism, expressed in the oft-repeated dictum, that "No treatment materially affects the course of the disease." It seems to me that later thought and experience should lift us beyond this attitude of negation, and each worker should catch some light from his experience to show him "a more excellent way."

Previous to the introduction of pneumolytic serum, my own experience has led me to accept and follow out the treatment by free elimination of toxins, through the emunctories, especially by the skin. If free sweating can be commenced in the early days of pneumonia, and constantly maintained, the disease will terminate by lysis, and never reach the critical crisis period. There are a few cases, more frequently among children, in which sweating by any safe method cannot be attained, and these are generally exceptionally severe and serious ones.

For the past two years and a half, while not forgetting or neglecting elimination, I have been using pneumolytic serum, as produced by Stearns, and it is with the object of giving my experience with this method of treatment that I take up my pen at present.

During the above-mentioned period I have used, myself, or advised the use of a serum in over twenty cases of well-marked lobar pneumonia, a brief account of the more typical of which I give below—two exceptions to the otherwise invariably successful issue have occurred, but not unexpectedly.