

hasty generalizations as to the sensitiveness or lack of sensitiveness of tissues to the action of these agents. A large series of experiments has been made with the object of testing the action of radium on primary tumors in mice, which are said to correspond very closely with tumors in man. The results have not shown that radium has any great therapeutic effect on such growths. Radium has also been used on a considerable scale on patients in hospitals, and it is hoped in this way to collect data on which an accurate judgment as to its therapeutic value may be based. Investigations with certain colloidal silver preparations, highly vaunted in Germany as well as in the United States as of great value in the treatment of malignant disease, have shown, according to Professor Wood, that these substances have no effect on cancer either in man or in animals.—*British Med. Journal*.

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#### ACUTE LOBAR PNEUMONIA.

It is convenient to describe four stages, those, namely, of (1) hyperemia or engorgement, (2) red hepatization, (3) gray repatization, and (4) resolution. *First stage of splenization*.—The lung is injected, dark red, and heavy, and pits under the finger; on pressure, there exudes a frothy serum tinged with blood and slightly aerated. The lung still floats in water. *Second stage or red hepatization*.—The part involved is solid and friable, presents a granular or red granite appearance, and sinks in water. The alveoli are filled with a coagulated exudation, which shows under the microscope fibrin, leucocytes, red corpuscles, proliferated alveolar epithelium, and pneumococci. *Third stage or gray hepatization*.—The lobe has now the appearance of gray granite, the lung substance is softer and more friable; no pressure, a dirty purulent fluid exudes. The gray appearance is due to four factors: (1) Decolorization of the red blood corpuscles; (2) obliteration of the alveolar blood vessels from pressure; (3) fatty degeneration of the coagulated material; (4) great infiltration of leucocytes. A more advanced stage, in which the lung tissue is bathed in purulent fluid, is known as purulent infiltration. It is probably inconsistent with life. *Fourth stage or resolution*.—Resolution of the inflammatory exudation is brought about principally by absorption (autolysis), but partly by liquefaction and expectoration. Pneumonia may affect a lobe, or the whole of a lung, or it may attack both lungs. Double pneumonia occurs in about 10 per cent. of cases. Different parts of the same lung may at the same time show different stages. There is always some degree of pleural inflammation over the affected area. Modern enlargement of the spleen is very common.—Wheeler and Jack's *Handbook of Medicine*.