

has shown wonderful efficacy, not only in producing rapid improvement of the general condition, but in hastening resolution in case it is given early in the disease.

6. That in any lobar pneumonia, especially if the prognosis is grave, it is the duty of the physician to use this serum, and if he fails to do so there is no excuse for such an act, except ignorance of the work that has been done in the field of the serum therapy of pneumonia.—*Memphis Medical Monthly*.

## THE TREATMENT OF SHOCK.

Experiential work upon the pathology of shock shows it to have as an essential element a paresis of the vaso-motor nervous system. The maintenance of vascular pressure by contracting the peripheral arterioles is the most efficient means of overcoming the condition. The efforts of surgeons have been largely addressed to the heart, as the symptoms seem to be referable to that organ. Experimental study shows that a heart that is only partially filled with blood beats rapidly and feebly. The physiologist teaches that the veins of the body are capable of containing the entire blood supply ; indeed, those of the abdominal region alone are said to have nearly sufficient capacity for this purpose, or, at least, they may contain a quantity which seriously impairs the integrity of the circulation. A marked fall in the peripheral resistance results in a rapid and correspondingly feeble heart's action. This is not to be met by stimulating the heart, as by such means we only aid in emptying the arterial system. The aim should be to use those remedies which caused a prompt contraction of the peripheral arterioles, and so restore the altered balance of the circulation.—*Medical Review*.

## THE CAUSE OF OLD AGE.

Prof. Mechnikoff, whose fame rests upon the Mechnikovian theory of phagocytosis, has recently come forward with a theory of old age, based upon the omni-important leucocyte. He states that there is a sort of social distinction among the leucocytes, some of these being common, or, as we might translate it, plebeian, while others are noble. The common cells are found in all the organs, and may be transformed at any time into connective tissue cells. The noble cells are those which may form part of the parenchyma of any of the organs. Old age is essentially a strife between these two forms, in which the common type, or connective