work of Lamar (8) in the laboratory of the Rockefeller Institute, on the influence of certain alkaline soaps of oleic acid in producing in conjunction with certain sera lysis of the pneumococcus.

We have known for some years that the pneumonic lung under sterile conditions in the thermostat would undergo marked lysis. We have known, also, that the soaps are abundantly present during this lytic process; also that the soaps are bactericidal for certain bacteria. Lamar has made use of these facts, and has found that pneumococci treated with dilute solutions of sodium oleate undergo autolysis much more rapidly and completely, and in the presence of immune sera undergo rapid and complete destruction. Further, that the inhibition which the action of soaps ordinarily suffers in the presence of protein can be prevented by such chemical substance as boric acid. Such mixtures of soaped pneumococci serum and boric acid not only prevent infection, but confer immunity on experimental animals. No increase in phagocytosis is produced. This work throws much light on the lytic processes going on during resolution, but still adds no new light to the question of treatment.

A further question is aroused by the frequent finding of pneumococci in the healthly portions of lungs of those dying from lobar pneumonia. Why, for instance, does one lobe succumb while the others survive, even though the organism is present also in the latter? The whole problem of lung chemistry is a negative and rather dark field; but that the lung tissue has some definite and peculiar chemical composition can no longer be doubted.

One of 'Hektoen's (9) students, working in his laboratory, thought that lung tissue should form an excellent medium for the growth of tubercle bacilli since these organisms developed in this organ so readily during life. To his surprise he found 'that no growth could be obtained, and that the lung tissue evidently had some baneful influence on tubercle bacilli in vitro. In our own laboratory during the past year we have been studying the influence of autolysed lung extract on tuberculous infection, and find in the extract of autolysed lung some compound, probably a soapy element, which is inimical to the tubercle bacillus, and when injected with tubercle bacillus into an animal confers protection on that animal. So that a better understanding of lung constitution and chemistry will doubtless aid fin elucidating many of the problems connected with its peculiar infections.

Again we are confronted by a lack of knowledge of the composition of the serum of pneumonia patients and of those animals which have been rendered immune to this organism. Evidently, as you have all convinced yourselves, the immune sera are questionable in efficacy in those suffering from pneumonia. On the other hand, as Lamar (Loc. cit.) and Tunni-