

Medical Matters.

TYPES OF INFLUENZA.



Dr. Robert Hutchison, writing in the *Medical Annual*, says that there are four clinical types of this disease:—(1) The respiratory type, in which the symptoms are mainly those of acute coryza and bronchitis, with a special tendency to pneumonia, chiefly of the catarrhal type. Pfeiffer's influenza bacillus is found in the nasal and bronchial excretions. (2) The cerebro-spinal type, the symptoms being severe headache, pains in the back and limbs, with much prostration and even delirium; there may be irregularity of the heart, tachycardia, or bradycardia, and children are liable to acute meningitis with convulsions. (3) The gastro-intestinal type, the chief symptoms being nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, with occasional jaundice and diarrhoea, with collapse; (4) The febrile type, where there may be no other special symptoms except the general feeling of malaise, frontal headache, and prostration, with temperature varying from 100 deg. Fahr. to 104 deg. Fahr.

The most important thing in influenza is to guard against the severe complications which so often arise. With this in view the patient must be confined to bed until the temperature has been normal for two days at least, saline purges administered, and much hot lemonade given to drink. Supporting treatment is indicated, and the patient should be fed upon milk and eggs. The patients must be isolated as far as possible, and old persons and those with phthisis especially guarded against infection. Handkerchiefs used during the coryza should be well boiled, and the tenacious bronchial secretion expectorated should be burned.

Dr. Hutchison also reports that Professor Clifford Allbutt advanced at a meeting of the Hunterian Society the theory that the disease is propagated in the sputum and the spray from the respiratory tract, and unless a patient has respiratory affections he is not infectious. He went on to point out that, like pulmonary tuberculosis, influenza might cause excavation of the lungs. Passing on to consider the various symptoms, he laid great stress upon the extreme suddenness with which influenza, as a rule, attacked its victims. This was often a useful point in the distinction between influenza and typhoid fever.

As to treatment, the two points he wished to

impress upon them were: (1) That the patient ought to do what nobody as a rule, would do—that was go to bed at once, and stop there until the acute phase was well passed; (2) during the long convalescence he would recommend what he might call a non-toxic diet—viz., milk, custards, and no meat.

In regard to immunity Dr. Hutchison considers that with a disease so eminently contagious, and considering the general disposition of man to the disease a satisfactory prophylaxis is almost impossible.

Influenza indeed is one of those diseases which should be given a wide berth by all whose duty does not bring them in contact with it.

ARTHRALGONICON.

Dr. Cesare Ballabene, late staff captain in the Italian Army Medical Corps, who has come from Rome to bring his treatment before the medical profession of Great Britain, recently read a paper before the London Therapeutical Society dealing with a new remedy for rheumatic diseases and all gouty affections. Acting on the supposition that rheumatism was due to an infectious element or poison in the blood produced by some unknown organism, Dr. Ballabene set to work in 1892 to find a remedy for this poison. A contemporary states that he believes he has discovered one, an inoffensive remedy with amylic and benzoic elements, which he declares produces prompt beneficial and lasting effects.

His preparation is only used by means of injection into the muscles, the injections taking place daily over a period of ten or twenty days according to the severity of the attack. The injections do not produce any irritation, nor do they lead to any inflammation, and can be made over and over again without harm. Usually, five or six injections suffice to subdue any recurrence.

The Greek appellation of arthralgonicon has been given to the remedy, the term meaning vanquisher of pain in the joints. It contains no trace of any of the usual remedies for rheumatism and gout, and acts by combining with the uric acid in the blood, making this very soluble and so enabling it to be more easily eliminated from the system.

Dr. Ballabene also holds that the drug acts in another way—that it destroys the toxins or germs flowing in the blood. The important factor in the drug is that it kills the disease, whereas the usual remedies for gout and rheumatism merely relieve symptoms. Cures, it is claimed, have been effected on patients ranging from 6 to 85 years of age, and many were effected so long as eight years ago.

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