

lating character, in order to maintain the patient's strength until the inflammatory condition can be subdued. Ordinary pneumonia, to which the name of "croupous" or "lobar" pneumonia is given, is a very different complaint, and commences by some direct irritation of the lungs, such as cold or an injury to the chest, whereby the whole of one lobe becomes engorged with blood, solidified, and therefore useless for breathing purposes. The majority of such cases occur in men between 20 and 30 years of age, who were previously strong and healthy. So the practical distinction in treatment arises that such patients are often cured by active measures of depletion rather than stimulation.

THE MOUTH IN MEASLES.

AN American physician has recently called attention to a sign which he finds is invariably associated with measles. It is well known that the first 24 or 48 hours of such an attack is marked by running from the eyes and nose, and some fever; and that the back of the throat, which is always carefully examined in such cases, generally shows some redness, but not the extreme congestion which is so characteristic of Scarlet-fever. But the physician in question states that, although the eruption upon the skin in measles does not occur until the fourth day, even on the second day, if the inside of the cheek and lips be examined, a distinct eruption of small red spots will be invariably found in these surfaces. In the centre of each spot, it is said that a minute bluish-white speck can be seen. It is stated that, in German measles, this eruption on the inside of the mouth is never seen; and that, while it invariably occurs in measles, it is never found in any other complaint. It is curious that this sign should not have been previously described in this country, where clinical observers are by no means behind their brethren in other parts of the world, either in accuracy or carefulness of examination—that is to say, if this eruption is so invariably associated with so common a complaint. But its importance, if it is always present, requires no explanation, and the attention of observers in this country having been directed to the matter, it will probably soon be made known whether its occurrence is as invariable in British children suffering from measles, as it appears to be in the case of their American cousins.

THE TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS.

PROFESSOR ROBERT KOCH announces in the *Deutscher Medicinischer Wochenschrift* his discovery of two new preparations for tuberculosis, one of which he is of opinion is calculated to provide complete immunity from tuberculous bacilli. In the case of consumptive patients, during the early stages of the disease, and of lupus patients a distinct improvement has been effected by the new treatment. Professor Koch reserves the use of the word "cure" until a longer period of time has passed without any relapse. With the present remedies the distressing concomitant symptoms common with previous preparations have in no case been observed. The injection of the tuberculin is made subcutaneously, beginning with one five-hundredth of a milligramme, the dose being gradually increased at subsequent injections.

DR. YERSIN'S ANTI-PLAGUE SERUM.

DR. YERSIN, the celebrated plague specialist, has arrived in Bombay, and the results of his treatment are being watched with the very greatest interest. The serum used by Dr. Yersin is not only prophylactic but curative, and it is reported that in the Far East the doctor's remedy has been almost universally successful. The injection of the serum is not more painful than a subcutaneous injection of pure water, and there is no subsequent malaise, rise of temperature, or abscess. The length of immunisation given by the injection of serum is about a month. The serum does not contain any poison, or microbe, and is therefore absolutely harmless. To be efficacious, it is necessary that Dr. Yersin's treatment should be adopted from the onset of the disease. The longer this has lasted the more difficult it is to cope with adequately. We are told by the *Times of India* that Dr. Yersin has already treated several plague patients in the hospitals. He patiently awaits the development of the results of his remedy, and works heart and soul towards the recovery of the cases placed in his charge. It is naturally too soon yet to speak with certainty as to the results of the treatment, but the effects as observed so far are successful when the serum is given within the first two days of the malady. Fever subsides, the buboes "visibly give way," and convalescence is rapid and complete, instead of being, as usual, a long and painful process.

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