

that less than 0.05 cc. of pleural exudate would kill the rabbits in a short time, sometimes with pneumonia, sometimes passing through the lungs and causing a general septicaemia without noticeable pathological changes in the lungs. On further preservation in rabbit's blood media for about two weeks longer, this organism again lost its virulence to such an extent that lately large amounts injected into rabbits produced no noticeable effect.

It is not supposed that these considerations will throw any considerable light upon the fluctuation of epidemic waves in influenza, but they are inserted merely to indicate the lines of thought and experimentation along which these problems may eventually be elucidated.

Summary

I have sketched the epidemiology of this disease in a fragmentary way only. I have neither the material nor am I sufficiently versed in statistical studies to go more deeply into this phase of the subject. Furthermore, it is too early to attempt to complete analysis of such records, which are being carefully worked over by statisticians at the present time and will be published in due time with greater accuracy than I could bring to bear upon them.

It is quite probable that influenza will continue to be prevalent in outbreaks of varying intensity all over the world for some years to come, and that the disease will remain endemic in a scattered, sporadic manner for many years after that. May we hope that etiological and epidemiological work which is being followed so assiduously all over the world at the present time will furnish us with more competent methods for prevention and delimitation before the world is visited by another pandemic.

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