

Prophylactic vaccination against infections of the upper respiratory tract is a matter which deserves more study. It is rather strange that prophylactic vaccination of dogs against distemper should be so generally in use, while so little effort is being made to protect human beings against coughs and colds. From my own experience, I should favor the view that most people who suffer from frequent colds are susceptible to one particular organism with which they are constantly being re-infected. Moreover, the more carefully one studies these cases, the less weight he attaches to the idea of their being usually mixed infection. It is probably one organism that causes the infection in most cases. The others, being present on the infected surface, multiply in the rich secretions which are poured out, and simply serve to confuse the bacteriological picture. If this is the case there is all the more reason why every effort should be made to discover the offending organism, and if necessary to protect the patient against further infection.

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Tragic Aspects of Whooping-cough. P. H. SYLVESTER, Boston, *Med. and Surg. Jour.*, March 19, 1914, p. 406.

Sylvester reminds us that this disease with its mortality of 7 per cent and its toll of 10,000 in the United States annually, is more to be dreaded than most realize. He reports eight recent cases coming under his observation, seven of which ended fatally and one with its health permanently impaired. He concludes:

1. Certain cases of whooping-cough have symptoms of intra-cranial pressure, best explained on the ground of a cerebral hemorrhage.
2. The hemorrhage appears to be dependent upon the stress of the paroxysm.
3. The symptoms of hemorrhage in these cases pointed to lesions other than middle meningeal and were surprisingly uniform in the—(a) initial convulsion; (b) immediate rise in temperature to a high degree; (c) cyanosis; (d) spasticity rather than paralysis.
4. This type of cases emphasizes the importance of prophylaxis.
5. Treatment should be directed toward at least reducing the severity of the paroxysms.

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