

pneumonia

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# pneumonia

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## Foreword

IT SEEMED as if many infectious diseases, especially pneumonia, would be reduced to unimportance after the discovery and application of therapeutic sulfonamide compounds and antibiotic agents. It may be recalled, similar views were held when insulin was discovered for the treatment of diabetes and when liver therapy was introduced for pernicious anemia. Even though these therapeutic triumphs simplified some problems of these diseases, their incidence did not change and new problems actually arose. Similarly, treatment of the important pneumonias was simplified and their mortality reduced. However, their incidence remains unchanged and previously unrecognized entities came into prominence.

An era in the field of bacterial pulmonary infection ended with the introduction of sulfonamide therapy in 1938. By then, the diagnosis of the pneumonias on an etiologic basis was accepted by most authorities and knowledge of the subject up to that time was summarized in four books. Heffron's<sup>1</sup> and White's<sup>2</sup> exhaustive reviews dealt respectively with pneumococcic pneumonia and the pneumococcus. Bullowa's book was devoted chiefly to management.<sup>3</sup> In *The Pneumonias* published in 1938 by W. B. Saunders Company, I attempted to portray many kinds of pneumonias arranged on an etiologic basis.<sup>4</sup>

The new era after 1938 was marked by the advent of antibiotic agents which eventually displaced the sulfonamide compounds in therapy. At about the same time, a pandemic of an infection of the respiratory tract led to the establishment of "viral" pneumonia as an entity. Psittacosis gained more attention, ornithosis was recognized and pneumonia was revealed as a prominent feature of Q fever, coccidioidomycosis, histoplasmosis and others.

The present book, one of the monographs of the American Lecture Series, is a compendium based on *The Pneumonias* of 1938. In it, the original outline is retained but the newer facts and newer concepts are included.

H. A. R.

**pneumonia**

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To C. R.



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