

INTRODUCTION AND AIM OF THE STUDY

A cross the world and inspite of all the types of development and civilization, rural areas, as kafr El-Sheikh Governerate, remain lacking two of the main and essential factors for life : good health and nutrition. The poor nutritional status of many infants and children in these areas lowers their natural resistance and makes them liable to many infections. The poor hygienic and low social conditions, lack of medical supervision and incomplete vaccinations add to the problem. Fevers, especially measles and other childhood exanthemas together with the recurrent respiratory infections are most common. Lack of and / or inappropriate treatment of these infections may predispose to many complications ; chief amongst is empyema. For these factors and inspite of the modern therapy, the incidence of empyema is still high in infants and children in rural areas - in our country.

In this study a trial had been done to correlate and to show the relationship between these factors and empyema; as well as to stress on the value of early clinical diagnosis due to the lack of other accurate diagnostic procedures, and to show the simplest and appropriate lines of treatment according to the facilities available in these areas.