AN INAUGURAL DISSERTATION
ON
Syphilis
SUBMITTED TO THE
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by
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SYPHILIS is a specific venereal disease
Communicable by sexual intercourse, by
inoculation, and by hereditary taint. The
progress of this disease is extremely variable
as well as its duration; which is often indicated
if left ad libitum. History reveals nothing
as to its origin so far as I am informed.
It is believed to have been introduced into
Europe from America about the end of
the fifteenth century. Even the etymology
of the term Syphilis is unknown. Speculation
however has derived it from various Greek
words, such for instance, as (sph), signifying
a hog (Sipula), signifying St. Anthony's bite
&c. As Syphilis is divisible into three stages,
denominated primary, secondary, and
tertiary. The primary is a local, the secondary
and tertiary a constitutional form of the
disease. The primary is termed local,
because the symptoms are of a local character. The secondary and tertiary are styled constitutional, for a like reason.

The primary stage - In this stage of the disease, the first symptom to which our attention is directed, is a chancroid; making its appearance usually in from three to six days after the appearance of the first symptoms. It sometimes takes the shape of a small abrasion; but more frequently in that of a vesicle or blister not larger than a pea; head; In the male on the glands, penis or lining membrane of the prepuce; generally but not exclusively, In the female on the external organs of generation or uterus. The walls of the blister or vesicle remain but a very short time in situ. At the expiration of the fifth day from development they are ruptured and an open
pleser formed which attains to a rigi-
usually varying from that of a five-
cents piece to that of a twelve and
a half cents piece; circular in shape,
depth and excavation; its base and edge
indurated; as hard as Cartilage. The
scler resembles somewhat a persciption
case; its surface presenting a copper
or dirty aspect, which will not admit
of being cleansed however rigid the
application of lotions. This form of chancre
is that most frequently to be met with
especially in this country and is termed
the Indurated or True Murculian Chancre.
The other varieties denominated the
Simple Chancre or Chancreous Scari
In phagedanie, and Soughing chancers
are described as follows by authors
whose practical observations have
afforded there the conclusions they have arrived at. The simple chancre or chancreous chancre, as described as consisting of one or more small dots resembling rather an abrasion with sharp cut edges, circular in shape, having a surface of a tawny-grayish or yellowish color, circumcircled with a red halo; attended sometimes with heat and itching; usually seated on the clitoris, under the corona glandis. But the whole gland, penis may be studded by them. It is this form of chancre that is most frequently met with in London at this time.

The phagedenic chancre, which is fortunately of very rare occurrence, is a complication of chancre with phagedena. It is described as having a great tendency
to erasure, with much distraction
of the parts, that it invades; rapid
in its progress; highly painful; lapa
yellow and dotted with red streaks;
ingulad in shape; edges ragged
or undermined; discharge profuse
thin and luminous.

The sloughing chancre is described
as being a combination of rapidly
spreading, and destructive gangrene
with syphilitic poison; appearing usu-
ally the prepuce and glands purulent;
attended with a high degree of
inflammation; permanent state
of phimasis; soon making its
appearance on one side, a dusty
black-looking spot, rapidly sprea
ding and giving rise to thick, black,
soft, and putridous sloughs, owing
and impeding the function to a great extent.

Diagnosis. A sore situated on the penis, having the peculiarities which we have designated, as belonging to a chancre, following a suspicious intercourse, may be pronounced with a very great degree of accuracy a chancre. We should bear in mind however that the only convincing test for chancre, is the inoculation of the pus, into some other part of the body; if it be a chancre, a chancre will be produced by the inoculation; if to the contrary, a contrary result.

Treatment. If called to a case within five days after the chancre has made its appearance, our treatment will
contist, in rupturing the vesicle or blister which is the incipient form of chancre, and applying to the ruptured surface, acetic acid if this be not at hand. Nitric acid or vegetable caustic putrid or may be employed. Several other articles may be employed, such as, for instance, as Vienna paste, Murdock acid and chloride of zinc, when neither of the last-mentioned is at hand. But the acetic acid is always to be preferred when it can be had. These agents act specifically, by dissolving the virus, and changing the character of the sore. This is called the abortive treatment, and will almost invariably cut short the disease if timely applied.
the lapse of five days, the virus having been absorbed these agents lose their abortive efficacy and we have to resort to constitutional Means, to arrest its progress.

Constitutional Treatment: If constitutional indications, Mercury should by all means be exhibited in some form, either by Stomach, by Inunction, or by Enemiation, as taught by our worthy and able Professor of Surgery Paul. If ever, we would recommend the following form and manner. Fig. After major Inunctions, fifteen grains of blue Mass should be exhibited daily, (ten grains on retiring to rest at night, and five the ensuing morning) until slight pyrexia is her apos, then discontinuing the remedy to be resumed again when the course
of the gums and with somewhat sub-
died, in five grain doses daily, to be
continued until the Chancers shall
have healed, and as long subsequently
as previously in order to protect the
system against the occurrence of second-
ary symptoms. Strict diet being enjoined,
the least exposure, and the avoidance of
stimulating drinks, the mean while.

On the mean time also, we would sug-
gest the propriety of using the same agents
locally, (that is to the Chancers) as in the
abortive treatment, in order to prevent
the further absorption of poisons, save
in the phagedenic variety. In this form
of Chancra the better treatment,
perhaps is the potassic tartrate of iron
in connexion with lotions of corrosive
water. In the use of Mercury we
Should be careful to avoid the following effects. E.g. violent salivation, eczema mercurialis, and erythema mercurialis, as these sometimes lead to disastrous consequences.

In case the use of mercury should be inadmissible, as for instance, in patients of amenorrheous or scrofulous habits, we would employ together with proper antiphlogistics, the nitric or nitro-muriatic acid, in proper doses two or three times per day. The iodide of potash might also be employed with great benefit, in doses of from two to three grains, two or three times per day, in connection with cod liver oil. The same being observed as to diet, exposure, and drink, as stated on the preceding page. Constitutional symptoms. These are local
in their character, presenting no evidence of constitutional infection. They include the indurated cicatrix, and the syphilitic bubo. The former is an imperfectly cicatricised chancre, its specific character not having been destroyed. It is infectious, a kind of symptomatic action going on in it, generating and transmitting the syphilitic ferment into the blood. The latter is an enlarged gland arising from the absorption, and deposit of virus in its substance; (making its appearance usually, in two or three months from the appearance of the Chancre, upon the side corresponding thereto; that is, if the Chancre be on the right side of the body, the bubo will be in the right groin, if on the left side, in the left groin. But if
on the dorsum or under surfae, it
may appear in either. It is most
always to be found above tournure
ligament.

Diagnosis. Being situated above proper
ligament, and preceded by a harmless
tumour with great accuracy as to
its character. But the ensuing test
is inoculation, if buba producing cha-
rene. Or the buba being opened, the
then producing the Common Chancre
appearance.

Treatment: This should vary nothing
in our estimation from that of
Chancre

Constitutional Syphilis. By this is impl-
ied the general infectious of the system
by the bumanal virus. It is not contagious.
But hereditarily transmissible
Symptoms. There are secondary and tertiary. The secondary symptoms are usually being developed, about the expiration of the second month, after the commencement of the disease, sometimes however sooner or later. They consist chiefly as follows. Affection of the skin. Bearing different appellation, according to character, as. Pox or small blotches occurring singly or in patches, on the abdomen, of a coppery tint. Squamous syphilides, small irregular blotches, of a red and somewhat coppery color. Mucous on the inside of the arms and thighs, and rapid large flattened bullae, filled with serum which become gradually purulent and eventually dry into scars. The skin
being ulcerated beneath. These are met with chiefly on the extremities and present quite a loathsome, foul, dirty aspect.

Affections of the mucous membrane. Typhilitic sore throat, consisting of inflammation and excoriation of the mucous membrane of the tonsils or fauces, succeeded sometimes by ulceration; the tons bearing very great resemblance to the ordinary chancre; being deep and excavated, having the appearance of being scooped out; its surface foul and dirty, and of a coppery color.

Inflammation of the mucous membrane of the nose and palate; also succeeded occasionally by ulceration which sometimes proves a very distasteful process.

Treatment. An excellent treatment is proto-iodide of mercury, in doses of from a half to one grain, three times per day; or corrosive sublimate may be employed in doses of from one-twelth to one-eighth of a grain, three times per day. A more efficacious mode of treatment, however, is fumigation, of gray oxide of mercury, bisulphide of mercury, or cinnamon and iodide of mercury. Baths are most important in connection. Regimen and proper precaution being enjoined.
Certain symptoms among the symptoms belonging to this class we find periostitis, and affections of the bones, particularly the superficial as the top of the forehead, the clavicle, the vertex, &c.; giving very little pain during the day, but extremely annoying at night, depriving the patient to a great extent of rest. Suppression of caries and necrosis being sometimes the result. We find also stiff joints, destruction of the gums and cheeks, deafness, blindness &c.

Treatment. In this stage we have nearly a specific. This is iodide of potassium. It should be exhibited in doses of from two to three grains two to three times per day.

To allay the pain in the bones at night; we have recourse to antidotes and relaxatives.