AN INAUGURAL DISSERTATION
ON
Syphilis
SUBMITTED TO THE
President, Board of Trustees, and Medical Faculty
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF NASHVILLE,
FOR THE DEGREE OF
DOCTOR OF MEDICINE.
BY
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OF
Tennessee
1838-49

MEDICAL JOURNAL OFFICE,
NASHVILLE.
Or - Essay.

On

Sputubig

By

M. H. Westmoreland

of Tennessee
To, F. Enr. M.D.,
This Essay,
is respectfully inscribed,
by
His friend and pupil,
W. H. Westmoreland.
Of the two forms of Venereal disease, Syphilis and Gonorrhoea, of which Syphilis the latter in its nature is decidedly the most serious, the character of the disease together with the disastrous consequences that at without timely precautions in variably follows is a strong argument in favor of temporal restitution for crime, its favorite haunt are the lamentable dens of infamy which not only this but any other tribe enlightened country is disgraced. Its ill effects not only mar the happiness and destroy the health of those immediately affected by it, but even extends to succeeding gene ration, and demonstrates to us the truth of the divine prophecy.
That the iniquities of the fathers shall be visited upon their children even to the third and fourth generations.

Smallpox is essentially a contagious disease produced by specific virus, the effects being always the same. It is not however contagious upon the principle that Small Pox, Measles and other eruptions diseases are, that is by getting into the economy through the lungs by the respiratory process or by cutaneous transpiration, but its characteristic effect is produced by inoculation or local application of the virus to the mucous membrane or cutaneous surface. The epithelium or cuticle
having been first abraded, its action is facilitated.

This like all other contagious disease has a period of incubation which it said by authors to vary from five to ten days. Brand however is of the opinion that the virus is operating from the time of its application until its effect become visible.

The first appearance of the primary syphilitic ulcer is that of a small red pimple which is afterwards converted into a vesicle which at a still later period becomes an open ulcer of a cup like shape with a hard base and ragged uneven edges. The irritation produced by
The action of the virus excites inflammation in the immediate neighborhood of the ulcer and gives rise to some pain. There is a peculiar secretion flowing from the free surface of the ulcer resembling pus which, if inserted into another individual or even in a different part of the same person will produce the characteristic ulcer which can be still further transmitted by inoculation. Surgeons take advantage of this fact to determine the nature of any ulcer of a suspicious character that may occur about the genital organs this experiment in fact
affords conclusive evidence
with regard to the Venereal
or Non-Venereal character of
an ulcer in suspicious ca-
es.

The next stage of the disease
after the complete formation
of the Chancre is termed
Secondary Syphilis. The
period at which secondary
Syphilis manifests itself is
variable ranging from
five to twenty days mod-
ified doubtless by the con-
stitution of the patient and
also by the treatment. The
symptoms indicating the
accession of this stage of the
disease are Tenderness and
Swelling in Sympathetic gang,
of the groin evidently produced by the absorption of the virus and proving that the disease which in the primary stage was local is now becoming constitutional. The irritation thus produced if not counteracted by the appropriate treatment results in ulcerative inflammation by which the glands are entirely destroyed. It is said that the bubo occasionally occurs without being preceded by the Chancre. The virus having been absorbed produces its effect specifically upon the gland, the local symptoms characteristically of the primary stage not having manifested themselves.
The situation of the Syphilitic bubo is characteristic of its nature. If produced by the absorption of Syphilitic Virg from a Chancre on the penis it is always found to be situated above the Ponsprer ligament and generally situated in the groin corresponding to the side of the penis on which the Chancre exists. I should have mentioned in the outset that there is a difference of opinion among authors with regard to the different stages of this disease. Some divide it into three different stages, the primary, secondary and tertiary.
Comprising only two distinct stages, the primary or local and secondary or constitutional, believing the latter to be the better classification of its different stages I shall adopt it. The next local manifestation of constitutional syphilis is that of ulceration of the mucous membrane lining the fauces. This is generally soon followed if not preceded by peculiar coffee-coloured splashes upon the skin characteristic of this and no other disease. After it has proceeded thus far every tissue of the body is liable to become its victim and each in its turn presents symptoms.
Characteristic of the sarcoma of this disease, having given the outline of this disease in a brief manner I now proceed to the treatment of the same.

Treatment. The symptoms being divided into local and constitutional the treatment of course admits of the same division. The local treatment is to be practiced only in the primary stage while the disease itself is yet local, which consists of excision and cauterization. After the disease has become constitutional the treatment to correspond should comprise the use of constitutional remedies such
as the persisting rise of the iodides and mercury