

**Historical and medical researches into the origin, nature, and treatment of syphilis / by M. Devergie ; translated by John Sinclair Innes.**

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**Publication/Creation**

Edinburgh : P. Rickard, 1837.

**Persistent URL**

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HISTORICAL AND MEDICAL  
- RESEARCHES  
INTO THE  
ORIGIN, NATURE, AND TREATMENT  
OF  
SYPHILIS.

BY  
M. DEVERGIE, SENIOR,  
CHEVALIER OF THE LEGION OF HONOUR, DOCTOR OF THE  
FACULTY OF PARIS AND GOTTINGEN, &c. &c.  
AUTHOR OF CLINIQUE ON SYPHILIS.

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TRANSLATED BY  
JOHN SINCLAIR INNES, SURGEON.

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P. RICKARD, EDINBURGH:  
SIMPKIN AND MARSHALL, LONDON.  
MDCCCXXXVII.



EDINBURGH:  
PRINTED BY BALFOUR AND JACK, NIDDRY STREET.

R38667

TO  
WILLIAM PULTENEY ALISON, Esq.

M. D. F. R. S. E.

PROFESSOR OF THEORY OF PHYSIC IN THE UNIVERSITY  
OF EDINBURGH,

AS A SMALL MARK OF ESTEEM FOR HIS CHARACTER

AS A TEACHER AND A PHYSICIAN,

AND IN GRATITUDE FOR PERSONAL KINDNESS,

THIS WORK

IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED BY HIS

FORMER PUPIL,

JOHN SINCLAIR INNES.

# WILLIAM T. TUCKER, M.D.

M. D. 1848

PROFESSOR OF PHYSIC IN THE UNIVERSITY  
OF MICHIGAN

LARGE BRILLIANT EYES OF DEEP BLUE COLOR

AS A TEACHER AND A PHYSICIAN

AND A GREATLY BEING PERSONAL KINDNESS

THIS BOOK

IS A REPRINT OF THE FIRST EDITION

THE NEW YORK

JOHN B. ALLEN, 1871

PRINTED BY

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## P R E F A C E.

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THE chief and first part of the following work was read to the Academy of Medicine at Paris, October 1834, by M. Devergie ; the high character of the Author, and flattering results obtained by him, have induced the translator to endeavour to make better known in this country a method of treatment already adopted by some of our most eminent physicians. Some of his views may perhaps not be acquiesced in by all, but he trusts that it will be found serviceable to those in whose practice syphilis is of common occurrence.

20, *Waterloo Place,*  
*Edinburgh, December 1836.*

## PREFACE

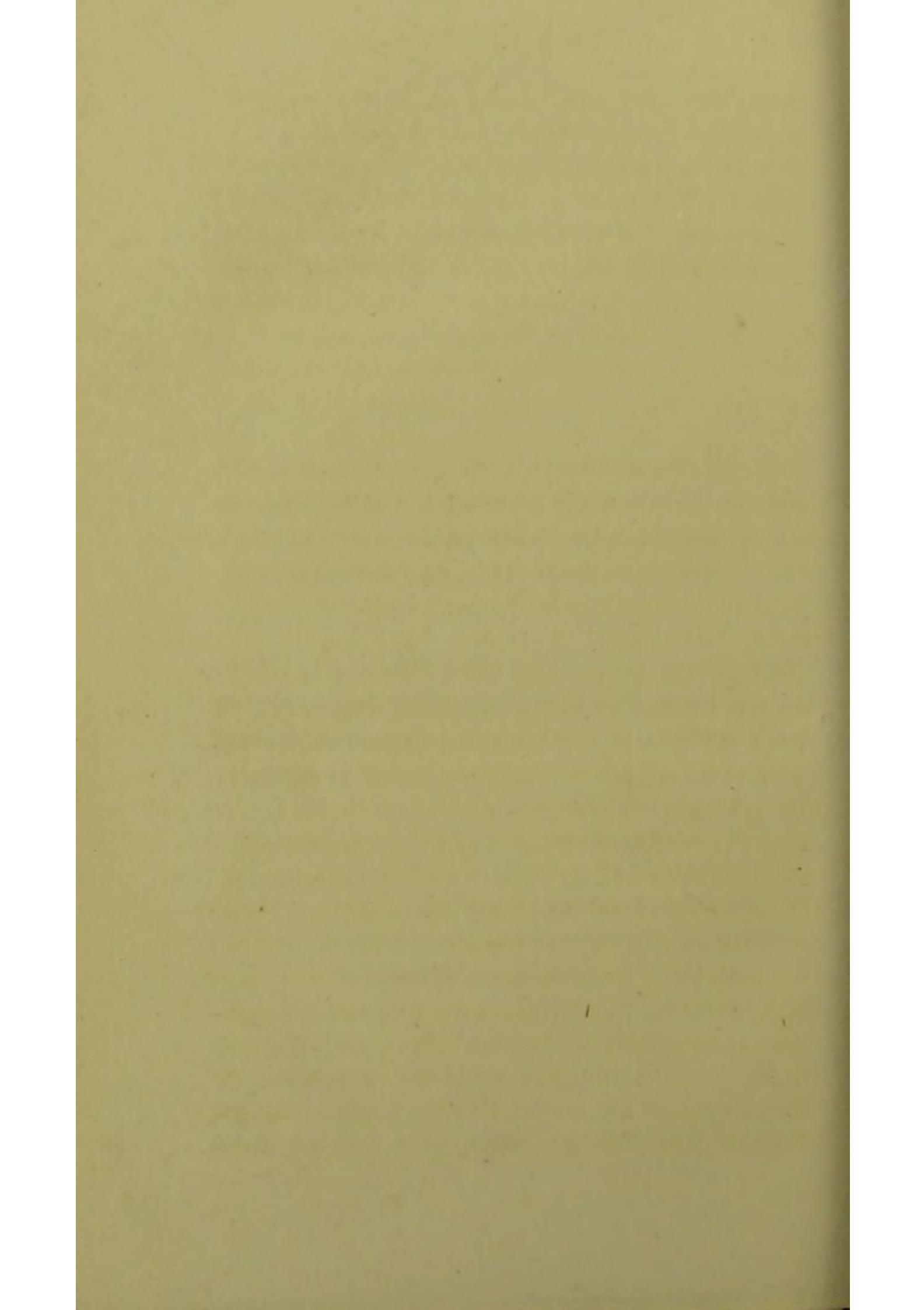
The chief and last part of the following work was read to the Academy of Medicine at Paris, October 1844, by M. Bergey, the high character of the paper, and brilliant results obtained by him, have induced the translator to endeavour to make better known to this country a treatise of importance already adopted by some of our most eminent physicians. Some of his views may perhaps not be regarded as original, but he trusts that it will be found acceptable to those in whose practice syphilis is of common occurrence.

50, Waterloo Place,  
Edinburgh, December 1844.









## RESEARCHES INTO SYPHILIS.

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SYPHILIS has become for several years an object of research with a small number of physicians, who have attempted to rescue it from the chaos in which it was plunged, when all other departments of medicine had been enriched by the exertions of the modern school.

The task is difficult ; to collect the truth, amidst the confusion that reigns, as to its origin, nature, and treatment ; to attack the prejudices firmly rooted in the minds of medical men of all countries ; to combat a sanguinary and blind routine ; to reverse an erroneous and hopeless theory, the offspring of the humorism of the middle ages ; to overthrow wholly the gigantic reputation of mercury, regarded, contrary to all experience, as the sole and notable method of cure ; in short, to shew the medical world that it was on a false route, adding error to error, was not undoubtedly an easy matter. During different periods more or less remote, this task has been undertaken by several learned physicians, French as well as foreigners ; but their writings, little known and not appre-



ciated, exist but in memory. By the natural progress of learning, by degrees the number of antagonists to the mercurial method became increased ; controversies were established ; the importance of the subject having directed to it the attention of learned men, who were lovers of truth, a revolution took place in this branch of medicine, proceeding with such rapidity that the commission of prizes for the Academy of Medicine, (section of Surgery,) in the year 1828, in six other questions presented to the Academy for selection, have the following :—“ *To determine by experiments upon animals, and by observations on man, whether syphilis can be cured by anti-phlogistic treatment, and if it would not be preferable to mercurials and sudorifics at present employed successfully.*

It is to be regretted that this question was passed over, and that since, it has not had the advantage of being again brought forward ; for I doubt not that the physicians in charge of the venereal hospitals would have eagerly addressed the result of their observations to the Academy ; materials being collected from all quarters, this question so important, so interesting to science and to the human race, would have been made clear. In the reform that has been made, throughout all the world, in the therapeutics of syphilis, the French physicians have acquired a new claim to general esteem ; and I think that the results obtained during nearly ten years shall be found deserving the suffrages and encouragement of the Academy : its judgment will be productive of threefold advantage, 1. To excite the interest of all medical men, to engage in trying for themselves that



which some other of their brethren have used for a long time in a great number of cases in their hospitals. 2. To make the modern writings on syphilis be more appreciated. 3. To silence the daily declamations of a number of its opponents, who, completely ignorant of the history of syphilis, hasten to decide upon, without any experience of, a simple and rational method, based on modern discoveries in physiology; who, finding fault with and criticising severely, throw aside with inconceivable rapidity works they could not understand; accuse of unfair dealing their more laborious and more conscientious brethren, proclaiming that their essays are cheats, their reports fallacious, their success ephemeral, that they have not been at the pains to throw any light on the disease itself; in fact, that error presides over a plan of treatment adopted for many years. We have often had cause to wonder on observing that so little was generally known of the history of syphilis, and that so inaccurate, in the midst of the surprising medical revolution, that, for thirty years, has given to the French physicians a merited renown. But some words are required to rightly comprehend why the knowledge of venereal diseases have remained so long in the rear of medicine. I have stated in 1829, that this department of medicine is still to our days little known; that this disease has not been made the subject of consideration. Superficially studied, scarcely any vague notices as to its nature and treatment have found for themselves a place in the memoirs of the young physicians who obtained degrees from the different faculties. This,



which I advanced, is easy to be conceived, when we think of the means that existed in the capital for the theoretical and practical instruction in syphilis; for, with the exception of what the faculty of medicine were able to obtain for only fifty *élèves*, the instruction in this branch of medicine was little or none ten years ago, so that the result was, that in their education syphilis was scarcely touched upon. Flattered by the belief in a virus and specifics, they relied on the word of their teachers; the *élèves* leaving the schools became the physicians in their turn, propagated the same errors, followed the same route, which was to them so easily followed; and by a slothfulness so natural to mankind, would not attempt to discover the truth amidst the numerous reverses which they had met in their empirical treatment, so that the precepts they followed so faithfully have been made to supply the place of truth. This fatal doctrine is so deeply rooted in their minds, retained by prejudice and esteemed by routine, that hardly could the medical world open its eyes, and began to attach a doubtful regard to those works which, since 1816, attempted to overthrow a shapeless edifice, the cause of so much evil and the means of so little good.

Allow me, therefore, gentlemen, to make known to you more succinctly perhaps, the works of the moderns on syphilis, and to sketch to you a faithful picture of the happy results which the progress of science has brought about in the treatment of it. Allow me to throw light in the midst of the many opinions which have been given out regarding this



scourge of the human race, and to prove that the origin, nature, and treatment of this disease are of a similar kind to that of others less common.

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## ORIGIN OF SYPHILIS.

IF we attach belief to the reports of the ancient historians of syphilis, we must acknowledge two origins to this disease ; 1. Its importation from America on the return of Christopher Columbus in 1493 ; 2. An epidemic which, continuing for seven consecutive years, ravaged Europe in a horrible manner towards the end of the fifteenth century, in 1494.

The singular coincidence that exists between these two epochs, and the very slight intercourse among nations in the middle ages, shew sufficient reasons for the errors that propagated themselves in these times when ignorance and prejudice were the distinctive appanage of persons occupying the highest rank in society, when people had no communication with each other except with the greatest difficulty, and those who were instructed could be easily reckoned ; but, since that, all nations have become civilized, and in consequence of their commercial relations mutually enlighten each other,—since so many large libraries have been placed at the disposal of the public, it appears very strange that these errors have been defended by distinguished writers, and have found professors active in propagating them to a me-



dical public, confident in their word, without even attempting to prove for themselves the truth of one or other of these reports. In order to convince ourselves of these errors, it is sufficient to trace back in chronological order the facts brought forward in favour of the two origins. After the discovery of Saint Domingo, Columbus returned to Spain in 1493, nearly at the time preparations were making in France for the conquest of the kingdom of Naples; Charles VIII. crossed the Alps at the head of a large army,—arrived in Rome towards the end of 1494,—entered Naples in the following February, and was crowned king of that country in May of the same year, and returned immediately afterwards to France with the great part of his army; whilst the Spanish army sent by Ferdinand the Catholic to the succour of the dethroned monarch did not arrive in Reggio, in Calabria, until May 1496, under the command of Gonsalvo of Cordova, the most illustrious general of his day. These dates clearly shew that, although the Spaniards should have brought the disease with them on their return from America, they could not have infected the principal part of the French army, who, sixteen months before their arrival, had returned to their homes after the famous battle of Foronovo. As for the troops which Charles had left to preserve his conquest, shut up in fortified places, (where the Spaniards besieged them, without having any immediate communication with them,) broken down by battle, famine, and the disease which committed dreadful havoc in the interior of the places they defended, which no Spaniard had hitherto penetrated,



they capitulated and evacuated the Neapolitan territory ; their mournful remains returned to France in 1497, and there fell a prey to the contagious disease which at that time was ravaging with fury. This epidemic, which was scattering on all sides horror, fear and death, had existed in Italy two years before the expedition of Charles VIII. Fulgosi, Sabellico, Infesura, Caprioli, and others, attest this fact; it had already made so rapid and fearful progress at the epoch of the French invasion, that the Pope requested Charles VIII. not to bring his army in case they fell victims to its contagion. To attach the origin of the venereal disease to this horrible contagious malady, is evidently a gross error, refuted by our most distinguished authors ; as Sprengel, Hensler, and M. Jourdain, their commentator, relying on the opinions of the most celebrated physicians of former times, still more on the symptoms which they have characterized, reject this false origin of syphilis ; and all the modern French and foreign medical men who have occupied themselves with inquiries into this disease, participate in the same opinion.

By the assistance of history it is easy to prove, that this so celebrated epidemic, which ravaged with such fury, Italy, and afterwards Europe, was rather an extension of the Moorish plague, imported into France and Italy by the Marranos or Jews, driven from Spain in 1492 by Ferdinand V. Spain lost by this unjust measure 800,000 inhabitants ; these unfortunate exiles hastened to quit their native country ; exposed to privations of all kinds, horribly maltreated, a prey to the greatest of misery, they were



plunged into wretchedness so great, that language could not express it; huddled into filthy vessels, these wretched victims of fanaticism were cast without resource, the greater part upon the coasts of Africa and Italy, the rest into France and other places. At this time a great number of these Israelites were afflicted with leprosy so common at this period over all Europe; soon after an eruptive epidemic of contagious pustules, whence *grosse vérole* (great pox) to distinguish it from variola, rapidly propagated itself, and caused such ravages that more than 30,000 families were destroyed.

In Africa and Italy, the intimate connexion between the natives and the women and girls of the Jews, communicated this disease very soon, which thus infected all the country. Jean Widman, and Nicolas Massa who, in 1497, wrote a book on the pustules and the 'disease, vulgarly termed *mal français*, inform us that the principal characteristic of this contagious disease, consisted in an eruption over the whole body, of large inflamed pustules, which became covered by thick scabs; these were accompanied by large excrescences with openings in the skin, upon the face and over the whole body, which had the appearance of glands that had been opened to allow a dirty, thick, infectious matter to escape; it formed deep and foetid ulcers in some; in others, the nose and cheeks fell in, and they were tormented with nocturnal pains; the leprous themselves fled from those who had been infected. It was about this time that physicians directed their attention more to the affections of the genital organs, which



were not long in partaking in those of the skin; in fact, seeing that immediate contact propagated rapidly this deplorable disease, of course it would follow that the intimate connexion in coition which, in other cases, awakened by the high degree of sympathy between the skin and the genital organs, must have favoured in a manner as prompt as inevitable, the communication of this highest of contagious principles. At this time, affections of the sexual parts, which had not hitherto been observed in so great number, putting on a novel degree of energy, were reckoned, by degrees, among the symptoms of this disease, because like them, they were propagated by cohabitation; so that the epidemic which marked 1494, and those years following, among the most fatal to the human race, came from Spain in 1492, spread itself into Africa, Italy, and France, and thence into many countries; that it very soon increased the malignity of venereal diseases, I am impressed by the circumstance that it favoured singularly their production; but that it was not the primary cause, I shall immediately go on to prove; let us add that *debauchery* and *libertinage*, so common in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, contributed powerfully to develope and to propagate diseases of the sexual organs; that the numerous and ill-disciplined army which Charles VIII. conducted into Italy, would likewise contribute to augment the intensity of the epidemic, during their sojourn in this country and in Italy, and to give to the disease, under a warm climate, a new force and greater extension. Therefore it was rapidly propagated to France, to Ger-



many, and other places through which the troops passed, on their return from the expedition, and on their way to their homes.

The French named it *mal Napolitan*, the Germans and other nations, *mal Français* ; but it is remarkable, Gentlemen, that no one dreamed of entitling it *mal Americain*.

The facts related above, seem to prove to a demonstration, that the venereal disease did not acknowledge an American origin, nor that of the epidemic of 1494, and such is also the opinion of modern authors on syphilis. On continuing our interrogations into history, we find in the most respectable authors, that venereal diseases have been regarded as ancient as the human race ; that they were regarded as misfortunes, and as symptoms independent of one another, as the result of *debauchery*, of *libertinism*, and *excess of coition*, and that they did not call for any special treatment ; they were not known collectively under the name of venereal diseases, a nomenclature introduced by Bedthencourt in 1527, thirty-three years after the epidemic of Naples.

In spite of the numerous errors which certain distinguished writers have propagated, and which are firmly rooted in the minds of practitioners, the physicians who deny that syphilis was known before the Neapolitan expedition, are forced to allow that the symptoms which are mentioned in the books of Moses, of Hippocrates, Celsus, and the Arabic physicians ; in those of Galen, and the authors of the middle ages ; by the historians, and Latin and other satirical poets, are the same as those which are ob-



served now-a-days. All show, without doubt, that these affections are very ancient, that there exist causes which actually produce them, which are, abuse of the organs of generation, filth and carelessness of men, prostitution, and debauchery.

Prostitution, chiefly, has been a productive cause of inflammatory diseases of the genital organs, and it, in all times, has propagated them rapidly; at Athens, Alexandria, and Rome, there existed public females; the works of writers on syphilis, of Sprengel, MM. Jourdan, Desruelles, Huber and others, are filled with facts, shewing that regulations of police, concerning the *lupanos* or stews, existed in France and England, at Strasburgh and Vienna, during the tenth, eleventh and twelfth centuries, to the end, to prevent communication with the public females labouring under *the burning, and a loathsome disease*; but, what is more remarkable, is the decree promulgated in March 1494, by the parliament of Paris, before the departure of Charles VIII. for Naples, requiring exclusion from the city, strangers suffering from a contagious malady named Great Pox, known two years before in the kingdom. But I fear I shall fatigue you if I enter into more details. I have consulted the physicians of antiquity, and those of the middle ages; and find Celsus describing balanitis, phymosis, simple and phagædenic ulcers, buboes, vegetation, condylomæ, radesyge, orchitis, and the means to be employed for their relief. I find on referring to the middle ages, the authors of the eleventh, twelfth, and thirteenth centuries, more than an hundred years before the famous epidemic, describe ul-



cers of the penis produced by the abuse of coition and impure connexion; that they attribute all these horrid diseases of the sexual organs to impurity and debauchery; that they make mention of libertinism as the only true source of venereal diseases, and make no mention of the existence of any virus.

Fracastor, who first introduced the denomination of syphilis, does not hesitate, in his elegant poem, to regard this disease as ancient as the human race. Astruc, one of the most erudite writers on this disease, in spite of his infatuation for an American origin, is forced to confess that America only is not the original source of this disease, (Africa, according to him, also.) He declares that the public females of his time were very impure; that this proceeded from the lascivious men who frequented them, from whom they contracted inflammations, abscesses, and ulcers of the sexual parts; that the abuse of coition also was sufficient to produce these diseases, by the long continued afflux of blood, and also the abuse of aphrodisiacs. Very well, gentlemen, since Astruc, approaching to our own times, Hunter allows, that libertinism, debauchery, and abuse of coition, might cause the most serious disorders of the genital organs; wherefore then the Romans so licentious, chiefly after the Cæsars came into power, were they exempted from the bitter fruits of their dissoluteness? Wherefore the infamous excess, so frightful in bygone ages, the depravity carried to its height, in the times preceding 1494; the prostitution of all kinds so well attested by the poets of the middle ages; were not they punished by venereal affections, the natural conse-



quences of the excess of every kind into which they plunged themselves? It is sufficient to cast an eye on the state of our country in these bygone times, to convince ourselves of the numerous evils our unfortunate ancestors were a prey to in the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth centuries.

History offers us, on every page, views of horrible misery, and the fearful results of it; nothing could be seen but perpetual wars, kings against princes and nobles, monarchy against feudalism; what with intestine wars among the nobles themselves, what with indisciplined armies, living by theft and rapine, we observe nothing except exactions in every form, stormings, burnings, massacres, famines, epidemic and contagious diseases, harassing with fury a people tormented and oppressed in every manner, who, like a parcel of vile slaves, plunged into debauchery, seeing no other remedies for these evils, but to seek for oblivion in every excess that debases man to the state of the brutes. What circumstances then were more favourable for developing diseases of the genital organs? Why then refuse to acknowledge this antiquity of syphilis among all nations? Does not Swediaur inform us, that this disease has been known from time immemorial in Hindostan, under the name of Persian fire? In spite of its distant position, China has not been exempt; and if we refer to the most correct authors, it is clearly to be traced at the same time in the four quarters of the globe—do we not see its spontaneous development in man and in animals? Our medical journals furnish us with examples in different countries. In



Turkey, by the report of M. Weizemaun, it was seen to develope itself spontaneously from the influence of the temperature, the ardent passions of its inhabitants, and the multiplicity of cutaneous diseases. The celebrated Lecat, and with him Jean Calvo, recognise the spontaneous development of syphilitic diseases; the late Cullerier himself, a man who had treated more syphilis than any in France, and who nevertheless was imbued with the doctrine of its virulence, the watch-word of his works. Have we not had epidemics of syphilis that cannot be doubted? and that they have been developed spontaneously is the opinion of the physicians who have observed them. The disease of the bay of Saint Pol, the Sibbens of Scotland; the disease of Sherliewo, observed in 1800, in the province of Fiume in Illyria; the epidemic of Chavaunes (Haute Soane) in 1819; the yaws of the coast of Africa and the West Indies; and the radesyge of Sweden.

From the facts related above, we cannot but conclude with truth, that syphilis has existed in all ages, and that it recognises as its principal causes, according to the assertions of a great number of writers, *libertinism, debauchery, uncleanness, and the abuse of coition.*

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#### NATURE OF SYPHILIS.

IN the mean time, gentlemen, such is not the opinion most generally received in the medical world



as to the nature of syphilis ; it is attributed to the presence of a virus, which communicates itself by the immediate contact of a diseased with a healthy person ; a mysterious being, travelling at will into the system, remaining there sometimes hid in a corner, without discovering its presence ; afterwards showing itself suddenly, altering the state of organs, destroying all their functions, and as inaccessible to our senses, as unknown in its nature. The theory of a virus was first stated about the middle of the sixteenth century—a time far back when physicians wanting the means of studying the animal organization, were far from possessing the instruction necessary to make them benefactors of the human race—a great many diseases they could not understand.

They attributed it to a particular disposition. The judicial astrology, and the Galenic doctrines were the fruitful sources of error ; it was Benedetti who first propagated with an astonishing rapidity the idea that the venereal diseases depended upon a virus developed in the humours that flow from the genital organs, particularly in the female.\* Therefore, during a long time, the menstrual fluid was in the eyes of physicians the source of a great number of diseases, amongst which leprosy, diseases of the skin, and some symptoms of the venereal disease hold the

\* He speaks incessantly of a venereal tincture, which exercised, according to him, its influence on every disease. A prejudice of the times which still reigns among the people, regards females, at the time of their courses, as unclean, and the menses as a purification, by means of which the body was freed from an acrid and impure blood.



first place. Paracelsus, who mentioned in 1552, that libertinism alone is the source of syphilitic diseases, adopting the opinion of Benedetti, the source of his great reputation, and made famous this *venereal tincture*, which was contracted by coition with an infected person, and which modified all diseases in communicating to them a particular character. The illustrious Fernel, who first distinguished venereal diseases into primary and consecutive, will lend the authority of his name and talent to the theory of virulence, and admit a specific virus, which, after having made a lodgement for itself, infected all the mass of the blood; but it is worthy of regard, that the same author who contributed most towards the spreading of the theory of a syphilitic virus, was one of those most opposed to the use of mercury as a specific in the treatment; he set himself against the administration of mercury in syphilis, and severely reprobated the abuse made daily in his time of this powerful remedy; at this period the doctrine of humorism was in vogue; the theory of Fernel was adopted with enthusiasm, but his practice was rejected.

These physicians affirmed strongly, that the virus was indestructible, that it constantly continued, that a radical cure of it could not be obtained, that not only the virus might re-appear, but that those who had once been affected, transmitted it to their children. Immediately the hereditary nature of syphilis was admitted as an incontestable fact. The best informed medical men of the sixteenth century adopted these ideas, and they became general, without dream-



ing of the alarm and dismay they carried into the bosom of their families. By and by, the syphilitic virus found itself regarded as the source of all chronic diseases, and of these diseases some the most opposite; pathology was so infected with it, that it was impossible to assign limits to this melancholy syphilis; the utmost confusion was the result of these false and foolish notions, and the most ridiculous and absurd stories were eagerly propagated, of which I shall cite some examples. The first is borrowed from *Ametus Lusitanus*; a man was married ten years after being cured of gonorrhœa; in the first five years after marriage he had two perfectly healthy children; in the seventh year his wife was delivered of a child, which was affected with venereal disease, arising from, say they, the gonorrhœa that the father has had seventeen years previously. This story must appear singular, and you will scarcely believe, gentlemen, that similar stories, which excite only laughter and ridicule, were current in former times; and that in the enlightened age in which we live a similar belief could exist. Well, to undeceive you, we every day hear of the publication of similar stories and errors; and very recently we have had the two following stories published—"A man had, fourteen years previously, some symptoms of syphilis, of which he was perfectly cured; he had married, and after some years, was the father of three children, very beautiful, healthy, and well formed, his wife had not any trace of syphilis. In 1829, he presented himself at a large hospital in Paris, having copper-coloured pustules on his body; which were



declared of syphilitic origin from the attack fourteen years previously; and they cured this disease of such long continuance, which had been neither communicated to his wife nor children, in twenty-six days, with the sub-carbonate of ammonia solely !!!” In short, in a journal published a short time since, it is said, that a person contracted the venereal disease by wearing a pair of ear-rings that had been shut up in a box for ten years, but had belonged to a person who died of syphilis.

Nevertheless, Gentlemen, if the medical men who attached belief to the extraordinary effects produced by the presence of a virus in venereal disease, had deigned to cast their eye over medical history, they would have observed the efforts made by men of high reputation to combat so disastrous an error. In 1751, Boerhaave established a resemblance between gonorrhœa and coryza. In 1772, Van-Swieten, his commentator, shaking off the yoke of the opinions of his age, rejected the hereditary nature of syphilis. In 1769, Balfour, Ellis, Tod, Duncan, sustained that gonorrhœa is not a consequence of syphilis. Bell embracing this opinion, made it an established fact. Europe (France excepted) received it as an article of faith, and the treatment adopted by the greater part of physicians, English, German, and Italian, has given it stability. Cockburn went farther, and shewed that chancres may be cured by local treatment without any fear of constitutional syphilis, which rarely followed. Astruc participated also in the same belief; and Bosquillon and Steglitz also rejected the existence of a virus. In short, to the honour



of the science we profess, the progress of information has caused a wonderful reform in the belief of a virus. This dangerous doctrine had acquired so great extension, that in less than forty years, twenty-two kinds of virus existed at the same time; but my time will not permit me to notice here the judicious remarks of Dr. Montfalcon, author of the excellent article *virus*, in the Dictionary of Medical Sciences. The school of Chaussiers, of Bichat, and their successors, have been most active in driving off this shapeless mass of virulent theories. Eighteen have been discarded from medical language; four only now exist, the virus of variola, its preservative the vaccive virus, that which causes the development of hydrophobia, and that with which we are now occupied, the syphilitic virus. Every day sees brought nearer to its foundation the celebrity of this renowned virus, and without doubt it cannot long withstand the redoubled blows from all parts, caused by reason of observation and additional experience of facts. Indeed it does not present the principal character which the most modern authors recognise in a *virus*, that of producing constantly, under all possible conditions, in every subject, the phenomena that have been observed; but even variola and vaccine virus do not vary their morbid phenomena, whilst the greater number of syphilitic symptoms take their origin from the same source. Do not we often see a slight discharge in the female, produce at the same time in different men, ureteritis, chancres, vegetation, bubo, pustular eruption of the skin, and *vice versa*. Soon, Gentlemen, medical men will hasten to adopt for this



virus, (the shapeless remains of an obscure language, the produce of times of ignorance and superstition,) a language more appropriate, already applied to contagious diseases, that previously had each their particular virus, such as the itch, typhus, plague, &c. They will admit of a contagious principle able to develop itself spontaneously, epidemically, communicating itself more or less easily by aid of inoculation or immediate contact; they will consider it as the result of the abuse of coition, debauchery, libertinism, rather than the product of a particular virus.

Syphilis takes its place naturally and unopposed in the class of contagious diseases; it is there that MM. Jourdan, Richond, Desruelles, and other modern syphilographers, have ranked it, and among them I place it likewise; this is also the opinion of Sir A. Cooper, Messrs. Abernethy, Guthrie, Hennen, Clutterbuck, and other English physicians; and it is also in this place that the author of the Examination of Medical Doctrines ranks it. "We ought to see in this disease only a series of phenomena;" says this learned physician, "and we ought not to follow the agent which produces them into the interior of the body, any more than those that produce the symptoms of variola, rubeola, plague, &c. Thus the medical physiologist ought to limit his study to the form and degrees of these phenomena in the different parts of the body, and to learn the remedies that will remove them." In a few very remarkable words are included the general basis of the theory of syphilis. In short, Gentlemen, what is there contrary to reason in this classification of venereal dis-



eases among contagious diseases? Why persist uselessly in following the cause in this disease, whilst you only combat the effects in all other contagious diseases? Do you attack the primary cause in the treatment of variola, typhus, itch, plague, malignant pustules, cholera, &c. But my time will not allow me here to refer to the important passages contained in the inestimable works of MM. Jourdan and Richard, and in the memoirs of our learned colleague, M. Desruelles, we there see the changes that syphilis produces in our organs without embarrassing us with a contagion. We study the morbid phenomena that are produced in different constitutions, the temperaments and particular kinds of tissues that are exposed to contagion; we keep account of the circumstances that facilitate and spread the contagion; we cast an eye over the numerous sympathies that connect the sexual with other organs, and we obtain a simple and rational explanation of most of the morbid phenomena, primary and secondary, without being obliged to have recourse to the erroneous existence of an invisible, inaccessible being, which surveys all organism, and which it is necessary to destroy, drive off, or neutralize, by the special or specific action of an energetic medicine. In my work intitled "Clinique of Syphilitic Disease," I have treated the more important questions as to syphilitic contagion, and have demonstrated, 1st, That the contagious principle does not always produce the same symptoms; 2d, That syphilis may be developed in sound persons under particular circumstances, by the abuse of coition; 3d, That syphilis does not belong exclusively to the



human race ; 4th, That venereal diseases may be cured almost always by the sole power of nature ; 5th, That ulcers accidentally produced on the sexual organs, have not any mark to distinguish them from those contracted by impure coitus, and that they may also give rise to secondary symptoms ; 6th, That it is a serious error to make use of the expression of general infection to distinguish the secondary affections termed constitutional ; 7th, That it is extremely rare to find a syphilitic diathesis, in which all the system suffers the disorder produced by the contagion, and that consequently, hereditary syphilis ought to be ranked in the history of rare cases. But I must abstain with regret from entering into considerations not less important, that mark the progress that physiology has made in this branch of the art of healing, and pass to those equally interesting, that of the treatment of venereal diseases.

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#### TREATMENT OF SYPHILIS.

WE have seen above, that the physicians of antiquity understood the venereal diseases ; they have left exact descriptions of a great number of symptoms, under the same denominations, as are adopted in our days ; their mind was not occupied with the idea of a virus circulating in the humours ; they did not attach numerous diseases to one sole cause ; all seems to prove, that they attributed it frequently to



debauchery of all kinds, principally coition carried to excess, to the connection with females at the time of menstruation, &c. They had no specifics for curing diseases truly venereal; they applied to them the same remedies that they employed in treating other parts of the body suffering from analogous causes; thus the same balsams, the same liniments were used equally to ulcers of the penis, to gangrene of this organ, as to diseases of a similar kind, developed in other parts of the economy; thus they had not two different modes of procedure in the treatment of vegetations, one to those in the vicinity of the penis or anus, another to those situated anywhere else. Consult their pharmacopœia, you do not find there the history of any medicine that may be used, more especially for the cure of diseases of the organs of generation. First, as to mercury, the ancients do not even seem to have ever supposed its therapeutic effects, as nothing indicates it as a part of their *Materia Medica*; the Greeks and Romans considered it as a poisonous substance; Galen dared not even make use of it; Celsus does not speak of it. We must come down to the Arabian physicians to find any traces of the introduction of this metal; in the treatment of diseases of the skin in general, they mention many preparations of it, for internal as well as external use; in all affections of the skin, at that time very numerous, and under the head of these they mention leprosy; but they do not reserve them specially in diseases of the sexual organs; neither do we find that the authors of the eleventh, twelfth, and thirteenth centuries, who have



mentioned that they had treated contagious diseases of the sexual organs, have called in the aid of mercurial preparations. It was not until some time after the disastrous epidemic of 1494, which, as we have mentioned above, consisted in an eruption of large pustules over the body, that it was commenced to be employed in syphilis; at this primary period, mercury replaced by degrees the purgatives, depuratives, stoves and hot ovens that caused so many victims. Setting out from this period, two methods disputed for a long time the honour of combating to the utmost this virus; these were the method by salivation, and that by extinction; they considered, as a salutary remedy, an abundant evacuation of saliva, sometimes even frightful, in order to carry the virus out of the body by the emunctories. Could one believe, then, that during more than three hundred years, this disastrous method was constantly followed, in spite of the opposition of several practitioners, and that the incalculable diseases produced by it could not undeceive physicians who had previously extolled it, and among whom figure, in the first rank, men of the highest merit, as Astruc, J. L. Petit, and many others. The chevalier Ulric of Hutton, so celebrated for the part that he took in the reformation of Luther, drew a frightful picture of the disasters caused by mercury, and from which he escaped, being the victim after eleven consecutive treatments for the same disease. One of the best claims to public gratitude by an accomplished physician whose loss we now deplore, the late Cullerier, *uncle*, is that of having for a long time proscribed this treatment in



the hospitals in France, where it had caused frightful ravages, and of having, by his example, contributed to propagate this important point of doctrine. The method of extinction extolled, consisted in not giving the mercury but by friction, by alternating it with diluents and purgatives, in order to avoid as much as possible inflammation of the mouth and gums; although very ancient, it was first laid aside, put off in honour by Chycaneau in 1718, and became more general in 1737; so much the more by the liquor of Van Swieten, already in vogue among physicians, carried less to ptyliasm, and alternated with frictions, but it degenerated very soon to that stage, that this method of mixed treatment, known under the name of the *grands remèdes*, became the terror of the unfortunate wretches that required to come under it. The often serious accidents, the disgusting filthiness, the difficulties and embarrassments that accompanied the treatment, the troublesome odour that the disease exhaled, and which betrayed in spite of their precautions, a secret that they had often great interest to conceal; the frequently fatal inconvenience of these mercurial exhalations in narrow and unhealthy places, where, for the most time, these unfortunates were shut up; the want of success, and the frightful effects of salivation that still happened very frequently, showed sufficiently the necessity of having recourse to other methods; for no certain rule exists to show the limits by which the action of mercury can be defined, which, on account of its energy, is the most powerful alterant of our economy.

The introduction of the sudorific woods into the-



rapeutics was a true benefit to humanity; went far to save the lives of thousands of individuals who suffered from the effects produced by mercurial preparations, (which they lavished in all forms,) and with increase of severity, in the attempt to cure affections which we now remedy by the assistance of a treatment as simple as rational.

It was especially against the secondary or constitutional symptoms that they directed more particularly the action of sudorific woods, as also against the diseases that were found irremovable by mercury, or rather that were exasperated by it, a very common appearance. As their effects were seconded by a rigid regimen, they produced in the greater part of the cases cures that were almost inconceivable; but by degrees they relaxed in the necessary severity of diet, so that soon the success became less constant, the cures uncertain, and the celebrity of the sudorific woods, so well established, was eclipsed to such a degree, that these useful vegetables very nearly also fell into the most complete discredit and the deepest oblivion.

Gold, ammonia, opium, and many other mineral or vegetable substances, exotic or indigenous, were still added to the number of anti-syphilitics, in order to render the cure of venereal diseases more certain; but the introduction of these substances into the treatment of syphilis, prove that already, for a considerable time, physicians, both ignorant and learned, had been forced at different times to seek for other and more certain methods of cure than the mercurial treatment. Gradually the progress of physiology,



which cast so much light on the study of diseases, had powerful influence on the theory and treatment of syphilitic diseases; it distinguished the effects brought on by mercury and those that belonged to syphilis; challenged the neutralizing property of mercury; started doubts of the existence of a virus; tried with success the cure of syphilis without the employment of the *divine metal*: the most illustrious minds prepared the elements of this medical revolution, and rushed from all parts eagerly to survey this new course. It is also to the school of Bichat, already so celebrated by its immense works, and by the progress that it made in the art of healing, that the most formidable and redoubted adversaries have arisen to the theory of a virus and its specifics *par excellence*; the principles professed by Jourdan and Broussais tended not less to bring about this change. Other authors less known, but not less deserving, Caron for example, also at this first stage brought forward ingenious ideas for the explanation of the contagion; since then, the school not less celebrated for its physiological doctrines, (of which Val-de-Grâce has the honour not only of being the birth-place, but also of reckoning among its inhabitants the worthy founder of this school,) furnished physicians who, young in years, but strong in the good principles derived from so fruitful a source, entering the lists, contributed by their enlightened and novel researches to overthrow the ancient edifice, in order to elevate a new one more regular and more worthy of modern knowledge. Every day sees an increase in the partisans of this new treatment of syphilis.



These ideas are not confined to the circle of French physicians; they have spread themselves among strangers—into England, America, Sweden, Denmark, and some parts of Germany, the same systems having been tried, the results have soon surpassed their expectations. We shall now be able to make known to you the results of this new method, and lay before you the observations collected as to it, as known under the name of the antiphlogistic system, known equally under the denomination of the simple and rational method; a method against which there has been an outcry from all parts, which has been condemned without being understood; been disputed every day, against which some men high in medical reputation, have daily hurled from the height of their chairs, anathemas and ridicule, and endeavoured to persuade their pupils that they are dragged into a false and deceitful route, in teaching them principles which they have it in their power to verify at the bedsides of the sick. It is for you, Gentlemen, to judge of the following proof:—France saw in 1548, the first attempts that had been made for curing syphilis without mercury; Fernel, Fallopius, and Paulmier, treated their patients by an extremely severe regimen and sudorifics; their cures were very numerous. In 1686, Blegny stated that venereal diseases could be cured without mercury; later than this, Morgagni has informed us in his letters upon syphilis, that the horror for mercury had been carried so far, that during eight years he passed at Boulogne for the study of medicine, he saw this medicine banished from all treatment, and that he observed nothing else



employed than a severe dietetic regimen and sudorifics. Still later, Peyrillhe treated during five consecutive years, venereal disease with ammonia and a rigid diet. Towards the end of the last century, M. Gallée, a veteran military surgeon, treated at Brest, afterwards at Rennes, by methods the most simple, and without mercury; the primitive effects of syphilis, whilst almost at the same time, the same symptoms were cured only at the Bicetre in the wards of expectation. At the same time, Sarleson, surgeon-major to the army in Italy, by the report of our colleague Gaultier of Claubry, despising mercury, treated it with success to the great astonishment of his brethren by precipitated antimony, aided by a light diet. Chaussier, of immortal memory, regarded mercury as of little use in the treatment of syphilis. In 1811, the late Gerardot, the friend and rival of the author of "the Chronic Phlegmasiæ," taught me the art of curing all the chronic syphilitic phlegmasiæ by the dietary system; whilst at the same time, Baron Larrey brought about a happy change in the administration of mercury, that rendered the treatment more simple, easy and less dangerous, so that it has since been made the method of M. Pihorel. In 1811 and 1812, appeared successively the works of Caron upon a new mode of considering the syphilitic contagion; the considerations of M. Jourdan upon syphilis, the work of M. Keraudren, physician in chief to the navy, upon secondary syphilitic symptoms, and the exclusion of mercury from their treatment, and afterwards the valuable proposition of M. Broussais upon syphilis.



In 1824 were published the considerations of M. Lefèvre upon the abuse of mercurials, and the essay upon the venereal disease of M. Dubled; the year 1826 saw appear the treatise on the venereal disease of M. Jourdan, the work upon the non-existence of the Syphilitic virus of Dr. Richond, accompanied with tables of the first treatment without mercury, at the military hospital of Strasbourg; at the same period appeared the first part of the "Clinique of Syphilis," since become a complete treatise on Syphilis, with 125 plates, a work for which I had lately the respects of the academy. In 1827 was published in a medical journal, the report of the *College Sanitaire of Sweden*, upon the advantages of the treatment without mercury. Almost at the same period, also, the council of health of the army, thoroughly persuaded of the advantages to be obtained by changing the mercurial treatment, induced the heads of the military hospitals to make trial of the simple and rational treatment. In 1828 and 1829, M. Desruelles made known the statistical results of the simple treatment employed at Val-de-Grace for the cure of venereal diseases. I have published, in 1830, in the 15th, 16th, and 17th parts of my "Clinique," the tables of MM. Rapatel and Desruelles of Rennes, who in 1827-28-29, treated 1410 patients by the simple treatment. I must mention also the works of M. Willaume, surgeon-in-chief of the hospital of instruction at Metz, upon the advantages of the antiphlogistic system, and those of M. Puel of Marseille. I have to tell that at Lille, Havre, and Bayonne, Drs. Delatour, Desjardins, and Becquart



treated in the hospitals their patients by the simple treatment. I must not forget to mention the opinion of the late Delpech of Montpellier, who, imbued with ideas of virulence, treated, for a long time, the disease with mercury, lavished in all its forms, who, enlightened by degrees through experience, modified to such a state his ideas and treatment, that he published in 1828, that gonorrhœas and chancres might be completely cured by the efforts of nature solely, ninety to ninety-five times per cent., and that nature alone had cured one-half of the ulcers of the throat, pustules, radesyge, &c. Since 1830, I have received new proofs that, united with those communicated by my colleague and friend Dr. Desruelles, have gone to prove that at this time the simple rational antiphlogistic method ought to be adopted as a *general method* in the treatment of syphilis, whilst that the mercurial is used more as an *exceptional method*, employed in those cases where the simple system might have been found to be insufficient. Thus, at Rennes, the simple treatment, by procuring such advantages, the disproportion between the two kinds of treatment is become excessive. Out of 1505 patients affected with primary symptoms in 1827-28-29, 1187 had been treated without mercury, and 318 by mercury; whilst during eighteen months of 1830-31, 876 symptoms were cured by the simple method, and only forty-eight by the mercurial. This amelioration is still more sensible in the employment of the means for curing relapses; for in sixty-four relapses after one or other methods of treatment, twelve only were subdued by mercury; these twelve cases required for



themselves alone 1082 days, whilst the fifty-two others took only 1863, so that it allowed to each case of the first eighty-one days, whilst for each of the second it was only thirty-five days. At Val-de-Grace Dr. Desruelles and myself have obtained summaries since 1825, with results not less advantageous. M. Barthélemy, at the military hospital of *la Maison-Blanche* (Paris), in 1833, had also to treat more than 700 syphilitic patients by the same method, and employed mercury only in a certain number of secondary affections. M. Kaisser, at the military hospital of Strasbourg, treated equally with the same success, by this method, for three consecutive years. At Algiers M. Fleschutt, surgeon-major to the hospital of the Dey, obtained also a great success by the simple and rational treatment, and for three years has to congratulate himself with having renounced mercurial preparations. At the syphilitic hospital of Paris, this method was made trial of by M. Cullerier; and the documents published by MM. Ruft and Pailloux of Chambereari, in 1831 and 1832, proving that the antiphlogistic treatment had been making progress for some years, and possesses real advantages, that are appreciated there. Indeed, out of 512 patients, 339 were cured by the simple treatment, the mean duration being thirty-two, whilst of the others it was forty-seven by the mercurial method. The relapses after the simple treatment have been one in twenty-eight; and the physicians of this establishment have been so sensible of the advantages of this simple and rational method, that there did not exist (in 1834) a more complete mercurial treatment, than that mer-



cury is there employed as a powerful alterant of the economy only in those cases where the other methods have been used without success, and in general in small doses. For one year that I have had the charge of the first division of venereal patients at the military hospital of Gros Caillou, I have continued the same mode of treatment, and have not had recourse to mercury but in exceptional cases that have not yielded to a simple treatment. I may here say with truth, that this hospital has enjoyed for many years the advantages of the really important modifications introduced into the mercurial treatment by MM. Gimelle and Paban; although these two brethren have been partisans of the mercurial method, they have made in the employment of this energetic medicine a marked moderation—they have not lavished it upon all their patients, and they united with it the use of a very severe regimen. I have already said that foreign physicians did not remain in the rear, and that they vied with us in accelerating the overthrow of a superannuated and pernicious doctrine. We have seen, in short, Fergusson in Portugal, Chapman, Dewes, and Rousseau in the United States, treating without mercury, and by a simple method, their patients affected with syphilis. The English physicians have entered the lists, and have treated without mercury, but not without exciting medicines, so that, with the exception of the works of Thompson, Turner, Brown, Ewans, Hennen, and some others, to which we may add the names of Guthrie and Sir Ashley Cooper, we must reject the writings of the other English physicians, for they did not assist, but



rather discredited this anti-mercurial system, without any advantage to their patients, who encumbered the hospitals uncured. But this need not appear astonishing to you, gentlemen, that it has been so long thus in a country where, with the exception of some of the principal physicians and surgeons, the physician and apothecary are one and the same; where the hand that writes the prescription at the bedside of the patient passes into the shop for its preparation. If the medical men beyond seas have in the great majority remained in the rear, we observe in return our Danish and Swedish brethren, with those of some parts of Germany and of Egypt, have become our rivals in the treatment of syphilis, and are deserving of the highest eulogium for the zeal they have displayed in throwing light on this part of medical science.

If I did not fatigue you, I should render a merited compliment to the Board of Health of Sweden, for the perseverance with which, since 1822, it has encouraged and sustained the zeal of medical men, military as well as civil, and is supporting by the compendious publication of their works the propagation of the treatment by the dietary system and external means, and obtained results unlooked for in a country subjected to a cold and rigorous temperature, in which syphilis is cured with difficulty. I should address these compliments to M. Frike, principal surgeon to the general hospital at Hamburgh, who for eight years has had the satisfaction of having renounced mercurial preparations; to Dr. Besnard, inspector-general of the military hospitals of



the kingdom of Bavaria, who at Munich has treated since 1818, syphilis without mercury, and for making known in Bavaria this kind of treatment, so advantageous to the human species. I should mention Dr. Bruinnghauser at Wurtzburg, an aged practitioner, who has equally disowned the mercurial preparations that he had used for thirty years. I must speak of Huber, who at Stuttgard treated it thus since 1815; of MM. Becker and Burtz of Berlin, who have published interesting remarks on the same subject. Neither must I forget to mention with panegyrics MM. Labat and Clot-Bey, two physicians who since 1824, have conveyed to Egypt the advantages of the modern French school, and have applied the principle with a surprising success in the treatment of syphilitic diseases. The first, in quality of the surgeon to the Pacha of Egypt, organising the hospital of Abou Zabel at Cairo, caused to a most murderous *brownism* succeed a rational system of therapeutics, based upon physiological knowledge; the second, as inspector-general of the army of Mahomet Ali, established a school similar to our French institutions, and continuing that which his predecessor had happily commenced, made known a learned and reasonable application of the antiphlogistic method of treating venereal diseases, so that in a short time these two physicians obtained themselves the most amazing advantages in a country situated under a burning sun, where mercury and excitants had produced the most fearful ravages. In recapitulation, I have published in my "Clinique" a table containing 40,000 patients affected with primary and secondary symptoms, as



well in France as in Sweden, Germany, England, and other places. I could have been able, without inconvenience, to have brought up this production to nearly 50 or 60,000, for here have not been included the reports of Thomson, Guthrie, Astley Cooper, and Rose, from 1801 to 1823. We have omitted the results obtained at Paris by Peyryllhe, from 1773 to 1789; those of Gallée, senior, at Brest, in 1796; of Sarleson in Italy, during 1798; of Champmann, Dewies, and Rousseau, at Philadelphia, since 1811; of Fergusson in Portugal, from 1808 to 1811; of Besnard of Munich, since 1809; of Bruininghauser at Wurtzburg, since 1819; of Huber of Stuttgard, since 1815; of Becker and Burtz of Berlin, since 1826; of Lefèvre, in 1824; of Puel, junior, of Marseille, in 1829; of Bonecase, Dardare, and Charmei, from 1815 to 1828; also of Delpech of Montpellier, during 1827. The advantages obtained by this new treatment are numerous, and may be considered under two points of view: 1st, with regard to the *administratif*; 2d, as to hygiene.

1. With regard to the *administratif*, the civil and military have nothing that is more to be regretted than the great waste of furniture that must be set apart to the use of venereal patients. All these effects have received a black colour, a detestable odour, that not only has made them the object of continual and reiterated complaints of the patients; but the mercurials very soon altered the tissue of their clothes; the nasty aspect of the wards, from the black disappearing, for ever sent out from it mercurial exhalations so strong, nauseous, so difficult to support, and



so hurtful to patients ; cleanliness is now easily to be obtained, and there need not be now any more a difference between the places set apart to the treatment of this disease, and the wards destined for other patients. The stay of patients there is still more short, whether for primitive or secondary symptoms. An extract from the movements in Val-de-Grace and its *succursales*, shew that the mean duration of the stay of patients was from fifty-six to seventy-one days, from 1821 to 1825; whilst from 1825 to 1834, it was only thirty-seven days, results incontestible with regard to financial economy and military discipline.

2. If we should observe these results with regard to hygiene, they yield nothing to those we have above expressed ; the health is less altered, the sickly disorders are incomparably less, salivation exists no more, the mortality is almost nothing and the convalescence rapid.

To conclude, gentlemen ; behold in a last analysis what has been observed since mercury has been no longer used, or where it has been employed in small quantity in the hospitals for the reception of venereal patients, 1st, The relapses are less numerous, the secondary symptoms less frequent, less severe, and more easy of treatment, and being few, withstand the employment of sudorifics. 2d, It would be difficult now to discover there the hideous appearances and serious affections that have been the means of producing those rare and curious cases that have enriched the "Clinique of Syphilis," and the museum of the late Dupont. 3d, That in Sweden from 1822 to 1827 the relapses were only  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. by the



dietary method and local means, whilst by the mercurial plan they were 14 per cent. ; that from 1827 to 1829 they were only  $6\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. by the simple treatment, and about  $11\frac{1}{3}$  by mercury. 4th, Diseases of the bones have become more rare, and have almost disappeared in Portugal, where for a long time have been treated without mercury both military and civilians. In Sweden the number of caries, exostosis, pain in the bones, that in 1814 had been about 54 per cent. in the relapsed from the mercurial treatment, progressively diminished to such a degree, that from 1827 to nearly 1831, there had not been more than  $6\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. In the military hospitals where the simple treatment is adhered to, scarcely will you see one in 500.

Such, gentlemen, is a succinct but faithful account of the remarkable works and the difficult researches of practitioners who have devoted themselves peculiarly to the study of syphilitic diseases. Perhaps you suppose they have been generally applauded for their efforts ; that they have been recompensed for their zeal ? Let me undeceive you, gentlemen, and shew that their love of truth and of the public good has alone sustained their courage ; they have been made the object of the most bitter criticism ; they have been blamed of, and exclaimed against for innovation ; and it has been said that, hurried on by a passion for reform and a spirit of singularity, they wished to overthrow that which centuries of observation had set up.

What, then, made these men laborious and enlightened, whose works have received the approba-



tion of all Germany ; and what have we contributed ourselves? Is it to innovate, by returning to the times when the methods of Fracastor, Fallopius, and Fernel flourished? they move forward, then, or retrograde towards useful circumstances. Is it to make themselves singular that they have caused syphilitic diseases to return to the circle of correct medical doctrines? Good sense points out that it was absurd for them to be left behind. Is it to destroy the observations of three centuries that they have made new observations? No, without doubt; but rather to weigh by their just value those circumstances that all systems have left us. Cease, then, to attach to us intentions that are not our own, but repeat our experiments, that number may be opposed to number; that the true state of our patients may be compared with the state of those treated by mercurials; that our relapses be reckoned; and when it is measured with regard to the diseases that mercury has produced, and the affections that it still occasions, then only will it be right to judge of the simple method. But hitherto our adversaries have only attacked us pen in hand, and have shewn themselves skilful in hurling epigrams; they are unable to oppose facts to those that we are receiving in great number every day from our own hospitals. Do you wish to know what are the faults of those that have established and adopted the simple method? Behold! they have consulted the history of syphilis to compare the consequences and effects of the opposed doctrines, in order to make the history of past time afford advantage to the present, and to prepare a



better future. The classification of symptoms was badly arranged ; they have rectified them. The diagnosis was obscure and uncertain ; they have introduced more light and more certainty. The description of the symptoms was erroneous and inexact ; they have rendered it more easy and precise. The theory rested upon supposition ; they have given it for a basis reason and physiology. The therapeutics were uncertain and complicated ; they have rendered it more certain and simple. In short, all that should constitute a science in this branch of pathology was isolated and at variance ; they have introduced more connection, affinity, and unity. These are the results that they glory in having obtained ; these immense results for science and humanity they owe to attentive observation, constant and impartial ; to simple and natural reasoning founded upon facts ; and to a judicious application of physiology and the new doctrines of medicine to the study of venereal diseases.

The new method offers so just, so real, and so incontestible advantages, that it will prevail in spite of the efforts of a small number of physicians obstinately attached to the empiricism of former times. The impulse is given ; malicious influence may slacken the march of truth, but never arrest it.



THE FOLLOWING PART IS FROM THE ARCHIVES GÉNÉRALES DE MÉDECINE, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 1835, AND GIVES A MORE PRACTICAL VIEW OF THE AUTHOR'S PLAN OF TREATMENT.

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NOTICE OF A SIMPLE AND ANTIPHLOGISTIC METHOD  
OF THE TREATMENT OF SYPHILIS.

IN combating disease, general therapeutics admits three principal methods. The first consists in exciting acts that produce a disturbance in the economy. The second acts by producing a stimulus, by augmenting the vital force, in order to obtain a salutary re-action. The third method diminishing the same forces, and stupifying the nervous action, prevents, on the other hand, all re-action. These three manners constitute three distinctive methods of treatment; *la perturbative*, *la revulsive*, and *l'antiphlogistique*, or simple and rational method. 1st, The *Disturbative* method, the least certain and most seldom used, is rarely employed alone; it consists in acting upon the very seat of the disease by most powerful means, so as to oppose the development of the morbid phenomena that naturally constitute it,



if their course is not arrested at the commencement. Astringent injections, employed in the first stage of gonorrhœa, according to the English doctrine, is a striking example ; the cauterization of ulcers in the first stage of their formation, belong also to the disturbative method. If, in a certain number of patients, this method be adopted for preventing the development of morbid symptoms, it has, on the contrary, in a great number, served to increase their intensity, and has been the cause of troublesome accidents that otherwise would not have taken place. I may cite, for example, the greater part of strictures of the urethra, which arise from the injudicious employment of astringent injections. The disturbative method, from which a skilful physician occasionally may receive some advantages, will be without doubt the source of serious disorder when it has not been properly applied. It ought not to be concealed that we always play double or quits in following it in practice.

2d. In the treatment of syphilis, which is the object of this notice, the *revulsive method* is the most common and the most accredited ; it has been impressed by authors upon the minds of the greater part of practitioners. "It is it," says M. Jourdan, "that the great majority of physicians has followed for three centuries in the general treatment of venereal diseases ; it is this method that has caused to be almost totally forgotten those which the Greeks, Romans, Arabians and their followers, and the physicians of the middle ages had employed. It is it that has made local remedies be neglected, and has introduced by degrees, the prevailing ideas of a spe-



cific in the nature of the morbid cause, and also in the mode of action of certain medicinal substances; it is this, in short, that has engendered as it never fails to do when applied in a purely empirical manner, a host of evils which afterwards produce affections, against which its aid is called; in vain have thousands of facts been brought forward to shew that it has not always been crowned with success, that it is often insufficient, that it begets also inconveniences and dangers; that in particular, mercury fails in numerous cases; nothing can overcome a prejudice so much the more obstinate, as they believed it to have the support of experience, whilst they could not deceive themselves as to the frequent failing of the general method, they believed it explained by declaring that it had been applied without method, or that the diseases in which it had been tried had not been venereal, in spite of their appearance."

I have mentioned that the revulsive method consists in stimulating and augmenting the vital power in order to obtain a salutary reaction, to remind you that the different substances, mercury, gold, ammonia, sudorifics, &c. are all under the dominion of this method. In fact, their immediate action upon the economy, proves that it is only by producing a more or less powerful excitement that they have cured the diseases in which they are administered, the clearly characteristic result of the revulsive treatment by this simple reflection, dispenses with our citing particular examples. The revulsive method has, without doubt, real advantages; but it does not need to be rendered common, as it has been too much so before.



Lavishing exciting remedies, and mercury in particular, in the treatment of syphilis, is to follow blindly the impulse of routine ; is to abuse methods capable of rendering great services if they had been employed with discernment in proper cases. It actually consists with the experience of many talented medical men, that we ought without fail to have recourse to these remedies, in those cases where the antiphlogistic method, however judiciously applied, has not been able to effect a cure. Then the inveteracy of the disease justifies the aid of mercury, which otherwise, though placed in a second rank, ought not to be banished entirely from the treatment of venereal disease.

3d. *The antiphlogistic plan* which has deserved by so great considerations, the title of simple and rational method, consists in treating the local symptoms by all the most simple remedies that Hygiene and medicine point out for allaying irritation, for clogging, if one may so say, its development, and for neutralizing its influence on the organization. This end is obtained by diminishing the vital power, by what, in short, opposes itself to reaction, and to the morbid changes that the local disease may spread to organs which sympathise most with those that it has affected. If the introduction of physiology into the study of diseases in general, has not exactly given origin to the antiphlogistic method, at least it has served to verify the superiority, and has powerfully rectified the errors received in medicine. Syphilis, in its theory and treatment, has not been a stranger to this fortunate influence.



It is already many centuries since it was first known that venereal affections were of an inflammatory nature. Some illustrious physicians, without endeavouring to determine the nature of this inflammation, have eagerly endeavoured to lay mercury aside; and have cured their patients by the aid of the most strict regimen. I have recounted in my "Clinique of Syphilis," the works of French and foreign medical men who, from 1548, up to 1833, treated the venereal disease without mercury, by a strict regimen and other simple and rational remedies. I have the advantage of not being a stranger to the propagation of this new method, and here have delivered the results that I have obtained from 1819 to this day, 1st September 1835. Placed for a long time, by my military service, in favourable circumstances for the study of syphilis, I have there treated a mass of cases from 1804 to 1815. I have very frequently had the principal charge of attendance on military hospitals where syphilitic patients abound. Schooled in the belief of a virus, so generally given out at this period of my studies; finding every where in Germany, where I constantly remained from 1806 to 1815, the same doctrine professed with certainty, and received in practice; it did not require little time and reflexion to convince myself that all the frightful diseases that I had unceasingly under my eyes, were rather the effect of an unseasonable treatment than that of the disease. During ten years that I lived with the same men, (the division of cuirassiers of General Nansouty) of whom I knew the habits, the mode of life, the temperance



or the excess, I shall establish that the primitive affections, chiefly chancers, were cured frequently without relapse, simply by the care of cleanliness, aided with a little sobriety, by the sole power of nature, in certain soldiers who had concealed their state, whilst on the other hand, their comrades, more attentive to medical prescriptions, had not been always preserved from consecutive symptoms by the treatment in force. These facts were not lost on my instruction. Since 1808, but chiefly since 1811, the date of my acquaintance with Dr. Girardot,\*

\* From 1807 to September 1811, I was likewise reaping the advantages of a great number of observations on syphilis. Attached during this time to the Ninth Regiment of Cuirassiers, in the rank of *chirurgien aide-major*, I enjoyed the friendship of M. Dumoustier *chirurgien major* of the regiment, and had frequently the exclusive charge of attending temporary hospitals established in our cantonments, establishments due to the truly paternal solicitude of the Colonel of the regiment, M. Paultre de la Motte. His service was so much devoted to his officers and soldiers in infirmaries, medical men, &c., that in four to five days at most, an hospital of forty, sixty, or even one hundred patients, according to the need, in one or two localities, was easily organized at each change of cantonment, in the countries (Prussia, Hanover, and Austria) where their furniture was placed there by requisition. I then compared together, the different kinds of treatment acknowledged at this time, mercurial or others. If our worthy colonel, guided by the brightest philanthropy, has found in this institution of regimental hospital, the precious advantage of preserving military discipline among his soldiers, I have there derived instruction difficult of acquisition in the time of war, especially in regiments of cavalry, almost always stationed far from large towns.



I have obtained rapid and certain cures in the treatment of secondary symptoms, either by the sudorifics in common use, along with a very rigid regimen, or by this last method alone, in subjects who have had sufficient resolution and good will to bind themselves to a very sparing vegetable diet. When I was at the end of 1814, attached to Val-de-Grace in rank of surgeon-major, I eagerly desired to arrive at similar results in the cure of recent venereal symptoms, by renouncing the employment of mercury. The principles brought forward in the works that have just been published on this subject, and if agreeing with the results I have obtained, will assure me that I shall succeed; but more than one obstacle opposed itself to that which I had otherwise easily done for the service of syphilitic patients, attempts that I had so much at heart. There, as everywhere else, mercury under three forms, ointment, liquor, and pills, compose in general the treatment of primary affections; medical men and patients showed themselves fully persuaded that this metal was the sole and only remedy against the affections of which I speak; to propose openly a reform, had been to call down anathemas upon myself, had been to frighten them off with ears closed for ever to new thoughts on syphilis, in spite of the evidence given them by the successive development of physiological doctrine. It required, then, to be done with reserve, and almost secretly. Nevertheless, setting out from 1819, up to the month of April 1825, the period when I quitted the venereal division to that where I was attached in quality of surgeon-major



substitute, assisted by the greater part of the pupils of the establishment, I have had many occasions of introducing in all freedom, into the treatment of this class of patients, the ameliorations pointed out by experience and by reason. Those who, already victims of mercury, were opposed to it, caught at the new method when again affected, returning to the hospital, they naturally came under my care. Whilst in those who were persuaded that mercury was the true specific, I had recourse to mercurial frictions in small doses (one drachm every two or three days) after the acute period was entirely finished. Already strict regimen, local bleedings, and rest had effected an important change; time slipped on, the cure was advancing, and seven or eight drachms of ung. hydrarg. was sufficient to put these soldiers in a fit state to leave the hospital, after a residence there of thirty to thirty-five days. Those who, on the other hand, had been placed under the ordinary mercurial treatment; had been using from four to five ounces of ointment, pills of Belloste uncountable in the intervals of the frictions, did not leave the hospital before the fifty-fifth to the sixtieth day.

When the patients allowed themselves to be completely directed, I altogether laid aside mercurial preparations, and as the same end was attained not less easy, I had proof that cures might be affected a great deal quicker than in the ordinary manner. Perfectly enlightened, then, by such observations, which agreeing with those also that had been presented to me in civil practice, I had no more any



doubt at all that *recent syphilis* might not also be cured by a simple and rational treatment. I ventured, then, in 1824, in the communications that I had with the pupils of the hospital to attack with confidence the obstacles presented in the history of syphilis, and its mode of contagion, and state the considerable changes that modern medicine had introduced into the treatment of it, hitherto empiric and routine. To this time mercury had only held a secondary part in my practice in town; very soon after I almost entirely renounced it, to treat more frequently my patients by the antiphlogistic method. This method has obtained for me many real advantages; 1st, it has enabled me to observe the different symptoms that syphilis presents, when pure from all mercurial treatment; 2d, to understand the course and continuance of each of the symptoms, whether primary or secondary; 3d, to distinguish the affections produced by the abuse of mercury, or other excitants, which, by their too great energy of action on the economy, so change, pervert, or complicate venereal diseases, that they have then degenerated into that state, named by the English *pseudo syphilis*; 4th, to learn that relapses, or the production of secondary symptoms, are much less frequent, and much less serious, after this treatment than after that of mercury.

These facts, the fruit of my observations, are completely confirmed by the late writings of modern French and foreign authors on syphilis.

I have treated, from January 1815 to September 1835, in Paris, both in the city and in the hospitals,



more than 6000 venereal patients ; these I have allotted into three divisions.

1st, Patients treated from 1815 to 1830 (in the city and at Val-de-Grace.) . . . 1,402

2d, From June 15th, 1831, to September 1832, (at Val-de-Grace) . . . 2,000

3d, From August 1st, 1833, to September 1st, 1835, Gross-Caillou . . . 1,910

— From 1830 to September 1st, 1835 (in the city) about . . . 800

I have made this division in order to the better appreciation of the difference that exists in the time employed for the treatment, and especially in the number and the serious nature of the consecutive affections, much more considerable in the first period than in the other three ; a time in which the mercurial treatment was followed with more perseverance and tenacity than it is done now.

*Period First, from 1815 to 1830.* I have treated at Val-de-Grace and in the city, by the simple treatment and modified mercurial, 1,402 patients ; but the accounts relative to 294 are partly missing and partly incorrect. I have been able to figure here 1,108, which were distributed in the following manner :—

Urethritis, balanites, vaginites . . . 248

*Val-de-Grace, from 1819 to 1825.*

Primary affections, secondary and consecutive, treated by the restrictive use of mercury . . . 229



Primary affections treated without mercury	90
Secondary affections, mercurial and chronic	118

*Civil practice from 1819 to July 1830.*

Primary affections . . . . .	306
Secondary, mercurial and chronic . . . . .	117
	<hr/>
Total,	1,108

These 1,108 syphilitic patients have presented 1,428 symptoms, and 67 organic complications.

Mucous system	368 symptoms.
Cutaneous ———	779
Glandular ———	229
Osseous ———	36
Fibrous ———	16
Organic complications	67

The 248 cases of uretrites, balanites, and vaginites, were almost all treated in the city; 24 were slight, 137 acute, and 87 complicated with orchitis phymosis, paraphymosis, buboes, ophthalmia, visceral irritation, and 21 of these last had stricture. From the declaration of the patients, these affections had been contracted with,

1st, Suspected females 61. 2d, Married females and girls not suspected, 166. 3d, Pregnant females, 8. In the 166 married females and girls not suspected, 112 had leucorrhœa more or less abundant, and 54 their menses.

Of the ulcers, simple, complicated, or phægedenique; and of the buboes, simple or double, 172 had been cured by the modified mercurial treatment,



and 321 by the simple treatment. The ordinary duration of the treatment could not be indicated in a precise manner, the most part of the patients did not restrict themselves completely to the prescribed diet, and continued to follow their business. Nevertheless the duration of treatment has been much shorter, it has varied from thirty to thirty-five or forty days; frequently it has been only from twenty-five to thirty days, whilst that by the ordinary mercurial treatment, whether in the hospital or in the city, it has varied from thirty to sixty days, as the movements of 1824 verify.

The 367 consecutive, chronic, and mercurial symptoms have consisted of,

1st, In 13, chronic ulcerations of the penis, corroding or carcinomatous, two of which required the amputation of ii. Second, in 14, deep chronic ulceration at the fold of the groin, following to suppurated buboes. Third, in 8, old ulceration of the alæ of the nose and of the superior lip. Fourth, in 54, ulceration of the amygdalæ, palate, and pharynx. Fifth, in 47, ulceration of the nasal fossæ of the skin, anus, &c. Sixth, in 61, vegetations of the penis, anus, and tongue. Seventh, in 51, inflammation of the axillary, cervical and inguinal glands. Eighth, in 60, syphilitic pustules, partial or general. Ninth, in 39, periostoses, exostosis, and pains in the bones. Tenth, in 13, caries of the frontal, sternal, nasal, and other bones. Eleventh, in 7, alopecia, tubercles, corneiform concretions, &c.; 132 of these patients have been submitted to the modified mercurial treatment. The severe regimen, without stimuli,



followed as exactly as possible by the greater part of the patients, has singularly abridged the duration of treatment. It has varied, in the most part from thirty to fifty days, in some few from two to three months, and more for caries. The ordinary duration of the mercurial treatment for these symptoms, was formerly from eighty-five to ninety or one hundred days, and frequently a still longer time, even years.

*Second Period.*

From 15th June 1831 to September 1st, 1832, I have treated at Val-de-Grace 2000 venereal patients. I have only brought forward here the results collected in 1380, from two principal causes. The first was the disastrous epidemic of cholera, which required the removal of the venereal patients into other military or regimental hospitals, in order to place my wards at the disposal of fever and cholera patients. The second cause has been a long and serious illness, that during more than six months forced me to interrupt my attendance and usual employment. This double circumstance has prevented me from completing and reducing to order my scattered notes. These 1,380 patients have presented 1,824 symptoms reputed syphilitic, without including the organic complications, such as intermittent fevers, gastritis, enteritis, gastro-enteritis, variola, varicella, rheumatism, cephalalgia, icterus, &c. These 1,824 symptoms were arranged after the following manner:

Mucous system	547 symptoms.
Cutaneous ———	783 ———



Ganglionic and glandular system 490 symptoms

Osseous ——— 1 ———

Fibrous ——— 3 ———

The 1,380 patents might be thus classed :

	Cases.	Days.
1st, Balanites, posthites, balano-posthites . . . . .	31	17
2d, Uretritis, simple or acute . . . . .	244	26
Ditto, chronic, with or without stricture . . . . .	15	45
Do. complicated with phymosis, balanites and ophthalmia . . . . .	12	36
3d, Paraphymosis, simple or ulcerated . . . . .	19	20
Do. complicated with urethritis and inflamed glands . . . . .	6	27
Do. complicated with ulcers and inflamed glands . . . . .	1	120
4th, Orchitis, simple . . . . .	64	24
5th, Ulcers of the penis, one or several . . . . .	297	23
Do. complicated, with buboes . . . . .	97	36
Do. do. with balanites and phymosis . . . . .	52	47
Do. do. buboes, urethritis, phlebites, &c. . . . .	24	42
6th, Buboes, acute, suppurated or chronic . . . . .	297	33
Do. complicated, with balanites, urethritis, ulcers, &c. . . . .	35	40
7th, Vegetations of the penis . . . . .	12	26
Do. complicated, with urethritis, ulcers and buboes . . . . .	27	39



	Cases.	Days.
Vegetations on the anus, rhagades and fissures . . . . .	49	34
8th, Pustules on the scrotum . . . . .	6	24
9th, Syphilides, Dartre . . . . .	10	33
Do. complicated with ulcer on the penis, posthites, buboes, vegeta- tions, urethritis . . . . .	20	49
10th, Ulceration of the amygdalæ and pharynx . . . . .	18	27
Do. complicated with rhagades and fissures . . . . .	6	37
Do. with pustules of the scrotum, urethritis . . . . .	3	38
11th, Pain in the bones, periostosis and exostosis . . . . .	3	45

The simple and dietary treatment was adhered to in all with the following exceptions :

Seventy-one have used the bitter de-  
purative syrup.

Without the addition of the sudorific  
tisane.

Six the tisane of Feltz, or *l'eau de Polleni*.

Ten the mercurial preparations, such as the proto-  
iodurate, the liquor in fractional doses.

Three affected with buboes or chancres have died,  
two in consequence of confluent variola, and  
one from gastro-entero-cephalites.

### *Third Period.*

From August 1, 1833 to September 1, 1835—  
1,910 patients.



I was promoted to the attendance on the first division of the syphilitic patients at the military hospital of Gros Caillou, August 1, 1833, and have there followed the same method of treatment as at Val-de-Grace. I offer here the result—

These 1,910 patients have presented 2,276 symptoms, and 244 complications, divided after the following manner:—

Mucous system	794 symptoms.
Cutaneous ———	895 ———
Glandular and ganglionic systems	593 ———
Fibrous ———	6 ———
Osseous ———	1 ———
Different organic complications	244 ———

*Classification of the 1,910 Patients.*

	Cases.	Days.
1st, Balanites, posthites, and posthobalanitis . . . . .	26	14
Do. complicated with fever, gastritis, &c. . . . .	6	32
2d, Urethritis, simple . . . . .	128	19
Do. acute . . . . .	224	29
Do. chronic, with or without stricture . . . . .	10	8
Do. chronic, complicated with buboes, amygdalitis, pustules, cystitis, gastritis, fever, vegetations, phymosis, rheumatism, and erysipelas . . . . .	89	57
Do. complicated with acute orchitis	69	34
Do. do. chronic do.	36	57
Do. do. intermittent	5	38



	Cases.	Days.
3d, Orchitis, chronic, alone or complicated . . . . .	18	44
4th, Ulcers of the penis, simple or numerous . . . . .	347	27
Do. indurated . . . . .	33	52
Do. sloughing . . . . .	26	60
Do. complicated with buboes and gangrene . . . . .	1	120
Do. do. with urethritis . . . . .	49	35
Do. do. acute bubo . . . . .	76	34
Do. do. suppurated do. . . . .	29	67
Do. do. chronic do. . . . .	37	59
Do. do. phymosis . . . . .	32	58
Do. orchitis balanitis, vegetations, dartre, icterus, rhagades, &c. . . . .	74	39
5th, Buboes suppurated . . . . .	92	56
Do. acute . . . . .	53	29
Do. indurated . . . . .	75	56
Do. scirrhus . . . . .	6	67
Do. complicated with erysipelas, rhagades, fissures, ophthalmia, amygdalitis, gangrene of scrotum, fever, &c. . . . .	43	69
6th, Paraphymosis, simple and ulcerated . . . . .	14	26
7th, Pustules of the scrotum . . . . .	2	30
8th, Vegetations on the penis . . . . .	31	64
Do. complicated with syphilis, rhagades, &c. . . . .	4	43
Do. on the anus, rhagades and condylomatæ . . . . .	45	43



	Cases.	Days.
Vegetations complicated with amygdalitis, enteritis, &c. . . . .	33	60
9th, Ulceration of the nose, alæ and lips . . . . .	2	146
Do. of amygdalæ and pharynx . . . . .	12	39
Do. complicated with gastritis, pustules, and fever . . . . .	12	60
10th, Syphilides, dartre, &c. . . . .	23	54
Do. complicated with rhagades, amygdalitis, scrofula, urethritis . . . . .	13	59
11th, Periostosis, exostosis, pains in the bones . . . . .	6	53
12th, Fissures not venereal . . . . .	2	30
Seven deaths from the following :		
Two by typhoid affections and ulcers on the penis . . . . .	2	64
Two, gastro-enteritis and gangrene of scrotum, urethritis . . . . .	1	132
One general arthritis, with caries of the hip-joint, the consequence of urethritis . . . . .	1	81
One died suddenly from apoplexy, four scirrhus tubercles in the brain . . . . .	1	31

One ileo-lumbar abscess, gastro-colitis, severe ptyalism, the consequence of the mercurial treatment by liquor and frictions, in a feeble subject, affected with bubo under the apponeurosis. Seventy-four have employed the bitter depurative syrup and the sudorific tisane without addition ; fourteen the syrup, with the proto-iodurate of mercury ; four the baths,



with the bichloride of mercury and the depurative syrup; one the mercurial frictions and the liquor, without success, for voluminous vegetations. The duration of their stay, compared with those of the former period, is in general longer for all the symptoms. I attribute it to the following causes—

First, The humidity of two wards, (80 beds) which, in winter and autumn, gave origin to very many organic complications. Second, To the patients having to cross at all seasons a court with a great current of air, in order to reach their privies, which is done without precaution, and frequently with their legs and necks bare, hence the frequent irritations of the chest in autumn and winter. Third, by a very great number of venereal patients sent from the regimental ambulances, after an unsuccessful treatment of from twenty-five to thirty-five days, during which the symptoms had been aggravated. Fourth, From a supply of food that the patients had frequently procured from the attendants, who (at Gros Caillou) are not dined in a hall, and under the same discipline as at Val-de-Grace, or else by other means, in spite of the surveillance exercised by the administration. Fifth, From the aggravation of symptoms in sixty-six patients affected with chancres, buboes, pustules, &c. submitted during five weeks to a general mercurial treatment, by liquor and frictions as a proof of its raising the number. In the city I have afforded aid to about 800 affected with the various symptoms of syphilis. It was impossible to keep exact notes of every patient. Behold the general result of my observations. First, A very



great number of acute urethritis, about 350. Second, many of chronic urethritis, kept up by indurations and strictures in one or more points of the canal, in consequence of the employment of astringent injections, all treated by cauterization, alternated with dilatation; and, latterly, by the catheterism, used after the method of M. Mayor, which holds out to patients an immense advantage over cauterization, 110. Third, of ulcers of the penis, single or many, phymosis, bubo, about 100. Fourth, Of secondary affections, such as ulceration of the amygdalæ, nose, pharynx, syphilides, vegetations on the penis and anus, ulcers, caries of the frontal and nasal bones, exostosis, periostosis, pains in the bones, alopecia, &c. about 200. Almost all these consecutive affections had already been treated with mercury, more or less lavishly, in different forms, the greater part of them had derived their origin from the abuse made of these preparations in excitable constitutions. Thus I have frequently been consulted in affections both serious and difficult to cure, and in which most systems of organs were comprised. I have stated the most remarkable observations in my "Clinique." The basis of my treatment has been the employment of my depurative syrup, along with the simple and vegetable treatment. After I have obtained advantageous changes in the economy, I have not conducted the cure in those who required to bring in opposition, their affairs, the obligations of society, and frequently their pleasures. These cures are frequently difficult to be obtained, and the treatment has continued for the



most part from five to six months, and has oftner passed this time. In the cases excepted, I have employed with success the rob of Laffecteur, the proto-iodurate of mercury, some preparations of gold, the tisanes of Arnout and Zittmann, the treatment of Dzondi by the sublimate, but the remedy that has been of the greatest use in the treatment of diseases of the bones has been the decoction of Pollini, the efficacy of which I cannot too much praise.

*Comparative state of the three periods from 1815 to 1835, Secondary, Chronic, or Mercurial Symptoms.*

If we cast our eye upon these three periods, and compare with a little attention the consecutive, chronic, or mercurial symptoms, we are struck by the advantageous result that the change introduced in the treatment of these diseases has produced. Indeed the first period presents a picture of 367 consecutive affections, serious and chronic, degenerating upon 1,108 venereal patients, consisting in 203 of alterations of the cutaneous system, characterized by voluminous vegetations, cancerous ulceration of penis, skin, lips, alæ of the nose, folds of the groin, neck, &c. In seven, alterations of the tissue of the tongue. In fifty-four, ulceration of the mucous membrane of the mouth, velum palati, &c. In fifty-one, alterations of the glandular and ganglionic tissue. In fifty-two, alterations of the osseous and fibrous tissues characterized by frontal, nasal, and sternal caries, necrosis,



periostosis, pains in the bones, &c. The examination of the same symptoms comprised in the second period from June 1831 to April 1, 1832, shows such a remarkable difference, that one will have reason to be surprised if he has not learned that the works published in France since 1825, by MM. Broussais, Jourdan, Richond, Desruelles, Dubled, Leferre, Ratier, Cullerier and myself, had already produced a notable change in the therapeutics of syphilis, in modifying the practice of physicians intrusted with the charge of venereal patients, and which the writings of foreign medical men had equally conformed. We also only find in 1,380, 149 secondary affections consisting of 122 affections of the cutaneous system, such as vegetations, rhagades, syphilides, dartre, &c.; twenty-four alterations of the mucous tissue, as ulcers of the amygdalæ, nose, pharynx, &c.; three affections of the fibrous and osseous tissue. The same proportions are remarked in the third period in patients treated in the hospital. Thus we discover only 174 secondary affections in 1,910 patients, as 142 affections of the skin, consisting of vegetations, rhagades, syphilides, dartre, various kinds of eruptions, &c.; twenty-five affections of the mucous membrane of the cheek, palate and pharynx; seven affections of the osseous and fibrous system, such as pains in the bones, periostosis, and only one exostosis.

However, I have given 149 and 174 as the number of consecutive affections of the second and third periods, there is a very considerable deduction to make, for there stands vegetations that ought to be



considered as primary, rhagades that appear upon the margin of the anus in men who have never cohabited with females. Nay more, I have comprised in the syphilides all those various forms of eruptions wrongfully referred to the effects of syphilis, although not known by what causes produced, and which easily yield to ordinary means. This short opinion of the consecutive affections, is a direct account of the results pointed out farther back, and agrees with those obtained by our foreign brethren who have the charge of venereal patients, and who have adopted the simple method.



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