

AN
INAUGURAL DISSERTATION
ON

Syphilis

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An Essay.
on
Syphilis
By
M^r H^e Westmoreland
of
Tunbridge.

To
Paul. H. Erv. M.D.
His Essay.

Is respectfully inscribed

By.

His friend and pupil

M^r H. Westmoreland

Syphilis

Of the two forms of Venereal disease "Viz" Gonorrhoea and Syphilis the latter in its nature is decidedly the most serious the character of the disease together with the disastrous consequences that without timely precaution invariably follows is a strong argument in favor of Temporal retribution for crime. its favorite haunts are the lamentable dens of infamy which not only this but every other Gospel enlightened Country is disgraced. Its ill effects not only mar the happiness and destroy the health of those immediately affected by it but even extends to succeeding generations. and demonstrates to us the truth of the divine prophecy

That the iniquities of the Fathers shall be visited upon their children even to the third and fourth generations.

Syphilis is essentially a contagious disease produced by specific virus the effects being always the same, it is not however contagious upon the principle that Small Pox Measles and other eruptive diseases are, that is by getting into the economy through the lungs by the respiratory process, or by cutaneous transpiration, but its characteristic effect is produced by inoculation or local application of the virus to the mucous mucocutaneous or cutaneous surface. the epithelium or cuticle

having been first abraded, its action is facilitated.

This like all other contagious diseases has a period of incubation which is said by authors to vary from five to ten days - Ricord however is of the opinion that the virus is operating from the time of its application until its effects become visible -

The first appearance of the primary syphilitic ulcer is that of a small red pimple which is afterwards converted into a vesicle which at a still later period becomes an open ulcer of a cup like shape with a hard base and rugged uneven edges, the irritation produced by -

The action of the virus excites inflammation in the immediate neighbourhood of the ulcer and gives rise to some pain. There is a peculiar secretion flowing from the free surface of the ulcer resembling pus. which if inserted into another individual or even in a different part of the same person will produce the characteristic ulcer which can be still farther transmitted by inoculation. Surgeons take advantage of this fact to determine the nature of any ulcer of a suspicious character that may occur about the genital organs this experiment in fact

affords conclusive evidence with regard to the Venereal or non-Venereal character of an ulcer in suspicious cases.

The next stage of the disease after the complete formation of the Chancre is termed Secondary Syphilis. The periods at which Secondary Syphilis manifests itself is variable ranging from five to twenty days modified doubtless by the constitution of the patient and also by the treatment - The symptoms indicating the accession of this stage of the disease are tenderness and swelling in Sympathetic glands,

of the groin evidently pro-
duced by the absorption of
the virus and proving that
the disease which in the
primary stage was local
is now becoming constitu-
-tional. The irritation thus produ-
-ced if not counteracted by ac-
-tive and appropriate treatment
results in ulcerative inflam-
-mation by which the glands
are entirely destroyed. It is
said that the bubo occasionally
occurs without being preceded
by the chancre. The virus having
been absorbed produces its ef-
-fect specifically upon the glands,
the local symptoms character-
-istic of the primary stage not
having manifested themselves.

The situation of the Syphilitic
bubo is characteristic of its
nature. If produced by the
absorption of Syphilitic Virus
from a chancre on the pe-
nis it is always found to
be situated above Pampart's
ligament and generally sit-
uated in the groin correspo-
nding to the side of the penis
on which the chancre exists.

I should have mentioned
in the outset that there is
a difference of opinion am-
ong authors with regard to
the different stages of this
disease. Some divide it into
three different stages, the
primary - Secondary and Ter-
tiary. others again treat it as

comprising only two distinct stages, the primary or local and Secondary or constitutional, believing the latter to be the better classification of its different stages I shall adopt it. The next local manifestation of constitutional Syphilis is that of ulceration of the mucous membrane lining the fauces, this is generally soon followed if not preceded by peculiar copper coloured splotches upon the skin characteristic of this and no other disease. After it has proceeded thus far every tissue of the body is liable to become its victim and each in its turn presents symptoms

characteristic of the stages of this disease. Having given the outline of this disease in a brief manner I now proceed to the treatment of the same.

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

as the persevering use of
the Iodides and mercuri
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