Records OF THE LOCK HOSPITAL.

BY
HENRY LEE, Esq., F.R.C.S.,
SURGEON TO THE HOSPITAL.

VIII.—INFECTING SYPHILITIC SORES.

THE term infection is used to denote that action by means of which the whole of a patient's constitution is influenced by syphilis. By contagion is meant that action by means of which the syphilis poison may be conveyed by contact from one part to another of the same, or of a different patient's body.

The form of disease which was described in the last number of the "Records"—namely, the suppurating syphilitic ulcer—is highly contagious, and may be reproduced almost an unlimited number of times. The infecting syphilitic sore, on the contrary, is scarcely contagious with regard to the system which has produced the poison, although probably as contagious as the suppurating syphilitic sore with regard to a person whose system has not previously been infected. In this respect, syphilis bears a strong resemblance to vaccination. In both cases, the action is readily communicated by inoculation to a system which has not previously had the disease; but with difficulty, and only under exceptional circumstances, to a person in whom the natural effects of the poison have already been developed.

The infecting syphilitic sore is characterised—

i. By not being, as a rule, contagious as far as the patient's own system is concerned, nor as far as relates to other patients whose constitutions are under the influence of the same disease.

ii. By being accompanied by the adhesive form of action, and by the secretion produced thereby not being purulent.

iii. By a peculiar induration, generally produced in consequence of that adhesive action, in the part where the contagion first occurred, and also in the corresponding lymphatic glands.

iv. By being followed by general or constitutional disease.

i. The inoculation of the secretion from an infecting sore upon the same patient is ordinarily followed by no result; but if the inoculation be performed before the adhesive action has been fully established, then a similar sore to that from which the poison was taken follows. There is, however, this peculiarity in the case; namely, that whereas a period of incubation of some weeks may elapse before the effects of the first inoculation show themselves, the results of the second inoculation will appear within a few days. It has been stated that, if vaccine lymph be inoculated upon a patient on different days, the whole of the inoculations will arrive at maturity about the same time. Something analogous to this appears to obtain with regard to the action of the syphilitic poison when first introduced

into a patient's system. The original sore may take a considerable time to develop itself, and may not become indurated for some four or five weeks; but a second sore derived from this (while in process of being developed) will appear a few days after inoculation, and may become indurated almost as soon as the sore from whence it was derived.

ii. The accompanying table gives one-half of the cases of infecting sores which were collected at the Lock Hospital between the 23rd of October, 1855, and the 12th of October, 1856.

The secretion of the sores was in all these cases subjected to microscopical examination, and its non-purulent nature thus demonstrated.

II.—Table of Cases of Non-Suppurating Primary Syphilitic Affections.

No.	Name and age.	Description of primary syphilitic affection.	Treatment.	Result.
1	M. W. 20	Indurated sore, yielding secretion, which, upon microscopical examination, after the addition of some dilute acetic acid, shewed epithelial debris only.	Mercurial.	Primary sore healed in three weeks.
2	J. L. 15	Indurated sore; secretion examined as in case No. 1, shewed epithelial debris only.	Mercurial.	Left the hospital at expiration of three weeks.
3	A. H. 22	Indurated sore; discharge examined as in case No. 1, presented epithelial debris only.	Mercurial.	Left the hospital at expiration of seven weeks.
4	W. C. 17	Indurated sores; microscopical examination of secretion gave the same result as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Left at expiration of seven weeks.
5	J. S. 23	Indurated sores; secretion examined in the same way, presented the same appearances.	Mercurial.	
6	R. J. 20	Indurated sores; secretion examined in the same way with the same result.	Mercurial.	Remained under treatment three weeks.
7	M. F. 23	Indurated sore; same character of secretion.	Mercurial.	Remained under treatment six weeks.
8	J. B. 19	Indurated sores; same character of secretion.	Mercurial.	One month under treatment.
9	L. A. 19	Indurated sore; secretion similar to that in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Secondary eruption appeared while under treatment.
10	R. B. 24	Ulcer on frænum; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Observed during three weeks.
11	H. E. 29	Indurated sores at margin of prepuce; secretion contained no nuclei of pus.	Mercurial.	Under treatment for five weeks.
12	E. T. 22	Indurated sores; secretion examined as in case No. 1 with the same result.	Mercurial.	Supposed to have been cured.
13	G. B. 20	Indurated sores at margin of prepuce; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Under treatment eleven weeks.
14	J. S. 33	Concealed sores; no pus discovered in secretion.	Mercurial.	Under treatment five weeks.
15	J. J. 22	Ulcers on prepuce; secretion examined as in case No. 1, presented debris only.	Mercurial.	Left uncured.
16	A. H. 16	Well marked indurated sores; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Primary affection cured.
17	W. V. 29	Indurated sores; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Primary affection cured.

TABLE II (continued).

No.	Name and age.	Description of primary syphilitic affection.	Treatment.	Result.
18	W. C. 28	Indurated sores; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Induration remained when he left the hospital; under treatment three weeks.
19	W. C. 20	Indurated sores; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Left the hospital uncured.
20	W. H. 21	Indurated sores; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Primary affection cured in five weeks.
21	J. K. 29	Indurated sores; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Left uncured.
22	D. B. 30	Indurated sores; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Left uncured.
23	G. G. 23	Indurated sores; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Primary affection cured in three weeks.
24	W. M. 40	Indurated sores; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Left uncured.
25	W. O. 23	Indurated sores; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Primary affection cured.
26	C. S. 19	Indurated sores; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Left uncured.
27	G. H. 20	Indurated sore; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Primary affection cured.
28	W. H. 21	Indurated sores; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Primary affection cured in four weeks.
29	T. N. 35	Indurated sores; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Primary affection cured.
30	H. P. 25	Indurated sores; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Primary affection cured.
31	W. H. 26	Ulcer on penis; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Primary affection cured.
32	L. J. 20	Indurated sores; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Left uncured.
33	J. S. 26	Indurated sores; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Left before primary affection was completely cured.
34	W. J. 19	Indurated sores; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Primary affection cured in four weeks.
35	J. M. 24	Indurated sores; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Primary affection cured.
36	J. W. 18	Indurated sore; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Secondary spots appeared while under treatment.
37	E. S. 29	Indurated sore; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Left as soon as primary affection had healed.
38	J. C. 18	Indurated sore; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Cured of primary affection.
39	J. L. 24	Indurated sores; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Primary affection cured.
40	J. N. 52	Indurated sores; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Primary affection cured.
41	J. M. 23	Indurated sores; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Left uncured; had secondary eruption.
42	W. J. 21	Indurated sores; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Primary affection cured.
43	J. H. 37	Indurated sores; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Left uncured.
44	H. P. 29	Indurated sore; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Secondary eruption appeared while under treatment.
45	M. D. 17	Indurated sore; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Returned with secondary eruption.
46	J. P. 24	Indurated sores; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Primary affection cured.
47	J. M. 35	Indurated sores; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Primary affection cured.
48	J. M. 21	Indurated sores; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Had secondary eruption.
49	H. S. 21	Indurated sores; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Left uncured.
50	J. A. 29	Indurated sores; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Primary affection cured.
51	C. H. 19	Indurated sore; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Had secondary eruption.

TABLE II (continued).

No.	Name and age.	Description of primary syphilitic affection.	Treatment.	Result.
52	J. M. 22	Indurated sore; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Left uncured; returned with secondary eruption.
53	J. H. 24	Indurated sore; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Primary affection cured.
54	J. R. 24	Indurated sore; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Secondary symptoms.
55	M. J. 23	Indurated sore; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Secondary symptoms.
56	E. R. 23	Indurated sores; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Primary affection cured.
57	J. S. 20	Indurated sores; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Primary affection nearly cured when he left.
58	E. O. 19	Indurated sores; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Primary affection cured.
59	J. T. 23	Indurated sores; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Left uncured.
60	R. B. 23	Indurated chancre; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Primary affection cured.
61	C. L. 25	Indurated chancre; secretion as in case No. 1.	Mercurial.	Returned with secondary eruption.

III. The induration which accompanies an infecting sore is peculiar, but it may sometimes be simulated by the thickening produced by the suppurative inflammation. The nature of the secretion and the test of inoculation will then distinguish between the two actions. There are under treatment now (Dec. 1861) two cases both presenting an induration accompanied by enlarged glands in the groin. The nature of the induration in the two cases could not be distinguished by the sense of touch alone; but the secretion in one case was found, under microscopical examination, not to contain any pus-globules; and when inoculated upon the patient, no result followed. In the other case, the secretion was found to be purulent; and, when inoculated, it produced a suppurating sore. The first case was therefore treated by mercury, as being a constitutional disease; the second was treated as a local affection.

IV. The action of mercury has undoubtedly the power of putting off the appearance of secondary symptoms, if not of preventing their occurrence. It consequently happens that comparatively few of the patients whose cases are contained in the table were affected with secondary symptoms during the time that they remained under observation. In some of these, however, the secondary symptoms appeared during the time that they were taking mercury; and it is more than probable that they showed themselves in a large proportion of the other cases after they left the hospital. It is impossible to get any accurate accounts of these, as far as the individual cases are concerned; but, taking an equal period of time—namely, between the 23rd of October, 1855, and the 12th of October, 1856—seventy-three cases presented themselves in which the specific adhesive inflammation (the indurated sore) was known to have been followed by secondary symptoms.

LUNACY TRIALS. From the passing of the Lunacy Regulation Act in 1853 down to the end of April last there have been 575 inquiries in cases of lunacy; but in only 21 of them was there a trial by jury. Of these last 12 trials occupied one day each; three took two days each; one three days; three five days; one nine days; and one monster case 34 days.