

genic factor in these cases of conjunctivitis, which number to date sixteen. The next point was to compare this with the known conjunctival micro-organisms.

Differentiation must depend upon cultural features; and the nearer two or more organisms resemble one another, the finer must the differentiation necessarily be.

This organism resembles two of the known conjunctival bacilli closely, namely, the Koch-Weeks bacillus, and the bacillus of Influenza. The time at my disposal will only allow me to describe the cultural features of this bacillus, which seem to me not clearly to differentiate it from these other two.

Clinically, the conjunctivitis was of the catarrhal form, with marked lachrymation. It was a palpebral conjunctivitis, the bulbar conjunctiva being quite uninvolved. There were no signs of influenza present in any of the cases.

The clinical picture differed widely from either the conjunctivitis set up by the Koch-Weeks bacillus or the bacillus Influenzæ.

Upon smear the bacillus is seen to be exceedingly small, short and thick, and hardly distinguishable from a coccus.

It stains easily with the aniline dyes, is decolourized by Gram's stain, and shows no polar staining.

The growth of the bacillus upon hæmoglobin agar is characteristic.

The initial tube generally shows numerous colonies of cocci or bacillus xerosis. Between these colonies we will see very fine pin point colourless dots. Upon hæmoglobin agar plates the bacillus is easily obtained in pure culture. After twenty-two to twenty-four hours in the incubator the slant of hæmoglobin agar will be seen covered with a mass of tiny colonies which are not separated. The growth is colourless and, as will be seen by examining the tubes, the colonies are no larger than the sharp end of a pin.

The surface of the agar has a blurred appearance, like a dull mist over it, and is at times so fine it is with the greatest difficulty seen. It is seen much better with artificial than with day light, especially with the proper reflexion of light. This fine mist-like appearance on hæmoglobin agar is the most constant and characteristic of its cultural features. It does not vary, no matter how much material is used in transferring, the growth is always the same. Upon hæmoglobin agar it grows well as a rule, but at times, for some unknown reason, it has been kept viable with difficulty. The media must be of certain reaction and two or three days old. A peculiarity that has been constant is the inability to cultivate it upon freshly prepared hæmoglobin agar. Draw-