

The influence of Constitutional Syphilis upon the Course of Wounds.—Dr. DUSTERHOFF

states that the contiguous forms of syphilis do not generally exert any influence upon the course of traumatic lesions. A wound subjected to constant irritation during the period of contagion may become the seat of syphilitic efflorescences, without its healing being sensibly retarded. Persistent irritation of a wound, bad diet, and excessive antisyphilitic treatment generally retard the cure more than constitutional syphilis itself. Wounds in the neighbourhood of a primary induration may heal by first intention. Latent syphilis is ordinarily without influence upon the course of a wound. A surgical operation successfully performed in a case of latent syphilis may be followed after cicatrization by syphilitic manifestations in the position or not of the wound. Autoplastic operations performed on the syphilitic parts often fail, especially if an incomplete course of treatment adopted shortly before the operation has caused the disease to become latent. In this case syphilis appears spontaneously at the seat of the operation. Every subject of syphilitic ganglia ought to be submitted to a course of antisyphilitic treatment before undergoing an autoplastic operation. Tertiary syphilis in a progressive state renders the patient an unfavourable subject for effecting a cure. This is not the case, however, if the patient is passing through a retrogressive stage, or is entirely cured. Syphilis in the bones predisposes to fractures and hinders consolidation. Treatment by mercury does not prevent induration, but rather assists it. In cases of inveterate syphilis, more especially in syphilis of the bones wounds are sometimes accompanied by a specific gangrene, which cannot be arrested by any antisyphilitic treatment. There is no reason for supposing that constitutional syphilis predisposes to hæmorrhage from the wounds. Lastly, there is no relation between constitutional syphilis and pyæmia. The above results were obtained more especially with a view to the consideration of the influence of constitutional syphilis upon the course of wounds received upon the field of battle. (*Arch. de Langenbeck*, Bd. xxii. hft. 4, and *Arch. Gen. de Med.*, Feb. 1879.)—*The Practitioner*.