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## Original Communications.

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### THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SPIROCHETA PALLIDA IN SYPHILIS.

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Since Lustgarten, in 1885, announced the discovery of a bacillus which he declared was the specific etiological factor in syphilis, numerous organisms have been described as playing the principal *role*, but all, so far, have suffered the fate of the bacillus of Lustgarten, not one having proven to be the specific micro-organism. So it is with an unusual degree of scepticism that one turns his attention to a consideration of the animal parasite (so described by Hoffmann and Schaudin) which of late has occupied so large a space in the records of bacteriological investigations.

We need hardly comment on the multitudinous import of the discovery of the specific germ, because in every realm of medical science, whether it be medicine, surgery, neurology or psychiatry, the ravages of "syphilization" are only too apparent. But up to the present time nothing in the bacteriology of this scourge has been discovered which is of any positive value in furthering our knowledge of the origin, and as a consequence, the treatment of the condition. It is ardently hoped, therefore, that in the discovery of the *spirocheta pallida* there has at last been found an organism which will fulfil the requirements of Koch's triad.