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Original Articles

POINTS IN THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF SYPHILIS*

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At the outset permit me to thank your Association for the honor of addressing you to-night. In casting about for a subject which might be of interest to you as practitioners, along the lines of my experience as a pathologist and afterwards as a clinician, I have selected Syphilis, and this for several reasons. In the first place the important discoveries of recent years—that of the spirochete pallida by Schaudinn, the complement deviation test by Wassermann, and the therapeutic value of arseno-benzol by Ehrlich—have awakened a worldwide interest and stimulated an amount of investigation that have not only been fruitful of great practical results, but have revolutionized our conception of certain phases of the disease. In the second place the medical profession in all parts of the world is taking hold of syphilis as a serious public health problem. At the recent meeting of the International Congress in London, Ehrlich was undoubtedly the outstanding figure, and the attitude toward syphilis was the outstanding feature of the Congress. As a result of the interest awakened by the Congress a Royal Commission has been appointed to consider the problem of syphilis and to suggest means of abating what is generally recognized to be a menace to the national welfare. We may therefore, expect to see a campaign inaugurated similar to those against tuberculosis and cancer, and with even greater possibilities of success.

To us as Canadians the subject is becoming daily of more importance, especially in the large cities, owing to the influx from

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