

Hess, to prove that the phagocyte cells were really aggressive in attacking pyogenic organisms, caused to be inserted, under the skin of a dog, a small capsule of glass with only a minute opening in one end. Into this capsule he had previously injected a quantity of Agar-Agar infected with staphylococci. The capsule, after a sufficient time, was removed from among the tissues. The phagocytes were found to be engorged with cocci.

You have all no doubt heard or read of Metchnikoff's vivid description of an abscess. He likens specific inflammation to a warfare, in which the invading army is represented by micro-organisms, and the resisting force by leucocytes. Even in details the analogy was maintained. Notice of the arrival of the invaders was telegraphed, so to speak, by the vaso-motor nerves; the line of communication, the avenues of mobilization, were represented by the blood vessels. The aim of the invader is to secure the territory, to multiply rapidly, to live at the expense of the host, and to manufacture and circulate substances injurious to him. The aim of the resisting forces is to encircle the enemy, inclose him, digest him, and render him inert in battle. Many phagocytes die in the process, and if in large numbers, the heaps of the slain represent pus. An abscess therefore is a battle-ground, densely packed with dead bodies.

As dentists we have to admit that pyogenic fungi are ever present in the mouth, consequently every wound we inflict is in peril of becoming infected by them.

Dr. Miller says that every tooth extracted which is not performed under antiseptic precautions, is nothing less than an inoculation, and whether the subject proves refractory or not will depend upon a variety of circumstances, such as the size of the wound, resistance of the parts, the character and number of bacteria entering the wound, the health and vitality of the patient.

Dr. Sternberg says he found in his own mouth at all times, sufficient microbes in the saliva to kill a rabbit in twenty-eight hours after being injected.

Microbes produce disease by manufacturing substances by their physiological processes of growth and development, which is injurious to health. Many are found to be quite harmless, others are dangerous in the highest degree.

Microbes may be carried through the circulation to a focus of