

Of the other two the black is much the more common in India. In this there is a deposit of blackish pigment within the mycelial masses. Whether we are dealing with a separate micro-organism, or whether the pigmentation is due to difference of age and of environment, is a matter that is not yet settled beyond dispute, although the clinical and other evidence is, taken altogether, somewhat in favor of the former supposition. The cases observed out of India have been all of the light-colored variety, with the one exception of Bassini's.

The further question as to whether this last form is or is not, as Carter suggested some years ago,⁹ a local manifestation of actinomycosis, would seem to have been settled by Vincent's successful culture of the fungus obtained from one of his two Algerian cases.¹⁰

Turning now to this pale form or variety—what are its relationships? Is it or is it not a form of ray fungus, a variety of actinomyces? That it is not the ordinary actinomyces is evident from several considerations. While, occasionally, in the actinomycotic ox we may meet with the mycelial masses possessing giant rays, these are the exceptions, not the rule: only some of the club are gigantesque. Here, in mycetoma, all the peripheral clubs are large—much larger than those of the bovine actinomyces. Again, clinically, mycetoma is essentially a local disease. It may, as in our case, affect a foot for years, but it does not extend beyond or lead to a generalized morbid process with metastases.*

These two considerations alone are sufficient, it seems to me, to overthrow Vandyke Carter's suggestion that it is a local manifestation of actinomycosis. Were further proofs necessary we have Vincent's record of his successful cultivation of the fungus from one of his two Algerian cases. The pure growths obtained by Vincent, while being of the streptothrix type and so broadly resembling actinomyces hominis, presented so many points of difference, that if it be accepted that Vincent was dealing with an example of the true disease there can no longer be any doubt as to the difference between the two fungi.

The only difficulty in accepting Vincent's case as being one of the true disease lies in his diagram and description of the fungus *in situ*

* Not a little unnecessary confusion has been introduced in to the discussion of this subject by a misunderstanding of Kanthack's position. Kanthack, as his paper clearly shows, never attempted to prove that the madure fungus is identical with actinomyces hominis or bovis, only that it is an actinomyces, a ray fungus, belonging to the same group as the European ray fungus.