

A SIMPLE STAINING METHOD FOR THE GONOCOCCUS

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Preliminary Note.—The method here suggested has been found very useful and because of its simplicity it must appeal to the busy practitioner, by whom so many laboratory procedures are difficult of performance and require the expenditure of no inconsiderable amount of time.

The gonococcus is stained by any aniline basic dye and is decolorized by Gram's method. These facts are taken advantage of by the advocates of the common method of staining where Bismarck brown is used to differentiate the gonococcus.

Our method is simply the application of Nissl's soapy methylene blue solution without any counterstain. The solution is made up as follows :

Methylene blue B. patent	3.75
Venetian soap	1.75
*Distilled water	1000

The smears, which should be made on slides (and care must be taken to have them as thin as possible) are fixed in the air and then stained (without heating) for one minute with Nissl's, washed, blotted and are ready for examination with the oil-immersion lens.

The objections to the method are that there is no counterstain and other pyogenic cocci may be mistaken for the gonococcus. We feel that if the smears are thin so that individual pus cells can be carefully studied this objection will lose weight. The other objection that any

* This stain may be obtained prepared according to the above formula from Messrs. Chandler, Ingram & Bell, or the J. F. Hartz Co., Limited, of Toronto.