

explained the differences of its effects by the variety of the tissues influenced, that when applied to the skin or external surface, a chancre was produced, but when the mucous membrane was affected, that gonorrhœa, or blennorrhœa, as M. Vidal calls it, was the result. Since his time Beng, Bell and Hernandez, have maintained that the nature of the virus was different in the two cases, and could only produce their like, a gonorrhœa causing a clap, or a chancre a sore; that gonorrhœa was a simple inflammation of a mucous membrane from some irritating cause, while the chancre was the true venereal disease. Again, M.M. Lagneau and Bearme have advocated a whole virus and a demi-virus; while Carmichael has declared that there were four different kinds of virus; that each produced different and distinct symptoms, and that each variety of the primary accidents was invariably followed by peculiar and distinct consecutive results. M. Vidal makes the following remarks upon this subject (page 22); "I repeat, the lesions which sometimes follow a suspicious connection, are sometimes of such different forms and so varied in their results, that we cannot be surprized that they should have been attributed to a different cause. But, thus far, we have arrived only at hypothesis, as we have studied under the influence of theory only. The experiments lately made to prove the inoculability of secondary accidents, or to show that the system may arrive at such a point of saturation as to resist all kinds of syphilitic action, or that chancres may be communicated to animals, have renewed the questions, whether the virus is of different strength, whether it is modified by the blood, or in passing through various organs, or from one individual to another, or from one kind of animal to another; and indeed, if the virus is not changed by the different conditions of the organism with which it is brought in contact. Finally, it has been asked, are the different products due to the seed or to the soil." We apprehend that the solution of these vexed questions will have to be solved by patient observation and clinical investigation. At the present moment we have several cases of secondary syphilis under our care, and these would seem to mark the identity of the venereal disease, whether originating in gonorrhœa or chancre. We will give the details of one of them. A man of about 55 years of age contracted a gonorrhœa, as he himself believed, and was assured by his medical adviser that he was cured, all but a slight gleet, which alone remained, he never had any, not even the slightest secondary symptoms, nor even a bubo. His wife, a woman of about 60 years of age, was affected with a slight sore upon the