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UPON THE BACTERIOLOGY  
OF  
PROGRESSIVE CIRRHOSIS OF THE LIVER.

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It is needless for me here to enter into a discussion of the various theories which have been adduced to explain the development of cirrhosis of the liver. I need only say that the experience of a large number of observers, who for weeks and months have inoculated and treated animals with various alcohols has shown that alcohol itself induces at most the fatty liver with, it may be, a very slight amount of fibroid change in the portal areas, and that not a single observer has by this means been able to produce anything at all resembling the extreme deposit of fibrous tissue which we meet with in the hobnailed liver.

Alcohol in the main leads to the fatty liver, while on the other hand the evidence has steadily accumulated, notably in India, that extreme cirrhosis may attack children and adults who have not taken a particle of alcohol either medicinally or otherwise.

Within the last few years, the French school of pathologists headed by Hanot, has regarded the enlarged cirrhotic liver with jaundice as being of infectious origin, and it is common in France, now-a-days, to speak of "*le foie infectieux*," but to the best of my knowledge no one has as yet described any one micro-organism as being found frequently associated with these cases of so-called infectious liver. At

<sup>1</sup> A paper read for the author by Professor Osler, in the Section of Medicine, at the meeting of the British Medical Association at Edinburgh, July, 1898.