

syphilitic offspring is syphilitic, and the mother is apparently free from the disease, as due to the sperm being syphilised, or if this view be carried to its logical conclusion, it is supposed that the spermatozoon bears with it the syphilitic virus, be it bacillus or whatever the nature of the specific microbe, and introduces it into the ovum at the moment of conception, and thus the offspring develops, syphilised from the start, the mother being and remaining absolutely free from taint. This, as I say, is a popular fallacy. But it is incredible that the germ gain entrance into the spermatozoon, for the spermatozoon being nucleus and flagellum, and scarce anything more, has not the means of ingesting foreign bodies, while we have not a shred of evidence that the syphilitic germ is amoeboid and capable of making its way into the spermatozoon.

It is likewise outside the limits of credibility that a virulent organism could be within the minute almost yolkless segmenting human ovum, lying latent in one or other of the cells, the products of segmentation. Such passages of pathogenic microbes on to the surface, and possibly into the eggs, may occur in insects, as Pasteur demonstrated, but the insect's egg contains relatively abundant yolk, and segmentation then may be little influenced by the presence of the micro-organism, provided that this be in the yolk. Even then, I doubt whether the embryo could develop properly, and am inclined to consider that a more reasonable explanation of Pasteur's observations upon the silk worm's eggs is, that at a relatively late period of their development those which come to maturity become tainted either from the surface or from other eggs which have been killed by the multiplication of the germs within them.

If the syphilitic virus gained entry into the unsegmented human ovum, its effects would surely be to lead to the destruction of the ovum. Foetal syphilis must originate at a later date, and although syphilis in the parents may doubtless have its effects upon the ovum and spermatozoa of the same, and lead to constitutional disturbances in the offspring, progressive syphilitic lesions, the true syphilomata, in the foetus and infant are *not* inherited, but are congenital, that is to say, acquired in utero after conception. Or in other words, inherited and congenital syphilitic lesions are two very different things. Thus to return to the main point, if the mother be without sign of syphilis, and the child be syphilitic, the only satisfactory explanation is; that the syphilitic virus has entered into the maternal organism and tissues, and has failed to induce any characteristic lesion at the point of entry, but has, nevertheless, through the placenta and chorionic villi gained an entrance into the foetal tissues; the process arrested