

of this acid would explain to a very great extent the mechanism by which infection is favored.

Eighth, Traumatism—Experimental medicine has proved the important part it plays in the determination of infection. Hosts of micro-organisms, when inoculated in healthy animals, will not determine any particular infection until a traumatic lesion is made at any one point, as, for instance, over the cardiac region, causing in most cases endo-cardiac infections.—(Hermann, Bouchard, Schuller.)

Ninth, Intoxications—These are often accompanied by impaired nutrition. Alcohol, lead, copper, CO₂ and numberless noxious or irritating gases met with in certain industries, exposing the workers; these hetero-intoxications also prepare the way for auto-intoxicants as well as to expose to direct infection by lessening the powers of defence. Bouchard, Charrin and Roger have demonstrated experimentally that gastric and intestinal auto-intoxications greatly favored the development of the staphylococcus pyogenes in any part of the organism; so we can understand that though the influence is secondary, perhaps to some of the already enumerated causes, yet we must constantly keep these auto-intoxications in mind when trying to unearth the primary cause of an infection, but they must be distinguished from direct auto-infections.

Conclusion—When one considers that the air breathed in a city contains almost innumerable quantities of different micro-organisms per cubic foot; that these, both pathogenic and non-pathogenic, lie constantly in wait for the proper time of admission into the organism, sleeping, so to speak, yet developing in common with saprophytes in our buccal, nasal, laryngeal and pharyngeal spaces, being introduced daily into our digestive tract along with food, must put us on constant guard to prevent infection. We can thus understand how urgent systematic and vigorous antisepsis of these parts are necessary—the skin, the ears, the eyes, the sexual organs are also not to be neglected. Antisepsis of the skin, mouth, nose and digestive tract is worthy of our serious consideration, especially when dealing with weak or debilitated subjects.