

infective affords clear evidence that the specific virus is present in them.

Such generalized infections of the skin and mucous membranes can only be brought about through the agency of the blood stream, or, otherwise, what is termed the secondary stage of post-natal, acquired syphilis, is the stage of general dissemination of the virus through the system by the blood stream, and of the more immediate results of such dissemination. What has been described as the second period of incubation (the interval elapsing between the development of the chancre and the appearance of syphilodermiæ) is the period requisite for the virus to infect and traverse the lymphatic system on its way from the primary lesion into the blood stream, and then to proliferate in the cutaneous and other tissues up to such a point that eventually it produces a reaction.

It is usually held that the syphilitic virus now especially affects the skin and mucosæ, and that the abundant and varied crop of syphilides—of syphilodermiæ—are the peculiar sign of the second stage, gummatous and more fibrous growths being characteristic tertiary developments. Certainly the eruptions are the prominent features of the secondary stage, but it is too much left out of account that in the early stages of generalization of the disease the internal organs may be, and perchance often are, affected. And what I wish more especially to bring before you this evening is this lack of sharp definition between the anatomical changes in early and late generalized syphilis. This lack is well-shown by a study of the syphilitic liver; indeed, it is a study of several cases of syphilitic hepatitis which have been revealed in the post-mortem theatre at the Royal Victoria Hospital during the last four years which has prompted me to select this more general treatment of the stages and forms of syphilis to bring before you this evening.

The reason why tertiary and secondary syphilis are regarded as so widely distinct is not difficult to comprehend. The disease is rarely directly fatal, especially now-a-days, and it is rarely that we obtain an opportunity to study the viscera during the earlier stages. As Jonathan Hutchinson has pertinently remarked: "The visceral pathology of the secondary stage might form a chapter in the history of syphilis which has not yet been written, and for which we possess few data. It is, however, I feel sure, a great mistake to state that there are none to be obtained." In the address from which I take these words, an address which opened a celebrated discussion at the Pathological Society in London in 1876, he pointed out that abundant facts are on record to disprove the assertion that large