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VIENNA LETTER—SYPHILIS AND ITS TREATMENT.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

VIENNA, April 10, 1883.

In addition to several large ambulatoriums, there are 400 beds in the general hospital of this city for the treatment of syphilitic cases. There are three professors in connection with this subject; two ordinary, Zeissel and Neumann, and one extraordinary, Auspitz. In addition, there are four privat-docents and six assistants.

Prof. Neumann is the successor of the late Prof. Sigmund. It is principally through the influence and efforts of the latter that Vienna presents such advantages for the study of syphilis. It is to him also that the profession are indebted for the modern and very simple method of classifying the various syphilitic skin eruptions. To many it may appear very strange that a physician should devote his lifetime to the study of a subject that appears when superficially viewed quite plain and simple. There is really however no subject, or group of subjects even, that requires such a general and accurate knowledge of the different scientific and practical branches of medicine as does syphilis. He who wants to know it well must be a good general surgeon, and especially must possess an intimate knowledge of the diseases of the genito-urinary system, and of the skin and mucous membranes. It is necessary also that he should be an accomplished physician, and in particular he should be thoroughly acquainted with the diseases of the nervous system.