

methods, or some other reason, they were not seen. So that in the six cases of active trachoma examined, we have found the Prowazek bodies in five. Whether these inclusions are parasitic or not, or whether the causative agent of trachoma has not yet been determined; but their specific nature is now fairly well established and this means a big step forward. Diagnosis is made easy and certain. We see a number of cases at the Montreal General Hospital, where clinically a diagnosis would be difficult, but by excluding diplobacillary conjunctivitis by means of bacteriological methods, the task is greatly lessened. Now with the aid of the trachoma bodies, diagnosis will be put on a very definite basis. With that, the disease will be defined with exactness, and the old question of follicular conjunctivitis and trachoma settled.

For the accompanying micro-photographs I am indebted to Dr. S. B. Wolbach.

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### TABES DORSALIS AND THE "ERSATZ-THEORIE."

*Illustrated by Four Cases from the Neurological Clinic, of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal.*

BY

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Edinger's original paper on what he called the "Ersatz-theorie" of Tabes Dorsalis, was published in 1894-5, in a German journal to which few of us here have access; and the excellent paper on the same subject by his assistant Holmes, published in the Dublin Journal of Medical Science, in 1901, has also to a large extent escaped notice. Feeling, therefore, that this explanation of the ætiology of Tabes deserves your attention, I have pleasure in presenting these cases, which illustrate the truth of the theory so well.

*Case I*—S. C., male, aged 35, by occupation *chef* on a dining car, came to the out-door Neurological clinic on August 3rd, 1908, complaining of failing vision, sudden sharp shooting pains in the legs and back, and some difficulty in walking in the dark.

*His history was as follows*:—He contracted Lues 12 years ago and was treated for 5 months by hypodermic injections of mercury, Fourteen months ago, i.e., before admission to the clinic, he first noticed failure of vision which progressed, till on admission, he could read only the heading of the newspapers with the left eye, and he was blind in the right eye. For four months before admission he had noticed some impaired sensibility of the bladder, being able to go for 24 hours without desire to empty it; he has now some difficulty in starting