

proof that lesions were not present in the internal organs and damaging them. The lesions of the skin were of slight importance as compared to those of internal organs.

In answer to why existing lesions should be treated, the speaker said it was to lessen the danger of contagion, to remove deformity and to save tissue, and to abort the normal duration of the contagious stage. It was much better to prevent lesion formation than to wait until the lesions had formed and then commence treatment for their removal. During the contagious stage contagion may occur from the lesions, the blood, and probably from the physiological secretions. To lessen the contagiousness was important.

The essayist then discussed the anatomical character of a syphilitic lesion. There was first the papule. The first pathological change was an arteritis, accompanied by a small-celled infiltration, very dense. The cells were poisoned by the virus and were no longer able to advance to a higher state of development; they underwent fatty degeneration and absorption if there was no mixed infection. The virus acted so strongly that there was complete destruction of the normal histological elements of the part. This could only be replaced by scar tissue; so where syphilitic lesions once existed the destruction was permanent. For instance, if a physician got a chancre on the finger, it could be recognized twenty years after, even with the naked eye. The speaker laid emphasis on the fact that a lesion once formed, the part is irreparably damaged. The lesions which occur twenty and thirty years after inoculation are not due to the syphilitic organisms or their toxins, but to other influences at work upon the soil rendered vulnerable by the ravages of the early disease.

Treatment should be directed toward diminishing the amount of the virus produced, and to aid in its elimination or to render it innocuous as long as the organisms are present. Besides, the lesions should be removed. The life activity of the organisms may be greatly lessened, if not removed. As far as was known now, only two drugs had any special action on this disease—mercury and the iodides. Mercury was directly antagonistic to the organisms. A solution of the bichloride of one thousandth per cent. strength added to a drop of pus from a hard chancre destroyed the organisms. Iodide of potash would not do this; but had this effect: it aided in cell metabolism and in some way or other assisted in the elimination of the virus. The mercury should be pushed until the gums are touched. If it was not shoved to this extent there was no proof that enough was being given to produce its physiological effect. It was necessary to keep the mouth in a good condition. Smoking was to be prohibited and the