

another individual. The contagion arises from the use of the same handkerchief, towel or washbasin, the contagium being conveyed by the fingers, towel or handkerchief to the eyes, and not through the medium of the surrounding air. This disease speedily becomes epidemic in crowded orphanages, almshouses and other institutions if precautions are not taken to segregate patients with trachoma from the other inmates. It is thought that the lymphatic or scrofulous temperament predisposes to it; but persons, who previously enjoyed good health, may, if exposed to the contagion, be attacked by the disease. Although it is caused by a microbe, its special micro-organism has not yet been isolated.

The prognosis is very grave. It is contagious, is characterized by serious consequences to vision, and is very chronic in its duration. Relapses occur frequently and persistently, and a relapse may occasion all the intense inflammatory symptoms of acute granular conjunctivitis. The continuance of trachoma is to be reckoned by many years, and while some cases of this disease arrive at a condition of comfort in less time, it is not rare for ten, or even twenty years, to elapse before the final stage is attained.

According to the kind of granulation present, three varieties of trachoma were formerly distinguished: *T. sabulosum*, with gritty granulations like sand; *T. carunculorum*, fleshy excrescences, and *T. herpeticum*, hard pustules on the inner surface of the eyelids. The essential feature in its pathology is the lymphoid cell. These lymph cells are scattered through the conjunctiva, forming adenoid tissue. These cells (sago grain granulations) must be sought for on the mucous surfaces of the eyelids. At first they occur principally on the lower retro-tarsal fold of the conjunctiva, spreading gradually to the same position above and finally affecting the entire lid surface. The ocular conjunctiva often participates in the vascularity, and small granulations may even occur on it. Vascularity and cloudiness of the upper part of the cornea (pannus) follow the vessels here lying immediately beneath the epithelium; this condition sometimes extends over the entire cornea, and especially when there are inverted lashes. There is no tendency to spontaneous cure, and a long continuance of the chronic changes generally leads to entropion, trichiasis and often corneal mischief. The Jews, the Irish, the inhabitants of