

bacillus which is common to molluscum, psoriasis, and papular eczema. It is somewhat similar in its appearances to the bacterium termo, and he had given it the name bacterium leporigenum. It had been successfully cultivated in the ordinary media, and its spore formation, etc., were all described by him. As to experiments on animals to produce the disease in which his bacterium had been found, he makes no mention. He further claimed to have found it in the tissues of the molluscum, when stained in the ordinary way for investigations for bacteria. But he somewhat invalidated his statements by the remark that bacteria were easily distinguished from elaidin granules, in that the latter did not take up aniline dyes, which, numerous observers since then have demonstrated is not the case. In the discussion which followed, Dr. Vidal, of Paris, remarked that he had once produced the disease by inoculation, and had found both bacilli and micrococci in the molluscum growths. The consensus of opinion seemed to oppose Dr. Angelucci's theories and to doubt his having found a specific organism. Regarding the investigations which I have pursued I must differ from the above, and although not as yet in a position to give a positive opinion that the micrococcus, which has been always found, is the specific cause of the disease, owing to the unsuccessful results of inoculation experiments, yet I feel sure that it is in some way connected with it. There has been much difficulty in staining this micrococcus in the tissues on account of the impossibility to decolorize the molluscum bodies, and also the very similar appearance between elaidin granules and micrococci. However, since this paper was begun a fresh supply of material was obtained, and from the contents of an unbroken molluscum wart smears were made and stained in the ordinary manner, and in each smear examined a micrococcus was alone found, in large numbers, being similar in appearance to that which I have cultivated. This is the first positive result yet obtained.

Some doubt was held last autumn as to this particular organism being peculiar to this disease, owing to the fact that Prof. Welch, of Baltimore, had found a similar form inhabiting the deeper layers of the epidermis, and to which we gave the name "staphylococcus eni-

dermidis albus"; but from the fact of its growing in gelatine and liquefying it, and also growing at the temperature of the room, it seems safe to conclude that they are quite different, as the micrococcus of molluscum contagiosum will not grow in gelatine (alkaline) nor liquefy it, nor yet will it grow at the ordinary room temperature.

The greatest care has been exercised to obtain the material as free as possible from outside contaminations, and already on seven different occasions has the same micrococcus been obtained, and in only two sets of tubes has anything else been found, and that has been the ordinary yellow sarcina, which is so abundant in the air. Once the warts were kept for two weeks in a dry state in sterilized tubes and then crumbled up with sterilized forceps, and this material, scattered on the surface of glycerine agar, again gave the same results as in those tubes made from the freshly obtained growths.

*Description of the micrococcus:* It is round, medium-sized, measuring 0.6-0.9  $\mu$ m in diameter, occurring frequently in pairs, and sometimes going in short chains of three or four, and again it is found in groups of nine or ten joined together in zoogloea masses.

Stains with alkaline methyl blue, carbolic fuchsin. Is not decolorized by Graham's method, but is by Neillsen's tubercle stain.

Hang drop: no movement.

In the original glycerine agar-agar smear tubes, after being twenty-four hours in the thermostat, the surface is found to be covered with small round disseminated colonies, which are yellowish-tinged white, opaque, and frequently many are confluent, giving to the whole surface of the smear a mottled appearance. Under low power: Round, smooth, yellowish-white colonies, slightly dome-shaped, edges smooth, but pale and transparent; whole colony finely granular. In the agar-agar tubes, originals, the colonies grow in the same manner, *i.e.*, being round and confluent frequently. They are, however, very pale, watery, transparent, flat, and not appearing to be so vigorous. Under low power they are generally found flat, pale white, transparent, granular colonies, having smooth edges.

*Glycerine agar-agar stab:* Grows on the surface of the stab as minute, whitish, round, thin.