

An entire ships crew or a regiment would be entirely incapacitated within a few days by an infection very much more severe than anything we have seen in this generation. In fact, the descriptions read more like those of gonorrhoeal ophthalmia than trachoma as we know it.

The disease as it occurs in Egypt to-day includes not only trachoma but all the acute infections of the conjunctiva, aggravated by sun and dust and ignorance and filth, under the obsolescent term Egyptian ophthalmia. Since Neiser discovered the gonococcus and gave us a practical method of identification, we have been able to eliminate one disease from those once included under the head of trachoma. This is often the only way of distinguishing, for actual experiments show that a virus which has lost its strength by age or dilution or drying may produce a disease of a chronic type that is clinically identical with trachoma. The same may be said of acute conjunctivitis which, till the isolation of the Koch-Weeks bacillus, was often confounded with trachoma.

Different observers have from time to time identified bacteria which they considered the etiologic factor in trachoma, but unfortunately they do not agree in their identification. The very fact of this disagreement makes it entirely possible that there are several distinct germs which can cause the clinical symptoms of trachoma, just as bacteriology has enabled us to differentiate several distinct forms of acute conjunctivitis which are often clinically alike. Within the past year Greefe, of Hamburg, has discovered a new organism which, if his claims be substantiated, will finally settle the bacteriology of trachoma; but until that time we must base our diagnosis on a clinical picture.

*Symptoms.*—The inoculation of suitable material into the normal eye is followed shortly by an acute conjunctivitis. The eye becomes red and irritated with a profuse, watery, mucopurulent secretion. When the lids are everted the conjunctiva of the upper lid in particular is seen to be markedly thicker than normal and instead of a pale, smooth, translucent membrane it presents a pile like that of a piece of red velvet. This