

"Of thirty-four cases of syphilitic erythema, in which I have been able to confront the patients with those who infected them, and in some instances with those whom they had afterwards infected, in thirty-one, conformably to the law just enunciated, all the individuals thus confronted presented lesions of the same character; all without exception had chancres which were followed by constitutional syphilis. In only three, from the absence of the symptoms of general infection, did there seem to be any exception, but induration was found at the site of the primary sore, showing that the exception was only apparent; moreover, the mercury which had been administered for the matter fully accounted for the absence, or delay in the appearance, of constitutional manifestations."

With Bassereau's views thus so clearly expressed, we can have no hesitation whatever in admitting two distinct varieties of syphilis. But the question now materially arises whether these two varieties are convertible, or to use the language of our author, "one of two alternatives must be true: the virus of each must be the same, but of greater intensity in the one than in the other; or there must be two poisons totally and radically distinct." Our author proceeds to discuss this important point, and embodies the results of his reasoning in the following four aphorisms:

"The results thus far attained by comparison of the symptoms of those giving and those receiving primary ulcers may be summed up in the following propositions:—

"1. Among persons free from previous syphilitic taint, each of the two species of chancre is transmitted in its kind: the simple chancre as a simple chancre limited in its action to the neighbourhood of its site; the infecting chancre as an infecting chancre, followed by constitutional manifestations.

"2. A primary sore with a soft base, and unaccompanied by induration of the neighbouring lymphatic ganglia, in a subject already infected with syphilis, will, when communicated to a person free from syphilitic taint, give rise to a soft or hard chancre, according to the nature of the virus which occasioned the first mentioned ulcer.

"3. The virus of the non-infecting chancre is a poison distinct from that of the infecting chancre.

"4. Phagedænic ulceration of a chancre does not depend upon a specific difference in the virus."

The extracts which we have taken from this important volume, are amply sufficient in our estimation to afford an estimate of its value. The subject has been thoroughly exhausted with infinite credit to the author.

With regard to the mode in which the author has dealt with his subject, we ought to observe that he has divided his work into two parts, the first of which is devoted to gonorrhœa and its complications of every kind, to the description and discussion of which thirteen chapters have been devoted; and the second to chancreoid, its complications, and syphilis, the details of both which involve no less than eighteen additional chapters of the work.

As far as the author's labours themselves are concerned, we feel it a duty to say, that he has not only exhausted his subject, but he has presented to us without the slightest hyperbole, the best digested treatise on these diseases in our language. He has carried its literature down to the present moment, and has achieved his task in a manner which cannot but redound to his credit, while the volume itself is published in the best style of Messrs. Blanchard & Lea. To those who devote themselves to this especial branch of practice, we know no more valuable work, and when we remember that this volume embodies