

ening." What I have said with regard to the importance of examining the sputum in cases at all suspicious, applies also to the examination of the fæces, particularly in the primary tuberculosis of the intestines, seen usually in children. By a microscopic study of the fæces we can often determine the presence of the parasitic worms by the discovery of their ova. These are nearly always found in the fæces before the appearance of segments in the case of tape-worm.

An instance in which a correct diagnosis is imperatively called for is in many cases of vaginal discharges. One meets with cases which it is next to impossible to place in the infective (gonorrhoeal) or non-infective list. No such difficulty is as a rule afforded in the urethral discharges of man. Now, if we submit a specimen of such discharge taken directly from a (previously cleansed) discharging surface, to a microscopic examination, we can usually settle the diagnosis, the gonococcus being the criterion.

Uterine curettings are not infrequently submitted to the microscope for diagnosis as to their nature, particularly as to whether cancerous or not. Now the microscopist will find it often next to impossible to decide, and that simply because he does not obtain any proper pieces. To determine malignancy in a fragment of curetting the fragment should pass through the mucous membrane to, and including a few of the muscle fibres beneath. All surgeons recognize that the only hope in cases of malignant growths lies in their early extirpation, and this is possible only by early diagnosis. It is essential in tumors everywhere that when submitted for microscopic examination a proper piece be furnished, just as in the case of the uterine curettings. To illustrate this necessity, I may say that on several occasions I have been sent surface scrapings from suspected epithelioma to diagnose malignancy, and in one case, at least, I fell into disrepute when I stated my incapability of formulating a diagnosis from cells which would be found in the epidermis anywhere.

A class of cases in which a correct diagnosis is very important is in cases of suspected diphtheria. It should be more widely known that a sore throat may be diphtheritic without the presence