

Fuchs, from the work of his assistant who has found these bodies in large numbers of fresh and old cases, believes their presence of value from a diagnostic point of view.

Others, as Addario, believed them artefacts composed of sedimented staining matter mixed with degenerated cells in the course of histological preparation. Lodato, who claimed to have seen them in Spring Catarrh, was of similar opinion, but as Clausen at the last International Congress stated, Addario and Lodato had not submitted any microscopic proof in support of their contentions. The bodies which they described were not identical with trachoma corpuscles, had been seen by him in various forms of conjunctivitis, and could be distinguished readily, after some practice, from the Prowazek bodies.

We have been naturally greatly interested in the subject, in Montreal, because we sometimes see fairly active trachoma here. While waiting for a suitable case to present itself, and to master the technique, about fifty cases of other conjunctival inflammations were examined. In none of these were we able to find the trachoma bodies. About three weeks ago an adult male, a Roumanian who had been in Canada one year, presented himself at the Outdoor-Clinics of the Montreal General Hospital with acute mild trachoma. The conjunctiva was scraped with a dull scalpel and the material smeared well over glass slides. These were dried in the air, fixed in absolute alcohol for ten minutes, and stained for twenty minutes with the new Giemsa stain, to one drop of which fifteen of distilled water were added. The results were very satisfactory. In every slide prepared during a period of eight days, the so-called trachoma bodies of Prowazek were found. They are round bodies, smaller than cocci, and within the protoplasm of the epithelial cells. They are sometimes grouped in masses which as a rule are close to the nucleus of the cell. Naturally these masses vary considerably in size. Sometimes these bodies are seen surrounded by a halo or mantle. This form is supposed to represent a stage in the development of these bodies. A piece of the palpebral conjunctiva was taken and fixed in Zenker's solution. Some very beautiful slides stained with eosin and methylene blue by Dr. Wolbach were obtained. Numerous trachoma bodies were found within the epithelial cells. All these points are well illustrated by the specimens under the microscopes. Regarding the variation in size, a point which may be of interest is that, in the slides prepared on the seventh day, the bodies were much larger than those in the slides prepared during the last few days, also in two of the positive cases which we have had, the halo forms were found in the initial slides. Previous to examining these cases, I had a case of trachoma where I thought the bodies should be easily demonstrated, but from faulty