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THE CYCLE METHOD OF THE TREATMENT OF SYPHILIS.*

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THE above title suggests neither a new mode of treatment nor a recent discovery, still less the highly vaunted, ephemeral and phantastical pseudotherapeutic innovations of our laboratory confreres, but a rational, practical and effective method of the successful management of this malady, so aptly styled by Prof. Morrow a social evil.

It may not be amiss to state, prior to the discussion of the subject proper, that treatment must not be instituted until a positive diagnosis has been arrived at, lest the symptoms be masked and the appearance of determinable lesions thus prevented, hence incurring the risk of a curtailed and inefficient form of treatment and endangering the life of the individual, least of all desirable in this particular affection. The passive or expectant plan must be had recourse to before the advent of the more definite and exact manifestations. There are no certain rules or accurate signs indicating the most opportune or adequate period at which treatment should be begun. Still, when a general adenopathy has come into existence, it is proper time to resort to specific medication; local adenopathy, however, and especially inguinal adenopathy *per se* precludes it. It is absolutely unnecessary to wait for the approach of involvement of the mucous and cutaneous surfaces; as intimated above, the condition of the lymphatic system throughout, should serve as a guide to the prompt institution of treatment.

The author wishes also to insist in this connection upon a sufficiently prolonged course of medication. Much difference of opinion is extant among syphilographers as to the length of time required for the eradication of the syphilitic virus and the establishment of an apparent status of quiescence or permanent non-recrudescence. Upon this point they are at variance. Notwithstanding this, by summing up the different expressions of opinion pertaining to this vital question the inference may be drawn, *that not less than two years of efficient and continuous treatment*

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