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ORGANISMS NORMALLY PRESENT IN THE CONJUNCTIVA.

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The following report upon the organisms found in the healthy conjunctiva is based upon the examination of 140 cases, which was made in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, during the years 1902-03. It also includes an examination of all the literature upon the subject, to which I have had access.

The bacteriology of the conjunctiva, both in health and disease, is a subject of interest and importance to ophthalmologists. A knowledge of the organisms of the diseased conjunctiva is important because of its relation to diagnosis, treatment and prognosis. A knowledge of the bacteria of the normal conjunctiva is of value because of its relation to the methods of ophthalmic surgery.

The conjunctiva, with its moist surface continuously bathed with lachrymal fluid, closely associated with the nasal mucous membrane, constantly exposed to infections in various ways, offers every inducement to the lodgement of micro-organisms. It seems indeed, one of those parts of the body, which form a bacteriological home, ready and easily accessible. It has been established that numerous harmful, as well as harmless, bacteria are constantly present in the normal conjunctival sac. The researches of Sattler, Fick, Micheal, Weeks, Koch, Morax, Axenfeld, have clearly established that fact. Gallenga first studied the normal conjunctiva, and reported his findings to the Italian Ophthalmological Congress in Genoa in 1886. The next year came reports from Petresko, Leber, Gombert, Gifford and Sattler. Fick, who examined forty-nine healthy eyes, found the conjunctival sac sterile six times. In another series he found the sac sterile thirty-six out of fifty times. He isolated the *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Micrococcus canalicans*, *Streptococcus*, and *Sarcina lutea*. Bach wrote of twenty-seven