

secondary and tertiary lesions. Syphilis, the essayist held, was an acute infectious disease, with anatomical lesions either visible or invisible and general intoxication from toxines, and was capable of bringing immunity about directly or indirectly. It was a disease of limited duration. Why was syphilis a serious disease? Many held that it was not. He believed it was. In certain acute infectious diseases, as typhoid fever and variola, death resulted usually from intoxication by toxines. In some of the more chronic that do not give immunity, as tuberculosis and leprosy, death usually results from injury to important organs in consequence of some inflammatory change. The loss of strength, pains in the muscles and joints, and *concurrent symptoms are due to the intoxication from the toxines, not from the organisms direct.* Considerable stress should be laid upon this intoxication by the toxines. A considerable number of writers oppose this view. Syphilis is a serious disease, because of the deformities which sooner or later may cause fatal conditions such as meningitis, myelitis, etc. In addition, often where there are no lesions to be observed by the eye, the microscope shows changes in the tissues. The smallest amount of intoxication necessary for immunity may leave some impress on the tissue sufficient to show that the dyscrasia exists, the less intoxication the less injury to the tissues. This was important to remember, because often lesions occurred, owing to tissue vulnerability, ten or twelve years after all the syphilitic poison had left the system, such as syphilitic palmar psoriasis, patches on the tongue, etc.

Text-books had stated that the contagious stage existed for a period of three years. They divided the disease into three stages. Too much stress had been laid upon this matter. The disease had no stages, but was a continuous process. The length and severity of the attack were not dependent on the length of incubation nor on the character of the primary sore, except in a general way. The so-called secondary stage was ushered in by certain cutaneous manifestations. Fever was present, the lymph glands, the spleen and the liver were enlarged, the nervous system was affected, neuralgia being marked. The malignancy of the disease depended on the soil, not on the amount of inoculation. It was to be remembered that dangerous conditions might exist without any severe external lesions being visible.

An important point in treatment consisted in preventing, if possible, the untoward results of lesions by pushing the remedies, although no outward signs were visible. These toxines were sure to leave their impress on the tissues. The absence of cutaneous lesions was no