

theria bacillus, but I wish to say a few words in connection with that very puzzling type of germ, the xerosis bacillus, which I found in the above case. This germ is found very frequently in the normal conjunctiva, so that it would appear there must be a predisposition on the part of the patient before it can exert any malign action. Little is known of its true nature and action; it is identical morphologically with the diphtheria bacillus. It is stained by ordinary aniline dyes, and grows on the same culture media forming similar colonies. It is different from the diphtheria bacillus in not producing an acid reaction in neutral peptone bouillon. Frankel regarded it as a non-virulent diphtheria bacillus, which may become virulent when mixed with staphylococci; others regarded it as simply the non-virulent stage of the diphtheria bacillus.

A year ago a case of that comparatively rare disease known as Parinaud's conjunctivitis was treated by me. The characteristics of the disease are the huge granulations which develop on the palpebral conjunctiva; these rapidly increase in size; there is also enlargement of the pre-auricular and infra-maxillary and cervical glands. There is a rising temperature, but the course of the disease, which is not rapid, tends gradually to complete resolution. An elaborate bacteriological examination and report was made by Dr. John McCrae, pathologist at that time to the General Hospital. Pure cultures of a bacillus resembling the Klebs-Loeffer were found during twenty-five days of active treatment of the eye. This bacillus was not found in the other eye, nor in the nose or throat. This bacillus gradually disappeared with the recovery of the eye. It would thus appear that in this case we were dealing with either a virulent form of bacillus-xerosis, or else a less toxic than ordinary bacillus diphtheria.

These are a few of the main points in connection with conjunctivitis which I thought might be of interest and value to you. There is no doubt, in regard to all these germs, that whenever they develop a tendency to form chains, that is, as it were, reverting to the streptococci type, there is a coincident increase of virulence.

In addition to all that I have told you, it is hardly necessary that I should insist upon your not losing sight of one great point, the fact that the eye is part of the whole bodily mechanism, and that in the local treatment of any eye condition one must not lose sight of the general constitutional state. It is an altruism that if the general physical condition is lowered there is a corresponding lowering of resistance to all forms