

measles, according to seven observers—Hirsh, Libman, Lichtenstein, Ross, Sobel, West, Zabriskie. Absence of the sign does not exclude measles, five observers—Adams, Cameron, Cheney, Morse, Zahorsky. The sign has been observed in advance of the eruption by thirteen—Adriance (twenty cases out of ninety-six), Blackader (in every case), Cheney (“frequently”), Gilbert, Hirsh, Libman, Lichtenstein (as early as three days before the eruption), Morse, Mitchell (forty-eight hours before the eruption), Ross, Sobel (from a few hours to five days before the eruption), West, Zabriskie, Zahorsky.—Edit. *Md. Med. Jour.*

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SPEECH AS A SEPTIC INFLUENCE.—George Fox, the founder of the Quakers, who looked upon smoking as a grievous sin, justified his condemnation of it by the words of St. Matthew: “Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.” If Professor Flugge were given to similar eccentricities of exegesis, he might quote the same text in support of the doctrine which he preaches that speech is a means of distributing disease germs. He has shown that from the mouth of a person who is speaking come bacteria contained in little bubbles of saliva, which after remaining suspended some time in the air are scattered through the surrounding atmosphere. Hubener has made experiments on the subject. Placing a man at a distance of 50 cm. from four agar plates, representing a total surface of 200 square centimetres, he made him to count aloud for ten minutes. During that time from 100 to 1,500 germs, expelled from the mouth of the speaker, were deposited on the plates. Hubener draws from this fact the practical inference that a surgeon explaining the steps of the procedure during an operation might infect the wound by means of the germs expelled from his mouth in the act of speaking. To guard against this source of sepsis he has constructed a sort of filter consisting of a metal cage covered with gauze. This apparatus, which covers the mouth and nose, is fixed to the ears like spectacles. Not long ago Hubener raised his voice in warning as to the infective possibilities of the surgeon’s beard, and recommended that ornamental appendage to be enclosed in what may be called a bacterium net. One may conjure up a prophetic vision of the twentieth century surgeon with antiseptic mass, beard-bag, gloves, and sterilized robe, operating within a glass sanctuary into which no one is admitted except after the fullest disinfectant lustration. But Flugge’s doctrine has a much wider application than he has indicated. If speech has these hitherto