

NOTE.

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When this wonderful report was written by Professor Fournier, the micro-organism which is the essential cause of syphilis had not been discovered. Had it been known, however, little change would have been made in the statements, for their accuracy is marvelous and could only come from one whose knowledge was very complete and exact.

In 1903 Metchnikoff demonstrated that syphilis could be implanted in the body of the higher apes. But Klingmuller proved that the virus properly filtered would not inoculate. In the light of these facts, the organism, which had been diligently sought after for years, was searched for with renewed interest, and thus it was that Fritz Schaudinn in 1905 demonstrated beyond doubt that the agent in conveying the disease was the *Spirochaeta Pallida*. This is a very small organism, corkscrew in shape, very fine, thread-like, motile, light in color, only seen by a special microscope. One drop of the virus contains many million germs, which are likely to gain access to the body at a slight defect in the skin or mucous membrane. But like the *Gonococcus*, which causes gonorrhoea, and like many other germs of hurtful character, these soon perish if exposed to air and sunshine.

Syphilis produces changes in the blood that are readily recognized by tests, although no outward manifestations are seen. From these tests we learn that about 35 per cent of invalids for whose sickness no cause is discernible, are sick because of this disease.

Concerning the treatment of syphilis, the late and much vaunted Salvarsan, or "606," is not applicable to all forms of the disease, and when applicable, only hastens the relief of the acute symptoms. A cure is still made more secure by the slower old-time remedies.