

In doubtful cases, the diagnosis may be confirmed by the detection of the *Spirochæta pallida*. The method is applicable only to primary sores, mucous patches, and the early ulcerative lesions of malignant syphilis. A preparation must be made from the tissue fluid expressed from the ulcer after thorough cleaning, and not from the débris on the surface of the ulcer. The spirochæte, if present, may be demonstrated by dark-ground illumination, or by Burri's method. In the latter, one platinum loopful of Indian ink, and one of the suspected exudate, are taken, the mixture is spread out as in making a blood film, and dried without heat. The preparation is then examined under an oil-immersion lens, and the spirochæte, if present, is easily found. It appears as an extremely delicate filament, coiled to form a spiral; the spirals are close and numerous, ten to twenty-six in number. The spirochæte appears as a clear space against a dark background. This method of diagnosis is not applicable in tertiary lesions; in such cases, and in the earlier manifestations where a search for spirochætes has been unsuccessful, the examination of the blood for Wassermann's reaction may be undertaken, but as it is a laboratory method, it should be entrusted to one who is familiar with the technique.

TREATMENT.—It would be out of place here to discuss the general treatment of syphilis, but undoubtedly the method of administering mercury by inunction gives, as a rule, excellent results. Syphilitic lesions of the air-passages also resolve with extraordinary rapidity after the injection of salvarsan, and this should certainly be employed in gummata of the palate or pharynx where it is particularly important that no destruction of tissue should take place. It is unnecessary to discuss the question of combining the administration of salvarsan with mercury, a course which is recommended by many syphilologists. As regards local treatment, it is the custom in Germany to paint superficial ulcerations and mucous patches with a weak solution of chromic acid, but in this country local treatment is not so much resorted to. When mercury is being taken, the teeth should be most carefully cleaned after every meal with a soft brush, and the mouth rinsed out several times a day with a mild antiseptic mouth-wash. Tobacco and alcohol (except possibly light wines, such as claret) should be forbidden in all stages of the disease. Where considerable defects have been left in the palate as the result of syphilitic processes, an