

In experimental syphilides, Metschnikoff has demonstrated the *spirochæta pallida* in a non-ulcerated lesion in the macac species of ape, and Kraus, of Vienna, has since followed the micro-organism through two monkeys, the second animal having been successfully inoculated with the virus from the first.

In conclusion, while further investigation will doubtless give us much more information regarding the *spirochæta pallida*, it seems certain that after long search the micro-organism that is the cause of syphilis has been at last discovered.

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### GASTRIC ULCER.\*

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#### I. HISTORICAL.

GASTRIC ulcer is no new disease, nor is its recognition of recent date. Hippocrates treated Pericles for gastric pain, and speaks of black vomit and other symptoms that point to the fact that he had met with cases of gastric ulcer, though he did not recognize the ulcer as the cause of the pain, vomiting and hæmorrhage. The same can be said with regard to Galen. Many centuries elapse before there are any positive statements of the recognition of gastric ulcer. When the sixteenth century, however, is reached some very clear and specific records of cases are to be found.

During that century John Bauhin mentions the case of a young woman who died of a perforated ulcer, the stomach after death containing blood, and the abdominal cavity gas, fluids and remnants of food. Another case is recorded by Donatus to the effect that the coats of the stomach were eaten through near the pyloric opening. There are other instances of ulcer with perforation, callous cicatrices, hæmorrhages, and one with a fistulous opening, found in the writings of that period; and also several instances of deformity of the stomach, such as transverse contraction, attributed to gastric ulcers. Among the writers who have handed down to us descriptions of such cases may be mentioned Sömmerring, Morgagni, Mangold, and others who practised and made dissections during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Voigtel gave a very careful account of the disease in the early part of the eighteenth century. He states that these ulcers may be surrounded by hardened edges, but at other times such a condition is absent; there may be a perforation, and the stomach walls look as if a piece had been cut out. At times the gastric tissue is contracted and condensed. Such language approaches very closely in accuracy to that employed by modern pathologists. Towards the close of the same century Matthew

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