

tylosis, keratosis, plaques, opalines are understood white and bluish white patches and plaques, affecting for the most part the tongue. These may be generally called under the one head *leucoma*, meaning a whiteness or white opacity of the surface of the tongue. The *smokers' patch* belongs to the same class of disease, and is probably only an early stage of these affections.

The diagnosis of mucous patch from leucoma depends partly on the difference in the color of the patches, which are not pearly like leucomatous patches but greyish white, as if they had been painted over with a nitrate of silver stick. Mucous patches occur more often on the borders, leucoma patches on the dorsum of the tongue; mucous patches are much more often deeply ulcerated than leucoma patches. Leucomas when thick and white and raised, and therefore more likely to be taken for mucous patches, are as a rule much harder and drier than mucous patches. Leucoma usually runs a very chronic course; mucous patch a fairly acute course.

The treatment of mucous patches is local and general. The general treatment is principally mercury in the form best adapted to the patient, together with hygienic treatment.

The local treatment is often brilliant in its results, and a ten grain solution of chromic acid is perhaps as productive of as good results as anything. At the same time, all sources of irritation in the mouth, such as a carious tooth, etc., should be removed.

*Tertiary syphilitic plaques* are comparatively rare, and have been little described, but are supposed to be the cause of the deep fissures and furrows one sees in old disfigured tongues following tertiary syphilis. The diagnosis is easy, especially as there are usually other signs of syphilis present. The treatment is iodide of potash, five or ten grains three times a day.

*Pyorrhœa Alveolaris* is a disease with which the general practitioner is not, as a rule, specially familiar, and yet it has attracted probably more attention among dental surgeons than perhaps any other disease of the oral cavity with the exception, of course, of decay of the teeth. It is a disease the pathology of which is still a matter of dispute, but is probably of a parasitic nature and has been variously known under the names of phagedenic pericementitis, Riggs' disease, blennorrhœa gingivæ, periostitis alveolo dentalis, symptomatic alveolar arthritis, etc. It consists in a chronic suppurative inflammation of the periosteum with more or less severe inflammation of the gums and necrosis of the alveolar process of the diseased teeth. It begins, as a rule, slowly and with a slight redness of the gums at the neck of the tooth which cannot be distinguished from a simple inflammation of the