

the acute stage and even in the absence of such spots on the skin. They go so far as to suggest, (1) as conjunctival hæmorrhages are rare in acute illnesses except whooping cough, their presence in a patient suspected should carry some weight; and (2) conjunctivitis which occurs as an early symptom would most likely help to distinguish this from other forms of meningitis.

The fact that the meningococcus has been isolated from the conjunctival discharge in a few cases has added interest to conjunctivitis as a symptom. According to Axenfeld, Frankel reported a severe pseudo-membranous conjunctivitis in three children of one family due to a diplococcus which he thought was the meningococcus. Hagland also described a case of meningococcus conjunctivitis. Both these cases are now discredited. Wintersteiner reported a case of ophthalmia occurring in the course of a meningitis. In cover-slip preparations from the conjunctiva an organism identical in morphology with the meningococcus was obtained. Weichselbaum studied Wintersteiner's preparations, and although no cultures were made he considered the finding positive. Wintersteiner believed the infection a metastatic one. According to Axenfeld, Koplick, in Washington in 1904, reported finding the meningococcus in the conjunctival sac in a case of epidemic meningitis. D. Smith, in the Archives of Ophthalmology, reported among 100 cases of conjunctivitis one due to the meningococcus. No differential diagnosis, however, was given. Gabrielides in a child of twenty-five months with meningitis found in the conjunctiva, xerosis bacilli, pneumococci and Gram negative diplococci, intra and extra-cellular, which coincided in every way with the Gram negative diplococci from the cerebro-spinal fluid. E. S. Thompson, at the American Medical Association, 1906, reported finding the meningococcus three or four times among 400 cases of blenorrhœa. Differentiation here is, however, unsatisfactory. Robinson from one case of meningitis isolated the meningococcus from the purulent discharge. In three other cases of conjunctivitis the finding was negative. In spite of these reports at a meeting of the Ophthalmological Society of Paris, Dec. 31, 1907, when Moissonnier reported a case of meningococcus conjunctivitis, Morax said "as yet there has been no authentic case of meningococcus conjunctivitis reported. The case reported by Moissonnier is neither clinically nor bacteriologically satisfactory."

During the last year I have had an opportunity of seeing six cases of epidemic meningitis with conjunctival symptoms: (1) an adult male aged 23 years. Marked catarrhal conjunctivitis smear negative. Culture staphylococcus aureus (in pure culture). (2) An adult male aged