

**Trachoma.** L. J. GOLDBACH, M.D., Baltimore, in *New York Medical Journal*.

Dr. Goldbach gives a review of the recent observations of trachoma bodies which are now being considered as a factor in the causation of trachoma. Many observers have found the bodies in a large proportion of the cases, and one observer, Prowazek, found the organism or body in 90% of cases. The method Goldbach employed to demonstrate their presence is as follows: Scrapings from the conjunctiva are spread upon sterile cover slips. These are air-dried and immersed in absolute alcohol for 15 minutes, then allowed to dry, and stained by the following method: 12 parts of Giemsen's Eosin solution, 3 parts of Agar No. I., 3 parts of Agar No. II., are mixed and filtered. This is brought to a temperature of 37° C. and the cover slips allowed to float in this solution for six hours, then washed with sterile water, dried and mounted for examination. In looking for the bodies, which are difficult to find, one should look first for an epithelial cell, in which, in acute and untreated cases, the organism may be found. In the cells they appear as very minute bodies, smaller than the smallest coccus, appearing conjointly or like a diplococcus. They are usually surrounded by a clear area of cell and they stain a deep violet and at times with a pink tint. The significance of this cell invasion by the trachoma bodies is not known, but it is probably a cell degeneration, a parasitic transformation, or a peculiar attraction the cell has for them. Prowzack thinks the organism is something between a protozoa and a bacterium and puts it among the organisms that cause chicken pox, scarlet fever and hydrophobia. Attempts to make a growth of the organism on culture media have failed as yet, but Holberstädter and Prowzack inoculated the eyes of one of the orang-outangs, and in a few days they showed a typical attack of trachoma, which, upon examination, yielded similar bodies to the trachoma bodies.

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