

of pus; proper pus has this faculty, and it is thus that we may say metaphorically, pus engenders pus.

If time would permit I might allude to the process of the resorption of metastatic abscesses. The phenomena presented in these minute formations are truly curious, and that which is particularly interesting is to observe the facility with which nature disembarasses herself of purulent foci which cover sometimes in profusion, all the lobes of the liver.

There is another point in our studies, on which I would desire to address the Academy; I mean the special formation of pus. We have, however, arrived at conclusions so opposite to those which have currency in medical science, and it is so difficult to form a clear decision in these most delicate investigations, that I reserve it for a subsequent communication. At the present, as regards ourselves, the red globules of the blood become by transformation, pus globules. In the science of observation, however, illusion is rather easy, when it rests on only a limited basis.

I hasten to reach another order of facts, which merit still more than those which precede the attention of the surgeon; I refer to the effects of our microbio as a generator of pus when associated with the septic vibrio. Nothing is easier than the implanting of two distinct diseases, and of producing one which may be called a purulent infectious septicemia, or a purulent septicemia. Whilst the microbio generator of pus when alone, forms an allied pus, white, lightly tinged with yellow, or greenish, in no way putrid, diffused, or involved in what we call a pyogenic membrane, not offering generally any danger, especially when located in cellular tissue, and prepared, as it were for the purpose of prompt resorption, the small abscess, on the contrary, provoked by the microbio associated with the septic vibrio, takes on a gangrenous aspect, and becomes putrid, greenish, and infiltrated in the softened flesh. In this case the microbio generator of pus, carried, so to speak, by the septic vibrio, accompanies it through the whole body, and the highly inflamed muscles, filled with serosity, presenting at many places globules of pus, appear as if crammed with the two organisms. By a similar artifice, the effects of the carbuncle bacterium, and of the pus-generating microbio, may be combined, and we may obtain the superposition of two diseases, that is, a purulent carbuncle, or a carbunculous purulent infection. For the present

it is well not to overrate the predominance of the new microbio over the bacterium; if, however the microbio be associated in suitable proportion, it may completely baffle, or impede, the bacterium in multiplying in the body. Carbuncle is not manifested, and the evil, quite local, is reduced to the formation of an abscess, easy of cure. The microbio generator of pus, and the septic vibrio, being both anaerobious, it will be understood, from the demonstrations in a former portion of this article, that the septic vibrio will not be much incommoded by the connexion. Nutritive aliments, both liquid and solid, will not fail in the organism, for such small beings. But the carbuncle bacterium is exclusively aerobic, (air living) and the proportion of oxygen is far from being scattered in profusion at all points in the body; a thousand circumstances may, therefore, diminish or suppress it, here and there; and as the microbio pus generator can live in air also, it may be understood that from its larger size it may draw from the bacterium alongside, the oxygen needed by it. Whatever may be the explanation of the fact, it is certain that the microbio here treated of, in certain circumstances, impedes the whole development of the bacteria.

In conclusion we may say that the details which have preceded, show that we can, at will, produce purulent infections exempt from every element of putridity; purulent putrid infections; and carbunculous purulent infections,—various combinations of this species of lesions, according to the proportions of the specific microbes, which have been brought to act upon the living organism. Such are the principal facts I had to communicate to the Academy, in my own name, and in that of my collaborators, Drs. Joubert and Chamberland. The Academy will remember that in the course of the surgical discussion, which took place before it, I presented a series of propositions without demonstrating them. All these have now been defined in the lecture which I now close. Some weeks ago (in the session of 11th March,) one of the members of the Academy, Dr. Sedillot declared that our successes, in the new departure in surgery, furnish a rational explanation to the newly inaugurated theory of the celebrated English surgeon, Dr. Lister, one of the first to comprehend its value.