

Mucous patches are usually multiple, and generally accompanied by other signs of secondary syphilis. Occasionally, however, a single patch occurs on the border of the tongue, and for the time, at least, no other sign of syphilis is present. They may occur on the mucous membrane of the lips, cheek, palate, tongue and tonsils. On the tongue they may form on any part, on the dorsum, borders, tip, or under aspect; but they occur more frequently on the borders than elsewhere. They may be met with at any age, for they belong to the congenital as well as to the acquired syphilis; but they are more often seen on the tongues of young adults than at any other period of life. They may be found in both sexes, but are more often observed in men than in women.

The appearance of mucous patches varies greatly. The typical mucous patch is generally rounded or oval in form, and without irregular edges. They are, however, often modified much by external irritants or rubbing against the teeth. It is sharply defined, and is generally greyish white in color. Immediately beyond the border of the patch the tissues are quite natural; there is no redness or swelling unless there is accidental inflammation. Occasionally the patches under the tip of the tongue, and in places where they are little disturbed or irritated, are warty in appearance, of a dead white color, and slightly elevated.

The patches usually begin as a small, slightly raised, white grey spot, and as it causes no pain, is often unnoticed for some time. Several small patches may coalesce, and thus form a large, irregular patch. If untreated, they may last months, with little apparent change. The *diagnosis* is comparatively easy. To those who have seen them, the patches themselves are characteristic. In doubtful cases, the accompanying signs of syphilis are important. They may be mistaken for aphthous stomatitis, cucomata or wandering rash.

In aphthæ and mucous patches there are white patches, but the white patches of aphthæ belong almost exclusively to children, or to adults suffering from severe illness, while the white patches of syphilis occur almost exclusively in adults who are in good, or at least not in bad health. The white patches of aphthæ are surrounded by bright red areolæ; those of syphilis are peculiarly free from any sign of surrounding inflammation, unless they have been irritated or are accidentally inflamed. Aphthous ulcers are acute, mucous patches are chronic. The presence of other secondary signs of syphilis are of course a crucial test.

Under the heading of leucoma, leukoplakia, psoriasis, ichthyosis,