

## CURRENT LITERATURE.

**CHRONIC GLANDERS AND THE USE OF MALLEIN.** Dr. A. BUSCHKE.  
(*Archiv. f. Dermat. u. Syph.*, Bd. XXXVI., Hft. 8, October, 1896.)

CASES of glanders occurring in man are not frequent, judging from the literature of the subject. Besnier has recorded two. Hallopeau and Jeanselme one, and E. Neisser one. In these cases the nasal mucosa was the starting-point of the infection, and the course of the disease was very chronic, other lesions—ulcers, abscesses, periostitis—appearing in different regions of the body. Acute equinia may be confounded with enteric fever; it is characterized by infection of the mucosæ, skin, internal viscera, especially the lungs, and, as a rule, ends fatally. Chronic glanders is often diagnosed and treated as syphilis before its nature is recognized, and the clinical aspect of the nasal lesion strongly resembles tubercular ulceration. Dr. Buschke's case was that of a man *ætat* 78, who presented an irregular ulcer occupying the dorsal aspect of the proximal and median phalanges of the right index. There was no affection of the skin elsewhere, or of the nasal mucosa, and the viscera revealed nothing abnormal. The ulcer had existed some six months previously, during which period partial cicatrization and extension had taken place. There was a separate ulcer on the dorsum of the web between the thumb and index of the right hand. The right axillary glands were slightly enlarged. A coloured drawing of the hand accompanying Dr. Buschke's paper shows the clinical features of the disease admirably. The margins of both ulcers are irregular, and the exposed tendon of the index is easily discernible; the surrounding integument is sound, the surface is obscured by a purulent discharge. The general health was good. The lesion was regarded as a syphilide, and the patient was thus treated; the history of the affection shed no light on its nature. By accident owing to another case of glanders being in the hospital Dr. Buschke's suspicions were aroused, and as mercurial inunction and large doses of iodide of potassium were ineffectual, inoculation experiments were carried out. Strauss's method—inoculating a male guinea-pig and the subsequent discovery of the bacillus mallei in the spleen, lungs, testicles—confirmed the diagnosis. Cultivation of the bacilli taken from the purulent secretion of the digital ulcer on potato produced honey-coloured brownish colonies, characteristic of this micro-organism. On cross-questioning the patient he admitted that shortly before his finger broke out he had been tending horses suffering from glanders, all of which were killed. Knowing the diagnostic value of mallein in horses suspected of equinia, Dr. Buschke employed this in his patient fourteen days *after* he had thoroughly scraped and cauterized the lesions; he also removed the cubital gland, which was beginning to suppurate. He began with 1 mgrm., and in the course of a little over a week increased the dose of mallein subcutaneously to 1 grm. There was neither general nor local reaction, and in a fortnight the patient was discharged cured, and now, some twenty months after treatment, is perfectly well. Dr. Buschke gives a summary of the other recorded cases of chronic glanders, and

points out that his case of digital infection is unique. He observes that there is nothing in the clinical features of the ulcerative process that are characteristic of equinia, and it is only to be expected that the process would be viewed as syphilitic in nature. In conclusion he states that—(1) by inoculation of male guinea-pigs (Strauss's method) and by staining by Gram's method, the bacillus mallei may be detected. (2.) Mallein is applicable to the human subject for the purpose of ascertaining whether equinia is present in internal organs. (3.) The treatment should be thorough, and conducted on the parts after the blood-vessels have been emptied (Esmarch's method); free excision with subsequent application of the cauterly is the plan recommended.

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### ANNOTATION.

**BAGDAD BOIL.** (Morier's "Adventures of Hajji Baba of Ispahan." Chapter LXV.)

" . . . but during the time that I was waiting for the return of the wood-cutter I was attacked by a disorder, from which few residents, as well as strangers, at Bagdad are exempt, which, terminating by a large pimple, as it dries up, leaves an indelible mark on the skin. To my great mortification, it broke out upon the middle of my right cheek, immediately upon the confines of the beard, and there left its baleful print, destroying some of the most favourite of my hairs, and making that appear a broken and irregular waste, which before might be likened to a highly cultivated slope.

"I bore this calamity as well as I was able, although I could not help frequently quarrelling with fate, for having chosen so conspicuous a spot to place that which might have been so conveniently settled anywhere else.

"'So be it,' said I, heaving a sigh at the same time; 'the wise man said true when he remarked, "If every stone was left to choose what it would be, most probably it would be a diamond"; and if every man might choose whereabouts he would have his pimple there would be no ugly faces in Bagdad.'

"However, by way of consolation, I recollected Osman Aga's face was the mirror of deformity, although his pimple had budded elsewhere. He, instead of condoling with me on my misfortune, rather seemed to enjoy it. . . .

"Notwithstanding the deformity of my cheek, I found, as I continued to be an inmate in the house of my old master, that I had made no small impression upon the heart of his daughter, the fair Dilaram. . . . Her mother and she were both experienced in the mode of curing the Bagdad disorder, and they undertook to superintend mine. My pimple and Dilaram's love appear to have arisen at about the same time; their progress was mutual; and by the time that the former had risen to its full height, the latter had become quite inconvenient. . . .

"I was all delight when it was announced that at the very next favourable conjunction of the planets the caravan was to take its departure. But as for poor Dilaram, she hovered about my cheek with looks of despair; and, as fast as the swelling subsided, she appeared to lose the only tie which kept her united to this world and its vanities."

G P.