

peritoneum, pleura, middle ear, and joints in surgical cases.

Tubercle Bacillus is found in tuberculous bone and joint diseases, but does not cause morbid processes in wounds, except in conjunction with other pus-forming organisms.

Gonococci occur in inflammation and supuration due to gonorrhœa.

Other organisms are the bacilli of anthrax and tetanus, and the fungus of actinomycosis (a chronic supuration and inflammation).

A mixed infection in a wound is of course more dangerous than when only one kind of organism is present.

The local signs of wound infection are:—Those usual to inflammation: heat, redness, swelling, and pain. The wound probably feels hot and painful, and these symptoms increase in severity. Often it throbs, or the edges get swollen and red. A bright red flush appears about it when erysipelas sets in. In fact, any special redness or flush about the part is generally a sign that morbid processes may be present.

In a clean wound there should be no moisture or matter formed on the surface other than fresh blood or serum. If the dressings and bandages are found moist, with a yellow discharge having a disagreeable smell, it will be easy to squeeze out pus from the edges with just slight pressure, and possibly the wound may gape, with the stitches either tight and buried, or else cutting their way out of the tissues. Healing by first intention is prevented by the formation of pus, the tissue affected becoming replaced by this cream-like fluid. If leucocytes die owing to being overpowered by germs, pus occurs. Swelling or pouching under adjacent parts must be looked for, as this would be caused by the formation of matter. Often some fluctuation can be felt.

There may be inflammation in the lymphatics and glands about the wound, therefore the sign of this—a faint line running up the limb in the course of the lymphatics or a swelling in the glands—must be watched for.

Another local sign or symptom is the odour peculiar to pus. When unhealthy, the pus is greenish-yellow in colour—sometimes green, dark brown, or red, and the smell is most offensive. Healthy pus, on the other hand, is of a yellow colour, with a sweet faint odour, and may contain streaks of blood from the granulations.

In septic infection the inflammation and supuration is usually confined to the edges of the wound. The tissues in cellulitis are red, swollen, and the wound generally unhealthy

looking. In erysipelas a rash of bright red colour starts around or near the wounded part, and has a distinct margin. This spreads rapidly, and there is mostly swelling underneath. It may disappear and come again suddenly elsewhere. Or in the more severe form, when the deeper parts are affected as well as the skin, there is more pain and swelling, and blisters sometimes come on the skin. The discharges of the wound in this case will be noticed to have changed colour or ceased.

In pyæmia multiple abscesses occur in various parts of the body, though these are hardly local symptoms.

HONOURABLE MENTION.

The following competitors receive honourable mention, Miss F. Sheppard, Mrs. Calthorpe, Miss G. E. Hinchliffe, Miss Gladys Tatham, Miss J. Robinson, Miss N. Evans, Miss Mackenzie, and Miss T. O'Brien.

Miss F. Sheppard points out the importance of rest in the treatment of wounds, as well as cleanliness and protection from the air. Rest allows the tissue cells to grow for the repair of the injury, protection from the air prevents the access of germs, cleanliness prevents the accumulation of a soil for their growth.

Miss Hinchliffe draws attention to nature's method of combating disease, namely, that the circulation of toxins in the blood stimulates the leucocytes to form an antidote to the poison.

Miss Tatham states that when septic infection occurs and pus forms, and is found in the dressings, a wound only heals by granulation instead of by first intention. Nowadays sepsis following operation wounds is practically unknown.

QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

Describe the hygiene of pregnancy for the benefit of mother and child.

Dr. Knopf, an American physician, makes the suggestion that discarded battleships, instead of being broken up, should be fitted up as sanatoria and used for tuberculosis cases. Presumably it is because the sea encircles our tight little island that we have so far made but little use of it for hospital purposes. It is many years now since we suggested floating hospitals on the Thames and pier sanatoria. Some day no doubt we shall awake to their splendid possibilities in the restoration of health by such means. And why should the Navy have the monopoly of School Ships? We could imagine charming schools for delicate children abreast the briny.

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