

# HOW HE FOUND CANCER CURE

Dr. Gaston Odin Tells of Discovering Microbe and Serum.

PARIS, Aug. 24—The discovery by Dr. Gaston Odin, a Paris investigator, of the cancer microbe, with the means for its destruction, signifies for medical science a great forward step. To know the cause of an evil is to be able to attack it, and that cancer, one of the most fearful scourges of the modern world numbering its tens of thousands of victims yearly, should have remained up to now incurable is because the researches of all the scientists have failed to penetrate the mystery of its origin.

There had been a number of more or less possible theories, "parasitic" and "non-parasitic," with the balance of opinion ascribing its origin to a microbe, but with the microbe as yet seen by no human eye. Dr. Odin's account, in an interview with The Herald correspondent, of the manner in which he brought the terrible organism out of its hitherto unsuspected hiding place, constitutes, by its methodical reasoning one of the romances of medical science.

"On placing a specimen of the blood of a cancerous person under a high-power microscope," he said, "I noticed, as had other investigators before me, that many of the red corpuscles which are the most important constituent of the vital fluid were of an unusual form, somewhat resembling a horse-chestnut instead of the smooth sphere which is the ordinary shape. Some of these were attached to normal corpuscles, but most of them floated free in the serum—the clear fluid which is the carrying medium of red and white corpuscles. It was only after long reflection on these curiously-shaped forms that the true solution flashed across me—at first, of course as a 'working-hypothesis' only—that the cancer microbe has evaded detection hitherto because it conceals itself within the red corpuscles.

## Revelations by Reagent.

"Assuming for the time being that this was the actual state of affairs, I endeavored to hit upon a means of forcing the microbe to reveal its existence by emerging from its hiding place. Since mechanical means are out of the question in dealing with objects one three-thousandth of an inch across, it seemed that the most likely way to achieve this end would be a chemical preparation which would irritate or excite the micro-organism to the extent of forcing it to break the envelope in which it had surrounded itself. A long series of experiments followed, at the end of which I hit upon a reagent which produced the desired effect, and this is what I saw:

"A few minutes after I had mixed a drop of the reagent with a drop of cancerous blood on the microscopic slide, the number of normal red corpuscles seemed to have increased, while the chestnut-shaped bodies remained of the same number. At the end of a further few minutes the latter became greatly agitated, their former sluggish drifting motion being replaced by abrupt movements. They then began to send out prolongations of protoplasm, proving them to be amoebae. The microbe had vacated its retreat and was developing before my eyes!

A little later the organism had ceased developing, and had taken the forms which have since proved to be characteristic of the cancer microbe. These forms, as you will see by the photographs, vary a good deal; the commonest shape being that of a flower with from four to seven petals. Sometimes one of the "petals" is longer than the rest, giving the appearance of a scarpin or racket, a cross, or a sword hilt; sometimes the microbe resembles a chrysanthemum, the thickly clustered petals being formed by very fine filaments. A further and most curious shape is that of a letter H with branches of unequal length.

## Proof of Cancer Microbe

"Together with these microbes, my reagent reveals the presence of a number of spherical bodies with slender, waving filaments to the number of four, six, nine or 14. These bodies have a regular rolling motion, and somewhat resemble the microbe of malarial fever. "To the cancer microbe discovered by me I have given the name of 'Haemamoeba neoformans'—that is to say, 'Blood Amoeba which takes new forms.'"

"The next step was to prove that the microbe was actually that of cancer. If a single case of cancer, diagnosed as such by a competent specialist, failed to reveal haemamoeba neoformans in the blood when treated by my reagent, the theory would break down. I there-

# Discovered Cancer Cure



Dr. Gaston Odin of Paris, Who Found the Cancer Microbe and Then Perfected a Serum By Which He Healed His Own Disease.

fore collected a large number of samples of blood from the principal doctors and specialists of Paris to the number of 79, and examined them with the new test. Result, in every case the microbe was present.

"The next step was to see whether the organism existed in the blood of healthy persons. Out of 29 cases the reagent failed, in spite of most attentive examination, to reveal its presence; in one case only, a man of 72 years, the blood contained a few examples of the organism.

"Now for the practical value of the discovery. In future there will never be the terrible doubt which so often now exists, as whether a given tumor is the result of cancer or not. In how many cases now is a case diagnosed as cancer, and the tumor extracted by a dangerous and costly operation, when the malady is found to be quite a different one? Henceforward all that will be necessary to insure absolute certainty on the subject is to take one drop of the patient's blood, mix it with one drop of my reagent, and the question is settled."

As to the exact nature of the reagent, Dr. Odin insists on keeping this a close secret for the moment. He is not yet at the end of his researches, and is naturally unwilling that the immensely important work which still remains for him to do should be forestalled by other laboratory workers, thus depriving him of the privilege of pioneer which he has earned. The disclosure of the formula he is resolving for the congress of comparative pathology, which will take place in Paris in October, when he intends to bring forward a mass of evidence and observations on the second stage of his work—the serum which he claims he has discovered for the cure of cancer, and which he is now perfecting and testing daily.

"I only discovered the microbe a few weeks ago," he said, "and the time is as yet too short to judge of the full powers of the serum. That it not only destroys the microbe, but, unless the case is too advanced, eradicates the disease, I have proved to my own satisfaction, but a great deal remains to be done in the methodical accumulation and tabulation of results.

## How Cancer Will Be Treated

"The following is the way in which patients will be treated in the future: The blood will be first examined; if no microbes are present the case will be dealt with by other measures than those for cancer. If there are microbes, their number will indicate exactly the extent to which the disease has advanced, and the necessary strength of the future injections of serum. It may be that the blood will be found to be swarming with the organism, in which case no serum is of any avail; nothing can be done to save the patient. He is dying of the disease and I do not claim to raise the dead.

"If, on the other hand, the state of the blood is not too bad, the tumor will be removed, as at present, and any fresh growth will be prevented by an injection of serum a few days after the operation. The patient is now in the same condition that he was when the disease first entered his system.

"At regular intervals afterwards (in the case of young people, only after a certain age) the patient's blood will be examined, and as long as any traces of the microbe remain, a few further injections of the serum will be given.

"Eventually the deadly organism will be altogether exterminated, and the patient, instead of living in constant terror of a new growth, will be as healthy as any other normal individual; his cure will be complete.

"It follows, further, that cancer need never reach the tumor stage; any one suspecting that he is predisposed to the disease, or infected with it, has only to have his blood examined, and if his fears prove to be only too well-founded, a few injections of the serum will suffice to rid him of the evil.

"A striking instance of the efficacy of the serum occurred a short time ago, in the course of my work. One day, while handling a tube containing blood from a cancer patient, I accidentally broke the fragile vessel between my fingers, which were slightly scratched by the broken glass. Two days afterward I made as a precaution an examination of blood with the reagent. I was inoculated with cancer. During a few days—an anxious period for me—I gave myself occasional injections of the serum, with the result that not long afterward I found that all traces of the microbe had utterly disappeared.

"But prevention can yet go further. I am at the present moment working with a culture of the cancer microbe, and in short time intend to have ready for examination by my colleagues a vaccine which will enable civilized countries to banish cancer just as smallpox has been banished. With this vaccine, children can be inoculated countries to banish cancer just as shortly after birth and thus be absolutely protected against the possibility of falling a victim to the most terrible of modern diseases."

When in October next the Congress of Comparative Pathology meets in Paris cinematograph films, showing all the stages of the emergence of the many-shaped micro-organisms from the red corpuscles, will be displayed to the members. The films will probably be forwarded to America immediately after the congress.

Formerly a schoolmaster, Dr. Odin resolved, after accomplishing his military service at the age of 22, to enter the ranks of science, and in a few years quickly became a doctor of medicine. He opened his career in 1902 with the discovery of the origin of yeast, a problem which scientists have been studying since 1837 and which Pasteur sought to solve without success for 35 years. This discovery, which, apart from its scientific aspects, has proved of great importance in brewing, distilling and viticulture, was communicated to the Academy of Sciences in September, 1902. His other discoveries include that of the microbes of smallpox and cowpox, an account of which was read to the Society of Comparative Pathology at the end of last year.

## TWIN MOUNTAIN

TWIN MOUNTAIN, White Mountains, N. H., Aug. 24—The program has been full every day here, and has included every sort of sport and amusement.

Tonight every one here, augmented by several parties from other resorts, is attending the annual masked ball. The costumes are very attractive, and it promises to be a weighty problem for the judges to decide on the winners for the two handsome prizes offered by the management of the Twin Mountain House.

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