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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
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SPOROTRICHOSIS LESIONS FOLLOWING SUDDENLY
INTRADERMAL REACTIONS

Bulletin de la Societe francaise
de Dermatologie and Syphiligraphie
(Bulletin of the French Society
for Dermatology and Syphilology)
35: 440-441, 1928

L. M. Pantrier

At the last meeting, Jeanselme, Huet, Horowitz and Langeron reported on four cases in which at the site of the injection there appeared chancereous infections in the form of exudates and ulcerations of sporotrichosis as a consequence of intradermal reactions.

In 1909 I observed analogous complications and I should like to confirm and add to the information presented to you already by my dear friend Fernet. During that summer, I had the honor of replacing my teacher Brocq and I worked with Mantoux on a research project in which we tried to determine the minimum dose of tuberculin capable of producing an intradermal reaction in syphilitics. These experiments required the highest precision and we used only new and carefully sterilized syringes and needles. Among some 15 patients, injected in the arm or forearm, five developed at the site of the injection typical ulcerations of sporotrichosis, rapidly confirmed by the cultivation of the fungus.

Only one explanation was possible: in the preceding months, over a period of several weeks, Lutembacher and I had studied the first intradermal reactions of sporotrichosis and we had macerated cultures of Sporotrichum in an agate mortar. Obviously, the entire laboratory was contaminated with the fungus. I suspect a similar explanation applies to the case described by Jeanselme. It is certain that a laboratory in which Sporotrichum has been handled without any ill-effects can be contaminated with the parasite.

I am surprised at the actual relative rarity of sporotrichosis when compared with the frequency with which it is observed once one begins to study it. For example, at Strasbourg, where I have given an annual lecture on mycoses and where I have waited impatiently to show the first case to my students, I have not seen a single case of sporotrichosis in nine years. I am asking myself whether over the years the manipulation of the mold by us did not contribute to a few cases of that mycosis.