

# **SYPHILIS AND OTHER VENEREAL DISEASES**

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Syphilis and Other Venereal Diseases by H. De Méric

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AND OTHER  
VENEREAL DISEASES

BY

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## P R E F A C E

In this country medical men display some diffidence in publishing works on venereal diseases, and the tone of most books on the subject in English is almost apologetic. I could never quite understand the reason of this, as I have always considered it the duty of the surgeon to regard venereal maladies from the scientific and medical point of view, and from that of a medical man endeavouring to treat diseases the ultimate results of which may influence in such a marked manner the future health of the individual. For these reasons I have thought it well in my writings to exclude the moral and religious side of the question, which scarcely comes within the province of the profession of medicine. Again, surgeons often appear to think venereal lesions on the genitals in hospital cases altogether beneath their notice, quite forgetting the importance to the patient of a correct diagnosis, and also the difficulties they are preparing for themselves when brought face to face with the same diseases in private practice. For my own part, I have always been of opinion that the most insignificant venereal lesion is instructive and worthy of study.

In the following pages I have endeavoured to set down in as concise and practical a manner as possible the results of my observations on venereal diseases both in private practice and at the French Hospital in London. I trust this small work will help to elucidate certain points which, though often unnoticed, are, however, of great value in the consideration of diseases affecting not only the patient perhaps for his or her

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whole life, but also very probably, if not checked by proper treatment, pursuing their disastrous course in his or her descendants. I hope, too, that the perusal of my remarks will tend to throw a little light on some questions, the solving of which has always appeared slightly nebulous.

My 'Notes on Venereal Diseases,' published in 1889, form the nucleus of the present work, but I have added considerably to the text, and have made many additions, notably the last two chapters, one on the Prophylaxis of Syphilis, the other on the Contagious Diseases Acts.

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13, NOTTINGHAM TERRACE,  
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July, 1901.



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# SYPHILIS AND OTHER VENEREAL DISEASES

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## CHAPTER I

### GENERAL CONSIDERATION OF VENEREAL CHANCRES

IN the consideration and study of venereal chancres the surgeon evidently must divide them into two groups: (1) Those which are commonly called 'soft' sores, and (2) those which are generally denominated 'hard' sores.

This division, which used to be spoken of as the 'duality' theory, can now be regarded as an established fact, which may be proved by the experiments that have been brought forward from Bassereau to Ricord downwards, and that I myself have often verified (*vide* cases originally published in *Medical Times and Gazette*).

Great confusion, however, must be caused by the employment of the phrase 'duality of *syphilis*.' There cannot be a duality of *syphilis*, syphilis being a constitutional disease by itself; but there is a duality of *venereal chancres*, which are divided, as before stated, into: (1) 'Soft,' or simple local sores; and (2) 'hard,' or syphilitic chancre.

That these terms 'soft' and 'hard' are very misleading both to the student and practitioner, I will endeavour to prove further on. The great and important fact we must always bear in mind with regard to venereal sores is, that the so-called 'soft' sores constitute simply a local disease, not affecting the general system, and that they are nearly always very difficult to heal; whilst the so-called 'hard' chancre is merely a local