

**FOCAL INFECTION:
THE LANE MEDICAL
LECTURES**

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Focal Infection: The Lane Medical Lectures by Frank Billings

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THE LANE MEDICAL LECTURES

BY

FRANK BILLINGS, Sc.D. (Harv.), M.D.



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INTRODUCTION

The importance of the etiologic relation of Focal Infection to Systemic Diseases has been a subject of study in the clinical material of Rush Medical College, in affiliation with the University of Chicago and the Presbyterian Hospital for the past twelve or more years.

As the study progressed, the attention and cooperation of clinicians and laboratory workers were aroused and developed into a scheme of "team work." This esprit de corps eventually embraced the nursing staff and the patients. Real clinical research was made possible by this cooperative spirit. Living morbid tissues were obtained at surgical operations and also from other patients, who submitted voluntarily and in many instances requested the removal, when necessary under local or general gas anesthesia, of bits of infected tissue (muscle, capsule of joints, lymph nodes, erythematous nodes, fibrous nodes of tendons) of exudates and of the blood, for experimental purposes.

Histologic and bacteriologic studies of this material were made. Animal inoculation was carried on and the lesions of the experimental animals were studied and compared with the morbid human tissues which were the source of the investigation.

Eventually the Memorial Institute for Infectious Diseases, the Otho S. A. Sprague Memorial Institute and the Pathological and Research Department of St. Luke's Free Hospital of Chicago cooperated in the work.

The conclusions based upon the research were not made until a critical survey of the work and the results were investigated

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by other qualified clinicians, pathologists and research workers.

I may not name, because of want of space, all who have cooperated in the team work, which has made the research a practical success and has opened up a broad field for a more extended study along similar lines. To my clinical colleagues in the college and hospital I extend my grateful thanks. Professors L. Hektoen, E. R. LeCount and H. Gideon Wells have been of invaluable aid to all of us, with advice always helpful though sometimes critical. The members of the house staff have rendered invaluable help by a tireless and enthusiastic bedside and clinical laboratory service. Many of these internes have continued in the work as clinicians, pathologists and clinical bacteriologists. Drs. D. J. Davis, R. T. Woodyatt, H. K. Nicoll, W. E. Post, E. E. Irons, A. M. Moody, F. W. Gaarde, J. J. Moore, and George H. Coleman have done notable work in bacteriology, chemistry, and in experiments upon animals.

The broad significance of the relation of focal infection to systemic disease has been made more definite by the brilliant work of Edward C. Rosenow, who joined the clinic in 1904.

These lectures, therefore, represent the cooperative study of many workers. I have made free use of the results of the labors of all who have aided in the work and I am proud to be their spokesman.

FRANK BILLINGS.

CONTENTS

LECTURE	PAGE
I. A GENERAL CONSIDERATION OF FOCAL INFECTION . . .	1
Site of Primary Foci—Etiology of Focal Infection—Susceptibility to Systemic and Local Diseases from the Focus of Infection—Greater Susceptibility to Systemic Disease from a Focal Infection Undoubtedly Occurs—The Diagnosis of the Focus of Infection—Mode of Dissemination of Bacteria and Toxic Products from the Focus of Infection—Focal Infection and Anaphylaxis.	
II. THE STREPTOCOCCUS-PNEUMOCOCCUS GROUP. TRANSMUTABILITY OF THE MEMBERS THEREOF. PATHOGENICITY AND SPECIFIC TISSUE AFFINITY OF TRANSMUTATION FORMS	26
Transmutation Within the Members of the Streptococcus-Pneumococcus Group.	
III. ACUTE DISEASES RELATED TO FOCAL INFECTION . . .	48
Acute Rheumatic Fever—Rheumatic Endocarditis, Myocarditis and Pericarditis—Chorea—Acute Systemic, Gonococcus Infection—Malignant Endocarditis—Acute Nephritis—Acute Appendicitis—Cholecystitis—Acute Gastric and Duodenal Ulcer—Acute Pancreatitis—Erythema Nodosum Herpes—Spinal Myelitis—Acute Osteomyelitis—Thyroiditis—Iridocyclitis.	
IV. CHRONIC DISEASES RELATED TO FOCAL INFECTION . . .	107
Chronic Infectious Arthritis—Chronic Infectious Nephritis—Chronic Cholecystitis—Chronic Peptic Ulcer—Chronic Infectious Endocarditis.	

CONTENTS

LECTURE	PAGE
V. TREATMENT	127
Focal Infection—Treatment of Resulting Acute and Chronic Systemic Diseases—Serum and Vaccine Ther- apy.	
BIBLIOGRAPHY	159