

Collings (H. P.)

Report of a case of  
reinfection of syphilis.

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REPORT OF A CASE OF REINFECTION OF SYPHILIS.\*

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*Compliments of*

**I**N consideration of the fact that there are so few authentic cases of reinfection of syphilis on record, and that so many of the great syphilographers of this country and abroad say in their writings that they have never seen such a case, I feel justified in placing this one on record.

The patient, Fred C., aged twenty-eight years, single, a miner by occupation, came to me a year ago and gave a history then of having had a chancre eight years previous, followed by secondary manifestations. The resultant scar of the chancre is located on the dorsal surface of the penis to the right of the median line, and about one half inch from the corona glandis. The patient is a very intelligent man, and gives a perfectly clear history. The chancre appeared twenty-one days after intercourse, and this in turn was followed by a roseolar rash over the body, alopecia, and mucous patches in the mouth and throat. In all, his treatment extended over two years, during which time he made two trips to the Springs, taking a thorough mercurial course, in conjunction with the baths and under the direction of competent physicians whom you all know. During the first eighteen months of the disease he had mucous patches in his mouth and throat a good part of the time.

After the lapse of two years from the appearance of the chancre he went west to the Pacific slope, and for six years he remained absolutely free from any syphilitic manifestation. When I saw him a year ago he had some rheumatic pains, which I thought due to his occupation—mining—and prescribed for him accordingly, with relief. I could then find no evidence of syphilis whatever.

\* Reported to the Hot Springs Medical Society, January 7, 1896, with exhibition of patient.



He came to my office again the second of last month and gave the following history: About August 1st last, nearly nine years after the first chancre and twenty-eight days after exposure, there appeared a chancre on the dorsal surface of the penis one half inch from the corona, to the left of the median line, the scar of which can be plainly seen and felt now. Six weeks from the appearance of the sore mucous patches developed about the anus, to which he applied various salves without relief. Two weeks later, or about two months after the appearance of the chancre, an eruption appeared on the scalp. These spots were present when I saw him, and were as large as a one-cent piece and moist. At the end of the tenth week a mucous patch developed on the under surface of the tongue to the left of the frenum. This has disappeared under treatment, but there is now one plainly seen on the tip of the tongue. Toward the close of the thirteenth week there developed two spots on the left calf and one over the right gluteal region. These were as large as a silver twenty-five-cent piece, dark, excoriated, and moist, and, while they are now healed perfectly, they are still considerably pigmented.

When I saw him at the beginning of the seventeenth week of the disease, the epitrochlear glands, the suboccipital, and these in the inguinal region were markedly enlarged.

This I believe to be a true case of reinfection of syphilis, and, although we all see a great number of syphilitic patients here, this is the only one I have seen which has shown positive evidences to me of a reinfection.







