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Effects of inoculating monilia isolated from psoriatic patients into human beings.**By MOYER S. FLEISHER.**

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It has been shown by Fleisher and Wachowiak¹ that monilia or monilia-like organisms were found in 85 per cent of the stools of psoriatics, that similar or identical organisms could be cultivated or demonstrated in the skin scrapings in 35 per cent of cases, and that these organisms were present in the blood in 14 per cent of cases. However, in normal individuals such organisms were found in only 6 per cent of the stools, and in our series never on the skin or in the blood. Furthermore, the injection of an emulsion of the killed organisms led, in a certain number of intractable cases, to a startling and rapid clearing of the lesions. Efforts had also been made to reproduce the disease (skin lesions) in rabbits, guinea pigs and dogs, but without success. We believed that this evidence suggested very strongly that there exists some etiological relationship between the monilia and the occurrence of psoriatic lesions.

Recently I have studied the effects of applying the monilia isolated from cases of psoriasis to abraded surfaces of the skin of human beings.

In normal individuals, two small areas, 2 to 3 mm. square on the upper arm were denuded of the superficial layers of epidermis. One area served as control and this healed rapidly, being practically indistinguishable from the surrounding uninjured skin, after about eighteen to twenty days; at no time was desquamation or scaling noted on or about these control areas. To the other areas there was applied a drop of a mixed emulsion of live monilia. Here a scab formed which persisted for about two weeks, and usually during this period there was a varying degree of itching. In the second week scaling usually appeared about the scab. After the scab fell off there was left a dull reddened area, the redness persisting until the end of the third week

¹ Fleisher and Wachowiak, *Arch. of Dermat. and Syph.* In press.

or a little later. This area (larger than the scarified area) showed in every case a scaling or desquamation through the fourth week and in some cases even longer. After the fifth or sixth week practically all traces of the inoculation had disappeared.

Monilia were isolated from the scales from two of the eight inoculated individuals after eighteen and twenty-one days respectively; at later periods the organisms could not be demonstrated.

It appears then from these experiments that monilia may stimulate the epidermis to an activity which at least in part simulates that noted in psoriasis.

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Physical-chemical changes of the blood in thyroidectomized guinea pigs.

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As far as we have been able to learn, no studies have been made of the surface tension of the blood in thyroidectomized animals. In the course of a series of experiments it became essential to study the surface tension of the plasma of such animals.

We removed the thyroids of a number of guinea pigs and determined the surface tension of the plasma at various periods after operation.

We used the DuNouy Tensiometer for making surface tension determinations. The animals were bled from the carotid artery through a cannula into tubes containing one per cent sodium oxalate. One part of oxalate solution to nine parts of blood was used throughout the entire series. Several experiments were made to determine the effect of different quantities of oxalate solution, and these showed that, within reasonable limits, dilution of blood with varying quantities of oxalate did not appreciably alter the surface tension.