Comparative study of current clinical photographs and classic descriptions of the “Traité de la Syphilis (1888), by Professor Alfred Fournier.

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Dermatologists of today are indebted to Prof. A. Fournier. His contributions are numbered Among his original descriptions, one can mention the life threatening *gangrene foudroyante de la verge* which bares his name (1883). Other descriptions include *vacciniform herpes in infants*, *recurrent buccal herpes*, and drug eruptions due to antipyrine, mercurial and iodide therapies. *Chef de Service* to *Hôpital Saint-Louis* , he were in the very world forefront in the fight of sexually transmitted ailments in his time. One of singularities was the accuracy of his meticulous and accurate clinical descriptions which, we believe, Dermatologists must use as a very rewarding way to a learning experience.

La syphilis est une maladie spécifique de caractère infectieux ; — exclusivement propre à l'espèce humaine ; — importée dans l'orga-

* Its definition of the disease: “Syphilis is a specific disease of infectious character which belongs exclusively to the human species; - it is imported to the organism by contagion or by heredity*, - it’s evolution is chronic, and it’s duration undefined ; - essentially intermittent in its manifestations; - and constituted buy a innumerable series of symptoms or lesions, which can appear in n forms aturally very diverse, and also very variable in its severity and *interessar tous les systèmes de l’economy* (all systems of the organism).

SECOND ENTR'ACTE : Nouveau repos apparent de l'organisme. — La lésion primitive continue à rester le seul phénomène par lequel s'accuse la maladie. — C'est là le stade que l'on qualifie du nom de *seconde incubation*.

TROISIÈME ACTE : *Explosion de symptômes multiples et disséminés, en dehors du siège où s'est exercée la contagion* (symptômes dits *con-*

Several times in his book we found a picturesque almost poethic form of writiing like this part were he compares the clinical manifestaitons of syphilis with the acts of a theater play

revient d'un long voyage qui a duré quatre à cinq mois et pendant lequel il a été « absolument vertueux ». Mais, de retour à Marseille, il s'est largement « dédommagé » le premier jour de son débarquement, et c'est *quatre jours* après (sans erreur) qu'a débuté la lésion pour laquelle il réclame mon avis. Eh bien, avant même d'avoir examiné cette lésion, j'étais autorisé à répondre à mon client ce que je lui répondis, à savoir: « Je ne sais encore ce qu'est la lésion que

He is also a master of the art of picturesque storytelling: “
...returning from a long journey, which lasted four or five months, during which she was completely *virtuous*. ... And, indeed, the event was not more than a “chancre simple” (chancroid) .

Brazil has an hyperendemic level of syphilis with cases became an event seen in Dermatology and STD Clinics daily. Pictures are taken in the city of Manaus and Porto Alegre

His description of the *chancre* is very detailed, even classifying different types of lesions, and types of indurations. He insists that it is a *neoplasm* (because of cell infiltration) that in its evolution loses it’s epithelium . Seldom it is ulcerated.

... toujours le chancre, dans sa période d'état, se présente avec une surface à vif, suivant l'expression vulgaire, c'est-à-dire dénudée, dépourvue d'épiderme ou d'épithélium.

chasse aux ganglions, *courir sus aux ganglions* », comme disait Ricord. Car, ajoutait encore ce maître, « l'adénopathie est pour le chancre l'effet qui suit la cause. Eh bien, remontez à la cause par

Fournier , several times, pays homage to his master Ricord. Stressing that the adenopathy is firm, aphlegmastic and always reveals the entry site of the *germe de la syphilis*. Ricord even calls it *the string of Ariane*

Au total, de quoi se compose donc cette période secondaire que nous nous préparons à étudier? De ceci, sommairement : Pour une part ultra-prédominante, manifestations intéressant le système léguminaire, à savoir : la peau, sous forme de dermatoses

In the section devoted to the secondary phase of syphilis he mentions the presentations of *roseola* (macular), mucous patches, syphilides papulous, papulo-hypertrophic (*codilomata lata*), palmoplantar , ulcerated, and nodular

Au niveau des orteils, l'éruption se convertit presque toujours en une lésion humide, érosive, sécrétante, ce qui est dû au contact réci-

Condilomata lata can occur in any intertriginous areas. They are much more frequent at the genital region, but can also occur in the interdigital space as we had the oportunity of see.

•Authors’ note: the belief at the time was that it could pass through the
• semen of a diseased father, even if the mother was not infected.