2. SYPHILIS

The origins of this dreaded disease are obscure and are a continuing source of controversy. However, its disastrous effect are indisputable; its numerous victims are beyond counting.

2.1 ORIGINS
2.1.1 EARLY REFERENCES

A lack of medical knowledge by Biblical authors...

However, the following references to syphilis are quite specific:

Exodus 20:4 in referring to the Third Commandment, "... the iniquity of the fathers would be visited on the children unto the third and fourth generations."

Syphilis is congenital; leprosy is not.
2.1.1 EARLY REFERENCES

Exodus 9:8-11 and Deuteronomy 28:27, 28, 35 and 59 refer to two plagues of syphilis - the best known being the one brought down by Moses on Ramses II and the Egyptians.

Jeremiah 31:29 "The fathers have eaten a sour grape and the children's teeth are set on edge."

Refers to Hutchinson's teeth found only in congenital syphilisics.

The 38th Psalm strongly suggests that the prophet king David was syphilitic.

38:3 There is no soundness in my flesh... and no health in my bones...
38:5 My wounds grow foul and fester...
38:7 My loins are filled with burning...
38:11 My friends and companions stand aloof from my plague...
2.1.1 EARLY REFERENCES

The Bible continues with the following references ...

Isaiah 3:17
"The Lord will smite with a scab the heads of the daughters of Zion..."
Refers to possible syphilitic sores.

Isaiah 3:24
"...instead of well-set hair, baldness,"
A reference to syphilitic alopecia.

St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 10:8 refers to earlier V.D. plagues in the Old Testament and associates them with fornication.

Matthew 2:16 tells of the syphilitic paranoia and insanity of Herod of Judea, e.g., Flight into Egypt - due to Herod's order that male children two years and younger be killed.
References to syphilis can also be found in the writings of other civilizations.

The Ebers & Hurst papyri mention skin diseases that appear syphilitic.

Early Chinese physicians (possibly to 2000 B.C.) could differentiate between the soft chancre of chancroid and the hard chancre of syphilis and were knowledgeable of the congenital transmission of syphilis.

Hua To, Physician
(ca. 300 A.D.)

Sun Szu-miao
Physician (ca. 700 A.D.)

Li Shih Chen (1518-93)
Physician and Pharmacologist

The ancient Sanskrit Vedic scripts tell of the punishment of Siva whose genitalia were destroyed by gangrene and who avenged himself by giving the terrible disease to women in order to "... set the whole world on fire..."
2.1.2 COLUMBIAN THEORY

In the mid 1490's, the first known and well-recorded syphilis epidemic swept through Europe. Many have attempted to prove that the 'new' disease was brought by Columbus and his crew... from Hispaniola... in the New World... and across the Atlantic Ocean to the European continent.
2.1.2 COLUMBIAN THEORY

Columbian theory advocates claim that pre-Columbian syphilitic bones have been found at archaeological sites in:

- American Southwest
- Ohio

... whereas few Old World bones show definite syphilitic symptoms.

2.2 GREAT EPIDEMIC

In 1495 the debauched mercenary army of Charles VIII of France began a disorganized retreat from Naples and spread a well-recorded plague of syphilis throughout Europe. By the time of this map (1563), syphilis had conquered the European continent.
2.2 GREAT EPIDEMIC

Portuguese records show that the syphilis epidemic was spread by Vasco de Gama...

Padre Manoel da Nobrega wrote in 1550 "... here in Brasil, a lot of the men die with the mal galico ...

Gilberto Freyre's study CASA GRANDE E SENZALA (MASTERS AND SLAVES) noted that, "... Brasil was syphilitized, then civilized ...

...and to its American colony of Brasil.

Map of 1568

Issued Imperf Only
2.2 GREAT EPIDEMIC

Let us leave the debate on the origins of syphilis to others.

As Voltaire said:

*The venereal diseases are like the fine arts. It is useless to argue their origins.*

*The first fruit the Spanish brought back from the New World was syphilis.*

A NAME

The word 'syphilis' was coined by the Italian physician Giralomo Fracastor in 1530 both for the disease and the name of the shepherd in his poem *SYPHILIS SIVE MORBUS GALlicus*. Sixteen years later, he published his serious medical work, *DE CONTAGIONE*. Both works are noted for the accuracy of the clinical observations.

Syphilis - probably from the Greek

$\sigma\varsigma$ (pig)

$\phi\lambda\varsigma$ (lover)

Horizontal Pair Imperforate Vertically
2.3 TREATMENTS

Mercury or quicksilver (Hg), in a variety of forms, was the most popular treatment for over 400 years. Obtained from cinnabar ore throughout the world.

Another early popular treatment, commented on extensively by Fracastor, was guiac—or guiacum, the holy wood (*Lignum vitae*), found only in the New World.

Guiac was almost as ‘effective’ as mercury but without the gruesome side effects.
2.3 TREATMENTS

Mercury poisoning was a major problem. Swaim's Panacea in the U.S.A. and Rasilla Extract in Great Britain promised relief for those undergoing mercury treatment.

...Rasilla Extract in Great Britain promised relief for those undergoing mercury treatment.

---

Private Die Proprietary Medicine Tax Stamp

---

Learn the Rudiments of Music, (Piano, Organ, Harmonium, or Singing) For Sixpence, Or by Post 6d.

The First Introduction to Music. As simple as ABC. Success certain in an amazingly short time.

To be had direct from the Publisher, 13, Furnival St., Holborn, E.C.

The Rev. C. H. SPURGEON

In Acknowledging

Winfield's Anti-Rheumatic Oils,

For Chest Complaints, Chilblains (before broken), Gout, Rheumatism, Strains, Bruises, in fact for outward application for pains of any description, says—"They are most valuable in cases of Colds and Rheumatism, and many of the children have found great benefit from the use of them."

1/2 and 9d. of all Patent Medicine Vendors, Chemists, and Stores, or free by parcel post at these prices, from P. Gray, Frances Street, Waterloo Road, London, S.E.

Rasilla Extract

The celebrated Remedy for all Skin and Blood Diseases, including Mercurial Poisoning, Rheumatism, Sciatica, Gout, Scurvy, Eczema, Glandular Swellings, and Sores of all kinds.

The Extract acts as a mild tonic, and by building up the system enables even the most delicate to withstand the insidious attacks of disease.

Cleanse your Blood at any time you feel it is foul, more especially during Spring and Autumn—the health of the system is sure to follow.

Rasilla Extract is agreeable to take, and is guaranteed to contain nothing injurious to the constitution of either sex.—Price, 2s. 9d. per Bottle.

To be obtained from Ernest & Co., 12a, Finsbury Square, London, E.C.

---

Anglo-Colonial Letter Co., Ltd.
Sixth London Issue June, 1889
Selling price of 3/-4 pence
1 penny letter rate

...even though a major part of Swaim's was HgCl and the contents of Rasilla Extract are still a mystery.
Let us finish our discussion of quicksilver or mercury with the following English pun:

"A night with Venus, a lifetime with Mercury."

Quackery reached its peak near the turn of the century. British sufferers could try a variety of patent medicines such as:

ELLIMAN’S UNIVERSAL EMBROCATION.

A Frenchman (or woman) in 1890 could use Dr. Marolles CURE as shown on the reverse of this advertising letter sheet.

CURE for syphilis and virulent diseases of skin & blood,
maladies of the genito-urinary tract (both sexes)
2.3 TREATMENT

American quack remedies and treatments were publicized on brochures, pamphlets, and trade cards of all kinds.

Blood purifiers to cure syphilis were offered to a gullible public - two examples for your viewing pleasure...

The National Remedy Company published this multi-page brochure which offered a variety of quack cures for almost any real or imaginary disease and ailment.

In addition to syphilis and scrofula, Dr. John Tripp's Blood Purifier was 'a certain cure for diabetes, ovarian tumors, Bright's disease, and all blood poisons.'
The makers of *Syphilol* were careful to register their brand name and trademark with the Secretary of Commerce in Minas Gerais, Brasil in 1920 on these documents.

Partial 90% full size copy of reverse of document on next page.
2.3 TREATMENTS

Some of the more unusual treatments included:

... from the mineral world, gold chloride, highly toxic, dangerous, expensive and of little therapeutic value.

Gold Hill, Nev. (Territory) 24 March circa 1871

... and from the world of the bizarre - sexual intercourse with a virgin. This dangerous myth persisted through the 19th century and persists in parts of Africa as a cure for AIDS.

Post Office Name Inverted

... and finally from the plant world ...

tiny and tasty pistachio nuts
chocolate from the cacao plant
the world's largest nut, the exotic *coco de mer*
and chlamoogra oil (a leprosy treatment)
2.3 TREATMENTS

... and a sampling of treatments from around the world...

... like MIRION (also good for chronic gonorrhea) on this 1931 Austrian ad card...

![Image of MIRION ad card](image1)

... or Veto for men from Mexico...

![Image of Veto ad card](image2)

60 centavo Air Rate to Hungary via Strasbourg and Paris
7 days transit from Mexico City to France; 30 days transit France to Hungary!
2.3 TREATMENTS
Bertelli Specialty Pharmaceuticals of Milan issued this booklet of coupons circa 1915 to induce doctors to purchase their remedies, several especially for the suffers of gonorrhea, syphilis, and associated problems.

Booklet consists of: folded covers; 2 folded information sheets; fifteen panes of coupons.

SPECIALITÀ FARMACEUTICHE BERTELLI
da usufruire a mezzo dei BONI SPECIALI contenuti nel presente libretto e rilasciati ai signori Medici per facilitare le esperienze presso la Clientela meno provvista di mezzi di fortuna

SAPOL al SUBLIMATO CORROSIVO (1 %)
Al contrario di quasi tutti gli altri saponi in commercio, qualificati «al Sublimato Corrosivo» e nei quali il bichloruro di mercurio si trasforma in sali insolubili oppure in altri solubili, ma di nessuna efficacia antisettica, ecco quanto riferisce sul nostro SAPOL il chissà quale Perito Chimico Igienista, Prof. Dottor P. E. Alessandri, della R. Università di Pavia: «...mentre il SAPOL Bertelli è indiscutibilmente superiore, sotto ogni rapporto chimico e igienico, a tutti gli altri saponi al sublimato che ho avuto occasione di esaminare; dai dati analitici si riscontra in esso un sale di mercurio AL MASSIMO, che è poi Sublimato Corrosivo».

Preparati in pezzi, ed anche in DISCHETTI TASCABILI (vedi pag. seguente). — Questi dischetti di SAPOL, sono una nuovissima e geniale preparazione, che permette al Sanitario di tenere con sé e usare, in ogni evenienza, il sapone sotto forma appunto di dischetti, che vengono preparati, oltre che al Sublimato Corrosivo 1 %, anche al Cresolo, alla Formalina e all’Acido Fenico.

PASTIGLIE di CATRAMINA BERTELLI
Con questo riuscissimo preparato, abbiamo inteso di offrire ai signori Medici un mezzo di più per accontentare Signore e bambini e tutte le persone dal palato estremamente delicato, pur avendo mantenuto nelle nostre PASTIGLIE tutti i preziosi requisiti antisettici - balneo e cal.

Preparati Vegetali Bertelli (Italiani) (sotto forma di pillole o di amaro-liquido) a base di estratti di coloquintide, cascara, arnica, res. di scammony, ecc., sono di azione aperitiva e risolvente, per cui si preferiscono nella cura di cola l'addome e gastro-enteriti; nelle alterazioni dovute a forme epatiche; nei processi emorroidari, e in tutte le manifestazioni che si collegano o seguono.

Marzialine Bertelli (pillole di joduro di ferro al minimo, gelatinizzato, inalterabile, solubile, 5 cent. per pillola). Indicassimile contro anemia, linfomatosi, disturbi nervosi generali, alterazioni mestruali, difetti di sviluppo, convalescenze.

Feroliche Bertelli (gocce stricno-ferro-manganiche-arsenicali, accuratamente titolate; ogni dieci gocce contengono: citrato di ferro milligr. 100; di manganese id. 12 1/2; acido arsenioso id. 2 1/2; p. attiva della noce vomica id. 0,2). Indicassimile nella cura delle cloro-anemie, isterismo da cause esaurienti, distruzione; e in tutte le forme ove la semplice cura del ferro non riesce sufficiente.

Santaline Bertelli (olivette gelatinose d’olio di sandalo vergine, composto). Antigonorroiche, antiblenorragiche; curano prontissimamente e stabilmente. Insaporite, inalterabili, solubilissime, di nessun disturbo allo stomaco, né agli intestini; non nauseano, non impediscono la digestione.
2.3 TREATMENTS

16 different coupon stamps issued in 15 panes of 10 stamps; several panes printed se-tenant.

**INIEZIONI TIOAL** - for gonorrhea.

**SANTALINE** - A fast and sure treatment for gonorrhea and blenorrhea.

**GLOBULI DR. TAYLOR** - for spermatorrhea and impotence.

**GOCCIE IMPERIALI** - for syphilis and skin problems.
Is your glandular apparatus functioning correctly?
If not, see Naina Mohamed & Sons in Kular Lumpur, Malaya for...

Sole Agents:

FOR DR. GEORG HENNING’S
GLANDULAR PREPARATIONS
& OTHER REMEDIES.

OBTAINABLE AT ALL DISPENSARIES.

Every man—
Every woman.
Strives for prosperity,
longs for good luck and only
too frequently in vain, because
their Glandular apparatus does.

not function
correctly and
Consequently their cap-
bility for affections, their
vigour is stunted

THEY CAN
REGAIN
COMPLETELY
ALL
THEIR
POSSIBILITY
BY MEANS
OF THE
GLAND
PREPARA-
TIONS.

Kuala Lumpur, F.M.S. 12-August 1935

Brasilians in Curitiba could visit the CLINEDOM of Dr. Orlando Martinez.

C L I N E D O M
CLÍNICA NOTURNA ESPECIALIZADA DR. ORLANDO MARTINEZ
REUMATISMOS, VARIZES, ULCERAS E HEMORROIDAS
Enfermedades sexuales venéreas e não venéreas em ambos os sexos.
DISTÚRBIOS FUNCIONAIS DA SEXUALIDADE

Impotência, ejaculação precoce, espermatorreia, poluições noturnas, prosta-
dilatado, Estérilidade nas casais, perturbações menstruais, insuficiência ovaria-
nna, amenorreias, menstruações dolorosas, anomalias do desenvolvimento sexual,
leucorreias, neurastenia sexual, distúrbios de menopausa. Frieza sexual.

PENCILINOTERAPIA EM DÓSES MASSIÇAS (uma semana) PARA A
Cura da Sífilis, Gonorreia e suas consequências.

Ondas curtas, Diafanoscopia, Uretroscopia, Ultra-Violeta, Infra-ver-
melho, Ionização, Alta-Frequência, Correntes Faradica e Galvânica.

HORÁRIO: — das 9 às 12 e das 19 às 23 horas
Aos sábados: — Consultas reservadas
R. 15 de Nov. 526 - Edif. E. Wendler, 4.º and. - apart. 44 - Fone, 3357 - Caixa Postal, 50

Curitiba, Parana 27-October 1930
2.3 TREATMENTS

Traditional Chinese medicine usually treats the whole body compared to Western medicine which treats the symptom or the disease. Its abilities to treat those afflicted with venereal type complaints...

Traditional Chinese Medicine

... was aided by medical texts (above) printed by block type (left) as illustrated on these postal cards. Both cards bilingual for international use.

Herbal, quack, and patent remedies like BILLON for syphilis later became popular. Labels here frequently confused for airmail stamps.

Labels read as follows:
Top: French Pi Lung Family, 914. (BILLON = Pi Lung)
Bottom: Radical Treatment for Syphilis - Holy Medicine.
Across Globe: Sold Everywhere Throughout the World.
2.3 TREATMENTS

Spas, hot springs, and baths provided relief for generations of aching syphilitic bones...

... and provided discreet meeting places for sexual liaisons for the wealthy.

Turn-of-the-century Germans used the sauna/steam bath shown on this printed-to-private-order advertising envelope to cook and to cure their syphilitic bodies.

It was a predecessor to the later and more successful fever therapy.

Note the ad in the lower right corner for ‘French rubber articles’, i.e., sex toys.
2.3 TREATMENTS

Early American colonists had little guidance in medical matters until 1730 when the first self-care manual in the Colonies was published, *EVERY MAN HIS OWN DOCTOR* or *THE POOR PLANTER'S PHYSICIAN*.

The 'cure' for yaws and syphilis (both caused by spirochetes) consisted of the following:

I. A brew of sumac root, inner bark of pine, and bark of Spanish oak.

II. Pills of deer dung and turpentine in equal quantities.

Not all patients were happy with the treatments and promised cures from their physicians.

"... about the visiting, curing, and healing of a certain decease commonly called the French Pox wherewith the aforesaid Daniel had long before languished..."
2.4 MEDICAL RESEARCH

Early medical research concentrated on mercury 'cures' and treatments.

1443 - Nicolas Rolin and Guisone de Salin founded first 'modern' hospital, Hotel Die de Beaune.

It and St. Denis in Paris could offer basic palliative care and mercurial rubs for syphilis patients.

Progress in analyzing and treating the disease from 1500 onward was slow....

Johannes Wier tried to prevent the syphilitic insane from being burned as witches.

Ambrose Pare recognized congenital syphilis.

Herman Boerhaave analyzed the disease in his Aphorisms.

J. Baptiste van Helmont noted sodomy as means of syphilis transmission.

Gerhard van Swieten used HgCl in his Liquor Swietanii treatment.

Wojciech Oczko & Sebastian Petrycy wrote on syphilis and pioneered early treatments.
Progress in understanding and controlling syphilis would have been impossible without the 'germ theory' as suggested by Augustino Bassi, Pierre-Fidele Bretonneau, and Aloys Pollender... and later verified by the great Louis Pasteur... and by Robert Koch and their followers.
2.4 MEDICAL RESEARCH

Researchers and scientists of many nationalities contribute in the war against syphilis...

Rudolf Virchow determined the pathology of syphilis and explained clinical variations in the latent and active stages.

Ferdinand Ritter von Hebra of Viennese school wrote many works on syphilis and dermatology.

Jean Martin-Charcot, neurologist and known for Charcot's joints found in some syphilitics.

Vladimir Bechterev researched neurosyphilis extensively.

David Livingstone is noted for distinguishing between yaws and syphilis - both caused by spirochetes.
2.4 MEDICAL RESEARCH

The lack of a suitable animal model slowed progress. Then in 1903, Ilya Metchnikoff and Emile Roux conducted the first successful experiments on animals...

who was first to exhibit secondary symptoms, collarette of Biett. Later research is on goats, then finally on rabbits, and monkeys.

Although Metchnikoff is extensively honored by Russia, his most productive work was done in Paris.
2.4 MEDICAL RESEARCH

The new century brought rapid progress in the age-old battle against syphilis.

1905 Jules Bordet develops a complement fixation test for syphilis but fails to publish the results.

1906 August Wasserman, using Bordet's theories and a fortuitous mistake, develops first diagnostic blood test for syphilis. He publishes his results and thereby becomes famous for the popular test.

Karl Landsteiner, better known for discovering Rh blood types, was the first to view spirochetes using a dark field microscope.

Sir Wm. Osler Authored *The System of Medicine*.

Hideyo Noguchi, noted microbiologist, studies of spirochetes and treponema were highpoint of a brilliant career.

Alfred Fournier devoted his medical career to the battle against the dreaded disease and founded the Society for Moral and Sanitary Prophylaxis, 1909.

Hulusi Behçet, brilliant dermatologist, wrote 196 scientific papers and the definitive work, *The Clinical and Practical Diagnosis of Syphilis and Similar Skin Diseases.*
One patient named Barkington must have been relieved to get the following results from his Wasserman test. By 1927, several other tests for syphilis had been developed - the most popular being the Kahn precipitation test.

The specimen gives the following results by the complement fixation (Wasserman) test:

- Non-cholesterinized alcoholic antigen: **NEGATIVE**
- Cholesterinized alcoholic antigen: **NEGATIVE**

The specimen gives the following results by the Kahn precipitation test:

**INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS.**

- The test is negative for syphilis.
- ± or † or ‡ ± The reaction is slight, of doubtful significance.
- 2+ Reaction partial. These reactions indicate the presence of the disease.
- 3+ Reaction nearly complete. These reactions indicate the presence of the disease.
- 4+ Reaction complete. These reactions indicate the presence of the disease.

Except in the secondary stage of the disease, a negative reaction does not exclude syphilis. In the primary stage, in the late stages, in congenital syphilis, and in cases under treatment, negative results or only slight reactions are quite common. The ingestion of alcohol within 48 hours prior to the collection of the blood may interfere with the test. **In all doubtful cases, confirmatory specimens should be sent.**

Approved by ..............................................
Checked by ..............................................

Friend Lee Mickle, A. B., M. S.
Director, Bureau of Laboratories

More information on testing is in a following chapter.
2.4 MEDICAL RESEARCH

A CURE AT LAST!

1907 - Paul Ehrlich & Sahachiro Hata discover SALVARSAN, the 606th preparation tested and an arsenical compound; the age of chemotherapy begins; Ehrlich is awarded the 1908 Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine.

Constantin Levaditi later introduced bismuth (Bi) in combination with arsenical compounds; treatments are lengthy and painful - but are successful; the use of mercury (Hg) still continues.
2.4 MEDICAL RESEARCH

With the outbreak of World War I, German patents on arsenical treatments of syphilis were voided or ignored.

The Dermatological Research Laboratories, a Division of Abbott Laboratories, produced both Arsenaphine which was identical to Ehrlich's original Salvarsan and the less toxic but similar NeoAracenaphine.

**Arsphenamine solutions must be alkalinized before injection.**

*Keep in cool place.*

**D-R-L NEOARSPHENAMINE**

*Neoarsphenamine, D.R.L.*

is an improved product of low toxicity and high potency prepared by the Dermatological Research Laboratories by processes developed through continuous research for over twenty years. It is a yellow powder freely soluble in water at room temperature and conforms with the requirements and tests prescribed by the National Institute of Health.

**TECHNIC OF PREPARATION**

Inspect ampoule and see that the powder is bright yellow in color and flows freely. To open the ampoule, first file and break off the tip to admit air. Then roll the tube and tap it slightly to break up any lumps which may have formed. File and break off the neck of the ampoule. Neoarsphenamine should be dissolved in sterile, distilled, cool water. The drug is ordinarily rapidly soluble. Avoid vigorous shaking, as this increases the toxicity of the drug. A cloudy solution should never be injected, as this may evoke an immediate reaction.

The Synthetic Drug Company of Toronto produced Novarsan (a product similar to NeoArsenaphine).
2.4 MEDICAL RESEARCH

Any of the noted Romanian dermatologists and syphilis experts at the left would have prescribed

**BIVATOL UCLARSYL**

bismuth in soluble oil and manufactured by Laboratorul Farmaceutic LUTETIA of Bucharest

(perforated initial L applied by hand and found in all orientations)

---

Levaditi

Marinescu

Davila
The Dermatological Research Laboratories produced a wide variety of anti-syphilitic drugs including the traditional arsenicals, arsenicals with bismuth, bismuth compounds, and even several mercury preparations.
1928 - Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin. 1943 - Used against syphilis for first time. Since then penicillin has been the primary cure for syphilis despite the appearance of penicillin resistant strains.

Nobel Laureate Sir Howard Florey assisted greatly in the development and mass production of the drug.
2.5 PHYSIOLOGY

Syphilis, if untreated, passes through three distinct stages:

Primary Stage -
Most common symptom is chancre at the point of infection; from here the spirochetes multiply and spread throughout body.

Secondary Stage -
characterized by very noticeable rash ....
... similar to smallpox rash on back of this lad.

These obvious skin symptoms, plus alopecia of secondary syphilis, led to the intimate involvement of dermatologists in the diagnosis and treatment of syphilis and of other venereal diseases as evidenced by these cancellations.

However, in the latent or tertiary stage of syphilis, problems include:

- damage to the heart valves, endocarditis
- blindness and ...
- neurosyphilis, general paralysis of the insane, and tabes dorsalis which can lead to confinement in an insane asylum, like the New Norfolk Hospital for the Insane.
2.5 PHYSIOLOGY

Syphilis can result in death - as evidenced by this autopsy report

THE TENNESSEE HOSPITAL, NASHVILLE, TENN.

BESIDE NOTES

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Hour</th>
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<th>P</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>Medicine and Stimulation</th>
<th>Nourishment</th>
<th>Urine</th>
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<th>Treatment and Remarks</th>
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<td>Woman, Colored</td>
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Age (not known)
Body opened, peritoneum smooth and glistening
Appendix normal
Right lung fills the pleural cavity, much distended, pale and anemic
Left lung is pressed back, caused by left pleural cavity containing considerable fluid. The left lung was also atelectatic.
Diaphragm is densely adhered to the

The report continues as follows:

Pericardial fluid distinctly turbid.
Pericardium has many petechial hemorrhages through it.
Wall of aorta shows little ridges or furrowed spots, showing that syphilis had produced lesions in the media; the fibrous tissue had contracted giving the ridged appearance.
Aorta shows aneurism which had produced pressure on the wall of the trachea, burrowed its way through the trachea wall and ruptured into the lumen of the trachea. Bronchi of the right lung were filled with blood. This was probably cause of death.

The reverse side has the following note:

Aortic Aneurism Autopsy
s/s Robt D. Ferguson
This pamphlet, produced by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, explained the course of the disease, emphasized the need for testing and patience for those undergoing a pre-penicillin cure. Thousands were distributed to its clients and the general public as part of series on good health.