A MILD FORM OF TROPICAL SORE.

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During the autumn and winter each year there has occurred in Ismailia, Moascar and Abu Sueir, a type of indolent sore which closely resembles a mild form of cutaneous leishmaniasis.

No specific organism has, however, been found microscopically either at Moascar or Abu Sueir.

The appearance of the ulceration is very similar to that described in the Memoranda on "Medical Diseases in Tropical and Sub-tropical Areas," under "oriental sore," with the exception that the edge is not raised, nor reddened to any marked degree.

Both the ulcerative and non-ulcerative forms occur, but in the latter, the skin is of a definite purplish colour. One attack does not confer immunity, and the final scab presents an unusual appearance in that it has a wart-like projection in the centre. This projection is the last part of the scab to disappear, and in some cases remains for a considerable period.

After trying various methods of treatment, not including injections of antimony tartrate, I found the application of an ointment of antimony tartrate, followed by lotio rubra, most effective. Indeed, I have had no case of failure up to the present, when the treatment was carried out as described below.

The ointment consists of two per cent. antimony tartrate in vaseline or lanoline, and is used as follows:

Hot boric fomentations are applied for twelve hours, and the ointment applied on lint in the morning. The ointment is reapplied morning and evening, four times in all, and by the end of this time, a sharp local reaction should have occurred. If this has not taken place, the treatment should be recommenced, increasing the strength of the ointment of the antimony tartrate to 2½ per cent.

In no case have I found that the application for forty-eight hours has caused any harmful effects.

After the last application of the ointment, boracic fomentations are applied for thirty-six to forty-eight hours and finally the sore is dressed with lotio rubra, until a healthy scab is formed. The scab takes some little time to separate, but no disfiguring scar remains, as happens in those cases allowed to recover without appropriate treatment.