# 1. GONORRHEA

Gonorrhea is the only identifiable infection whose continuous presence has been documented since the dawn of recorded history. It is also the most common of all the venereal diseases.

#### 1.1 EARLY HISTORY

The Bible provides the following and other early references:





Genesis 12:17 & 20:17, 18 tell of Sarah who gave the disease to her husband Abraham and to others.







The Second Decree Supplementing the Law Regarding the Change of Family Names of 17 Aug 1938 (Reichsgesetzblatt I, p. 1044) required the addition of SARA or ISRAEL as a middle name in the return address for Jewish writers.

Berlin (19 May 1941) to Los Angeles, Cal. Military & Civilian Censorship in Germany.

#### 1.1 EARLY HISTORY

Early Assyrian cuneiform tablets make mention of the *thick and cloudy* urine characteristic of gonorrhea.



Hippocrates (460-337 BC) was familiar with and wrote of strictures of the urethra from gonorrhea.



Gonorrhea - literally *flow of seed*. Named by Aristotle and made popular by Galen.









The early Arab physicians, Maimonides, Rhazes, Avicenna and others, were familiar with and wrote of urethral strictures from gonorrhea and the use of catheters for relief.





Maimonides



Avicenna



Arab Physicians with mandrake plant



Rhazes

#### 1.1 EARLY HISTORY

Chinese physicians such as Li Shih Chen (1518-1593) could differentiate between syphilis and gonorrhea ...



Gabriel Soares de Sousa in his 1587 book DESCRIPTION OF BRASIL recorded that "The indians have a flow or run that gives them sorrow ...", i.e., gonorrhea.



Tapuya Indian - 1641 and now -->

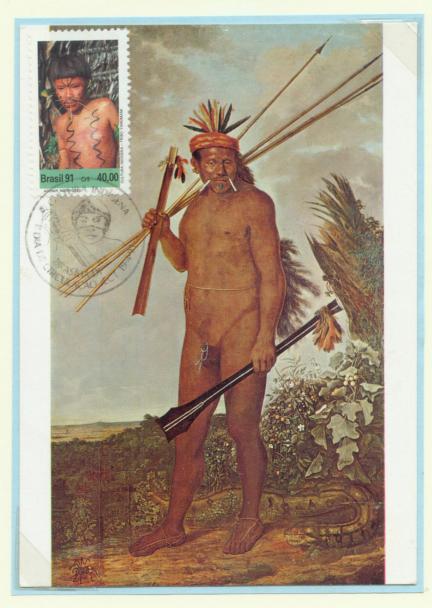


... whereas the influential 15th century European physician Paracelsus taught that gonorrhea was symptomatic of syphilis.





The New World also was infected.



The high incidence of gonorrhea throughout the world led to a wide variety of questionable treatments and suspicious 'cures'.

American Indians used a tea made from bark of some maple trees.

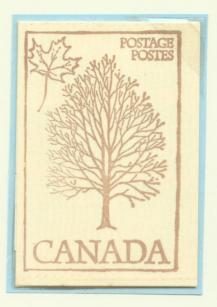




Essav







The bearberry / uva-ursi was a popular European folk cure, and strawberry root tea was used in the Old and New Worlds.



Missing the stem, emblem, and value.







STRAWBERRY VALLEY, CALIF. Nov 2, ca 1857-60

Herbert R. Metat had a variety of wonder cures available to a gullible and desperate public in 1858.

Of particular interest is his Practical Receipt for Curing Gonorrhoea or Clapp.

# METAT'S

# SPERMATIC PILLS.

For the cure of Spermatorrhea or Nocturnal Emissions.



Type V Stamp paying 1 cent Circular Rate ca. 1858

Practical Receipt for Making Cologne.

" " Indellible Ink.
" " Black Ink.
" " Hair Invigorator.

" " " Metat's Cough Syrup.
" Curing Gonorrhœa or Clapp.

N. B.—All communications strictly confidential by both parties. Address

# HERBERT R. METAT,

Box 690,

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA.

Desperate cures for desperate people.

No postal issues address quack cures for gonorrhea in the manner of American private die proprietary revenue stamps.

H.T. and A.L. Helmbold made their buchu into a popular 'cure.'







Wmkd. USIR

Die Proof on India Paper

Marketed by Demas Barnes and Co., Dr. Marchisi's Uterine Catholicon (cure all) was one of the few

treatments especially for women.



U.S. INTER. REV.

DEMAS BARNES

MARCHISTS CAPIOLICON.

DEMAS BARNES

MARCHISTS CAPIOLICON.

Old Paper

Plate Essay on India

... unless one preferred Dr. Cheeseman's Female Regulating Pills



India Paper on Card



Die Proof on India Paper

Tarrant & Co.'s Compound Extract of Cubebs and Copaiba enjoyed popularity as a treatment.



Trial Color Die Proofs on India



Silk Paper

Although gonorrhea is not mentioned in the advertisements on these covers, the American public of the era was well-aware of their intended uses.

... like Dr. Marchisi's Uterine Catholicon for the lady in distress in the mid-1850s.



... and Kane's Buchu, one of many competing brands, was popular with both sexes in the early 1890s.



Herbal remedies were popular worldwide and were inexpensive.

Strong diuretics like corn silk tea had their proponents ...



Fairfield, Iowa 12 June 1928 2 cent Letter Rate + 15 cent Registry Fee

Medicines and home brews containing sassafras were popular treatments in N. America and Australia.





Sassafras Gully, Victoria Australia

Sassafras Fork, N.C. ca. 1864 manuscript cancel on turned cover.

HOOD'S Sarsaparilla was a well-advertised treatment in the Americas.



Obverse



Backprint

A popular treatment in Ayuravedic medicine is a tea made from the leaves

made from the leaves of Bambusa arundinacea.





Dhamvantari Goddess of Medicine

Ladies! A preventative and a cure just for you. ...and note the other diseases it cures.

New Form of Directions-January 1, 1913.

# MADAME LE MAY'S FRENCH FORMULA Antiseptic Vaginal Suppositories

#### FOR THE RELIEF AND CURE OF

Leucorrhœa, Gonorrhœa, Prolapsus, or Falling of the Womb, Inflammation, Congestion, Anteversion, Retroversion, Dropsy of the Womb, Ulceration, Polypus, Tumors, Profuse and Difficult Menstruation, Ovarian Tumors, Fibroid Tumors, Inflammation and Congestion of the Ovaries, Cancers in their early days, Laceration of Cervix (due to child-birth) and other Female Complaints in general. A remedy of great medicinal value, and has been used in hundreds of the most severe cases, producing instant relief followed by a speedy cure. The secret of our success lies in the application of the Suppository directly to the diseased parts, where the medication can be continued for hours at a time, acting as safe and harmless as a flax-seed poultice, which is a great advantage over any remedies which are applied by injecting with syringes. It can be used at all times. These Suppositories are a protection from Venereal Diseases, and as an antiseptic are far superior and more convenient to use than Bichloride of Meras an antiseptic are far superior and more convenient to use than Bichloride of Mercury Tablets.

IMPORTANT Before using our Suppositories we desire you to read very carefully the directions for using the same, so that you obtain good results at once. If you cannot live up to them you will only be wasting your time and money without getting any returns for your investment.

WE DO NOT CLAIM that one bex of our Suppositories will cure all cases, but very often it does not require that many; if the first box gives you relief you should be satisfied and obtain more of them at once, and continue using them.

tinue using them according to directions until you are entirely cured.

GENERAL DIRECTIONS

Before going to bed remove the wax paper from the Suppository, and insert it into the vagina, using the forefinger to crowd it up as far as you can reach, allow it to remain over night, and in the morning take a liberal injection of warm water; this treatment should be continued every night until entirely cured, and in obstinate cases should be used both night and morning.

# AS A PREVENTATIVE

Insert a Suppository into the vagina about 10 or 15 minutes before having sexual intercourse, as it requires that much time to dissolve, then after-OR PROTECTION FROM wards take a liberal injection of warm water, which need not be taken for 7 or 8 hours after-

WENEREAL DISEASES which need not be taken for 7 or 8 hours afterwards if inconvenient to do so at once, and you will have a reliable protection from any Venereal disease, even if you do not use the injection of warm water, as this is not absolutely necessary. The remedy acts as a protection to male as well as female, and their use can be continued for years without any injurious effects whatever; if you doubt this statement show the remedy to you physician and see if he will not say that our remedy is a reliable one, as we do not object to giving our formulæ to any physician.

object to giving our formulæ to any physician.

The foregoing instructions are general, and we wish to say to anyone using the Sup pository who fails to make satisfactory progress please write us, fully describing your case, and we will take pleasure in giving additional instructions in detail by letter, ir strict confidence, but be sure to always enclose a two-cent stamp to insure a prompt reply, and send us the name of the Druggist from whom you bought the remedy.

Should you at any time get a box of Suppositories

MELTED SUPPOSITORIES Should you at any time get a box of Suppositories that are melted or run together, or old stock that are not in perfect condition, we will replace them free of charge if you will kindly mail the melted ones to us. If they have become soft in warm weather lay them in cold water a few minutes before using them. This will harden them nicely.

#### \$1.00 A BOX-SIX BOXES FOR \$5.00

Sent securely sealed, charges prepaid, on receipt of price, which can be sent by mail with perfect safety. You can remit in postage stamps for small amounts. It is not necessary to register letters with money, as we never yet have lost any letters in the mails.

Our remedy is sold by some of the leading druggists, but if they try to palm something else on you under the plea that "it's just as good," send your orders direct to us, and we will forward the goods the same day the order is received.

\_ Guaranteed by ===

#### CITY DRUG CO. GARDEN

MISSOULA, MONT.

Under the Food and Drugs Act, June 30, 1906. SERIAL NUMBER 43529.

Gentlemen in the late 1880s would find the Gonorrhoeal Apron indispensible while undergoing treatment.



Double Weight Letter Phildelphia, PA Jan 13, 1888

... and just when you think you have seen everything!

Here is a genuine Walter F. Ware Company No. 117 Gonorhoeal Apron and Suspensory Bandage.



Sufferers of gonorrhea in Great Britain might try a potion touted in this Mulready advertising envelope - DR. ALLISON'S SOLUTION OF COPAIBA, "... confidently and emestly recommended."

...WITH PERFECT SAFETY ...

...a permanent cure.... in recent or obstinate cases

DR ALLISON'S SOLUTION OF COPAIBA, FOR DISEASES OF THE KIDNEYS, BLADDER, URETHRA, &c.

THIS celebrated Preparation contains neither Resin nor the Balsam, which few persons can take, in consequence of their liability to produce eruptions, and nauseous taste and flavour, but possesses by a new process, highly approved by emiment Physicians in Edinburgh, in a fluid, concentrated, and agreeable form, All, their beneficial persons without producing the slightest inflammation, sickness, eruptions, &c., or restriction of habits, &c., and effects, as many persons throughout Scotland can most gratefully testify, with effect of all other remedies, in recent or obstinate cases of Urethral Diseases of every description, frequently in two, but generally within Six or Eight Days. Its use (even in inflammatory cases), is now confidently and earnestly recommended.

PREPARED and Sold (ONLY) by Dr A., late F.R.C. of Physicians, &c. 100 South Bridge, Edinburgh, in bottles (with full directions), at 3s. 6d., 6s., 12s. 6d. (equal to four at 3s. 6d.), 18s.

Dr A. will afford, free, and in the most prompt Asp Honourable and for the treatment of cases, in which he has considerable experience.

SEIDLITZ POWDERS, 1s. per doz., 2s. 6d. three doz.

SODA and GINGER BEER, 6d. per doz., or 1st. 15 the four three doz.

SODA and GINGER BEER, 6d. per doz., or 1s. 3d. for three dozen.

ENT, WATERLOO NEWS-ROOM; and Printed by NEILL

Full size copy of Advertisement on Inside



EDINBURGH ENVELOPE ADVERTISER NO. IV OF NOVEMBER 4, 1840 SOLD FOR 3/4 PENCE

Turn-of-the-century gonorrhea sufferers in New Zealand could consult the backs of their postage stamps to find that Beecham's PILLS were a cure-all for both sexes.















Victorian era Australians could try any of the following remedies to treat gonorrhea...

A diuretic health tea

Warner's Safe Cure

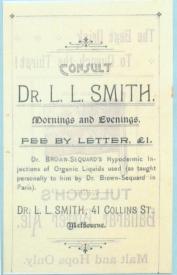
Warner's Safe Pills

Dr. Smith's Organic Liquids









(.55 Reduction of insert pages)



Many women used conventional feminine hygiene products and douches as a prophylaxis and treatment for gonorrhea.

LA LYSINE was popular with colonial French women in North Africa.



German women could use Ormicettes from Chem. Fabrik Albert Mendel A.-G. of Berlin.



Out of fear, desperation, and ignorance, sufferers of ano-rectal gonorrhea tried and relied upon hemoroid treatments



All may have treated the symptoms but did little for the real problem.

German pharmaceutical firms continued to produce a wide variety of questionable treatments like Gonocystol ...

Der äußerst niedrige Preis unseres internen Antigonorrhoicum

# Gonocystol

geht aus nachstehender Gegenüberstellung hervor:

# Capsulae Ol. Santali 0,2 ... Gonocystol

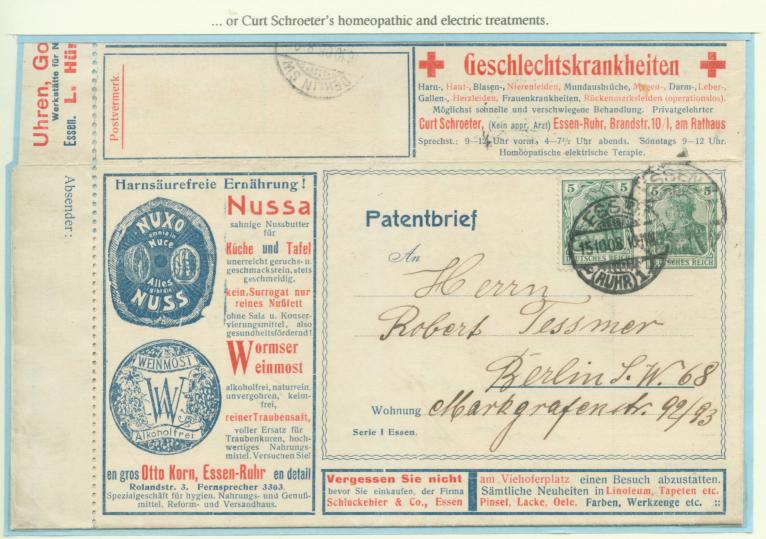
40	Stück	=	Mk.	19.—	 40	Stück	=	Mk.	6.—
75	"	=	"	35.60	 75	"	=	, ,,	12.—
150	"	=	"	57.05	 150	"	=	"	20.—

Eingehende klinische Erprobung ergab prompte Wirkung unter völliger Ausschaltung von Reizerscheinungen.

E. Tosse & Co., Laborat. für chem.-med. Präparate, Hamburg 22



Copy of Indicium Hamburg 13.12.20



Argyrol, a silver protein solution, was an effective treatment and prophylaxis for gonorrhea as noted on this printed to private order circular.



Indicium
.7 Reduction

# "Argynol"

Bilber=Bitellin

# Produkt der A. C. Barnes Company

Philadelphia.

"ARGYROL" ist eine Silber-Proteid-Verbindung von ganz ungewöhnlich keimtötender Wirkung. Es vereint eine hohe Löslichkeit mit großer Tiefenwirkung, und da überdies eine Reizung oder Schmerzhaftigkeit selbst bei Konzentrationen von 20 bis  $25^{\circ}/_{\circ}$  nicht zu befürchten ist, unterscheidet es sich in diesen hauptsächlichen Punkten vorteilhaft von allen bisher bekannten Silber-Präparaten.

"ARGYROL"-Lösungen sollten für den jeweiligen Gebrauch frisch bereitet werden, und zwar am besten mit destilliertem Wasser in der Kälte. "Argyrol" eignet sich vorzüglich zur Anwendung auf allen Gebieten, wo Silbernitrat angezeigt ist. In Fällen von Ophthalmia gonorrhoica und Trachom werden im allgemeinen 5 bis 25% ige Lösungen von "Argyrol" verwendet, während bei akuter Gonorrhöe Injektionen von anfänglich 5% igen, dann allmählich verstärkten Lösungen empfohlen werden. Einleitende Ausspülungen mit einer Lösung von 1:1000 haben sich bei Urethritis posterior chronica sehr bewährt.

"ARGYROL" wird in zwei Größen geliefert: in Fläschchen à 1 Unze (28 Gramm) und in Fläschchen à 5 Gramm Inhalt.

Engros-Depot von "Argyrol":

Vereinigte Drogen-Großhandlungen

G. & R. FRITZ - PEZOLDT & SÜSS A. G.

Wien, I. Bräunerstraße 5.

Verkauf nur an öffentliche Apotheken.

Probe-Fläschchen "Argyrol" sowie Broschüren "Über Silber" mit ausführlicher Beschreibung und Literatur über das Mittel erhalten die Herren Ärzte gratis und franko gegen Einsendung einer Postkarte an:

FASSETT & JOHNSON, 86, Clerkenwell Road, London, E.C.

General-Vertreter für Europa.

Strange treatments and bad advice were plentiful in an age of quackery...

Flush away your problems with White Sulphur Spring Water -> or read all about the latest treatments and 'cures'.

# The Cure of Gonorrhæa and Gleet.

Doctor, you know if anybody knows, that human flesh is weak, and therefore, as long as man is mortal Gonorrhœa will be with us.

There is no question but that Gonorrhea is considered today a more serious disease than it was in years gone by. The modern light of pathology has been thrown upon this germ affection and found it to be one of man's most destructive diseases. Therefore a physician who undertakes to treat a case of Gonorrhea assumes a very grave responsibility.

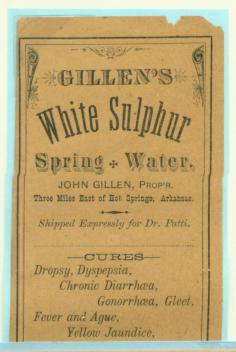
Why not be prepared to treat these cases? Why not be able to say that you have a treatment which will positively cure? Why not be able to give a treatment which recommends itself? Why not give them treatment which you will be proud of?

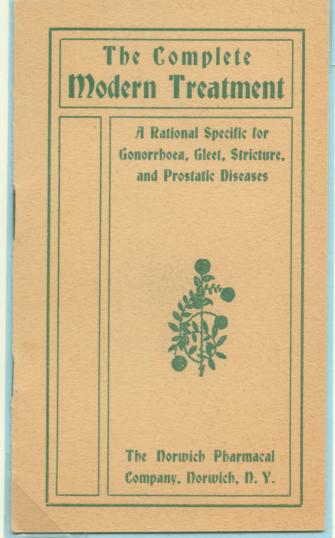
The numerous reports of practitioners from all parts of the country who have derived ideal results in the treatment of Gonorrhœa and Gleet with our combination local and internal treatment have prompted us to bring this subject more prominently to the attention of the profession.

The prevailing treatments which consist in attacking Gonorrhœa only locally—completely ignoring the secondary and systemic effects of the gonococcus and also the fact that we have remedies which can cope with these general or non-local symptoms—are woefully inadequate in the light of modern medical teaching and constitute a menace which all conscientious doctors should try to avoid.

Another point; the prognosis of Gonorrhea has always been treated with more or less indifference by physicians, yet to the patient this question is always of great importance. Any remedy, therefore, which can assist you in giving a favorable prognosis is not to be slighted.

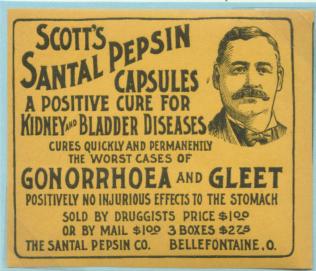
Published by Chicago Pharmacal Co.





A few of the more popular treatments for gonorrhea include...

Scott's Santal Pepsin



Active ingredient was probably sandalwood oil.

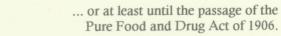
Pabst's OKAY
No relation to Pabst Brewing Co.



GONOSAN from Ridel & Company whose active ingredients were *East Indian* Sandalwood Oil and Kava-Kava resins.



As evidenced by these wonder-remedies, quackery was alive and well in America at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century ...





Dr. Kilmer's Swamp Root



P&B's Magic Oil



Sanmetto
(Sandalwood & Palmetto Berries)



Design similar to Hunt's Remedy

For centuries the only effective treatment was urethral irrigation; then in ....

1881 Crede first used silver nitrate to prevent ophthalmia neonatorum.



Silver City, New Mexico (Territory)

1892 Janet introduced potassium permangenate (KMnO<sub>4</sub>) as treatment.

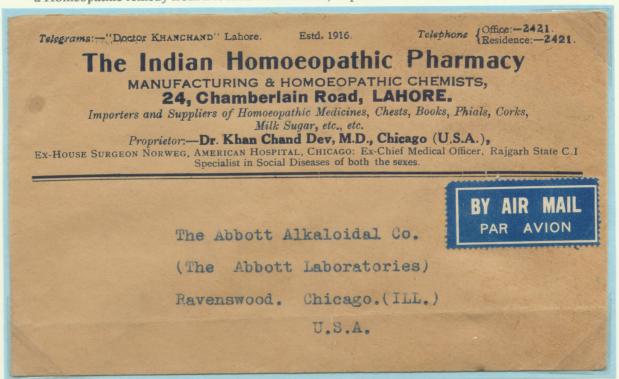




ACYCAL was an effective silver-cyanide treatment from Merz & Co.



Sufferers of gonorrhea in the Far East might try ... a Homeopathic remedy from Dr. Khan Chand Dev, a specialist in Social Diseases of both sexes ...



15 annas postage on reverse; cancelled Lahore GPO, 27-Feb 1936

... or PANSEPTIN from S. Nakashima in the Philippines



Circa 1930 sulfa based drugs such as Vagilan from Deutsche Hydrierwerke Rodleben (Dehydag) and ...









... SULFID from Columbus Pharmacal, provided the first safe, quick, effective cure ...

THE COLUMBUS PHARMACAL CO.

330 DAK STREET SULFID

COLUMBUS 16, OHIO

Clinically Effective 93%

Urinary Tract Infections



... until new highly resistant strains made them ineffective within 25 years!

#### **PENICILLIN**

Penicillin became the preferred cure after WWII until resistant strains appeared in the 60s.





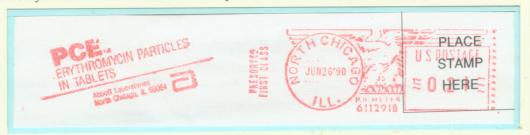
"We have made it possible to catch gonorrhea three times a week," Alexander Fleming



#### 1.3 CURES

#### **BEYOND PENICILLIN**

Erythromycin and newer antibiotics are required to control the ever-evolving gonococci.





The gonoccoci continue to adapt faster than the drug companies produce new meter stamps!

### 1.4 PHYSIOLOGY Localized

Localized infections can affect both sexes.

Infected fallopian tubes can result in infertility.



1ER CONGRESSO ARGENTINO DE ESTERILIDAD

P. RAFACIMIO LYNKAPO WEPOACINAL
ENNAS HELLAS 2

Urethral strictures in males make urination difficult and painful.



In advanced cases (rare now) almost any organ may be infected. The most common are: skin joints heart valves







#### 1.5 TESTING

Patie

Dr ....

Da

Seri

From Dr.

Although the symptoms of gonorrhea may be obvious to most males, only laboratory testing can confirm vaginal cases in females and oral or rectal cases in both sexes. Note the special postal rate for "Specimens for Bacteriological Examination" as detailed in Section 461, Para6, of the then current Postal laws and Regulations.

#### THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH LABORATORIES JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

H. F. PARKER, M. D. State Health Commissioner.

A RELIABLE LABORATORY REPORT DEPENDS PRIMARILY UPON CARE IN THE COLLECTION AND SHIPMENT OF THE SPECIMEN

#### POSTAGE RATES ON LABORATORY SPECIMENS

The Postoffice Department has ruled that specimens may be mailed at fourth class (parcel post) rates when only the information needed for the identification of the specimen is placed on the opposite side of this blank. If a telegraphic report is requested or other instructions or communications are written on the blank, first class (letter) postage is required.

## DIRECTIONS FOR COLLECTING SPECIMENS

ACUTE OR ACTIVE CASES

MALE. Collect a small drop of fresh urethral discharge on each of the two slides and make thin even smears covering about three-fourths of the area of the slide. Allow the slides to dry in the air without heating and place them back to back in the wooden mailing case. Wet smears placed face to face do not give reliable results.

FEMALE. Collect a small drop of fresh urethral discharge after compressing the urethra with the finger and stripping toward the meatus and make a thin smear of uniform thickness on one of the slides, covering about three-fourths of the area of the slide. A second smear of fresh discharge should be made from the cervix uteri after careful cleansing of the os and without touching the walls of the vagina with the swab. A vaginal speculum should always be used in collecting specimens from the cervix uteri, as vaginal smears are worthless. Allow the slides to dry in the air without heating and then place them back to back in the wooden mailing case. Wet smears placed face to face do not give reliable results.

give reliable results. CASES SHOWING NO EVIDENCE OF DISCHARGE.

MALE. The prostate should be carefully massaged and the specimen then obtained by compressing the urethra and stripping toward the meatus. Make smears and prepare them for shipment as described above under acute or active cases.

FEMALE. Specimens should be collected from the urethra, cervix uteri and Bartholin's glands,

## PARCEL POST

2 CENTS

Failure to place sufficient postage will cause delay in the examination of speci-

## The State Board of Health Laboratories JEFFERSON CITY, MO.

"Specimen for Bacteriological Examination. THIS PACKAGE to be pouched with LETTER MAIL." See Section 461, ¶ 6, P. L. and R.

Lab. 15-10M-1-40 I X22147