Studies on Yeast-like Organisms Isolated from the Mouths and Throats of Normal Persons.

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Abstract : The author of this important paper has confirmed the observations of previous workers on the occurrence of thrush fungi in the mouths and throats of apparently healthy persons, and has demonstrated the presence of agglutinins in the blood of many of these people. This observation is of much value in view of the significance often attached to the presence of "monilia" agglutinins in t
The mouths and throats of 1,000 healthy persons were examined by culture methods and thrush fungi were grown from 140 of these; 96 were females and 44 were males. In 70 of the 140 the fungus was obtained from both mouth and throat, in 31 from the mouth only, and in 39 from the throat only.

The sera of 1,150 persons, of whom 698 had also been examined by culture methods, were tested for agglutination of *Monilia albicans*. In 529 of the 698 persons examined in both ways the agglutination test was negative, although 9 of these harboured "monilia" in the mouth or throat. In 66 cases the agglutination test was doubtful or occurred in low titre, and of these only 22 yielded monilia in culture. In 42 the serum end-titre of agglutination reached 1/40, and of these cases 19 yielded monilia. In 30 the end-titre was 1/80, and 25 yielded monilia. In 26 the titre reached 1/160, and all but one were culturally positive. In 8 the end-titre was 1/320 and in one 1/640, and all of these were culturally positive.

From these results the author concludes that "there is a relationship between the high titre of agglutinins in the serum and the presence of *M. albicans* in the mouth and throat." [Sixteen years ago the reviewer carried out work of a similar kind (unpublished) on the occurrence of fungi of the "monilia" group in the faeces and its relation to the presence of "monilia" antibodies in the blood. The fungi were cultivated from a high percentage of faecal specimens examined, and the presence of monilia antibodies in the serum was definitely related to the occurrence of the fungi in the faeces; antibodies were never found in the serum of a person whose faeces, after repeated examinations, failed to yield the fungi. The monilia antibody titre was greatly increased (sometimes to 1/2,000) in the presence of derangements of the intestine, associated with sprue, dysentery, malaria, etc., which probably favoured the invasion of the intestinal wall by the fungi. The cases in Todd's paper, in which agglutinins were demonstrated in the blood of persons who, apparently, had not monilia in the mouth or throat may, therefore, have been instances of intestinal harbourage of the fungi.]

*J. T. Duncan.*
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