

ON THE ANTIBACTERIAL ACTION OF CULTURES OF A
PENICILLIUM, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THEIR
USE IN THE ISOLATION OF *B. INFLUENZAE*.

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WHILE working with staphylococcus variants a number of culture-plates were set aside on the laboratory bench and examined from time to time. In the examinations these plates were necessarily exposed to the air and they became contaminated with various micro-organisms. It was noticed that around a large colony of a contaminating mould the staphylococcus colonies became transparent and were obviously undergoing lysis (see Fig. 1).

Subcultures of this mould were made and experiments conducted with a view to ascertaining something of the properties of the bacteriolytic substance which had evidently been formed in the mould culture and which had diffused into the surrounding medium. It was found that broth in which the mould had been grown at room temperature for one or two weeks had acquired marked inhibitory, bactericidal and bacteriolytic properties to many of the more common pathogenic bacteria.

CHARACTERS OF THE MOULD.

The colony appears as a white fluffy mass which rapidly increases in size and after a few days sporulates, the centre becoming dark green and later in old cultures darkens to almost black. In four or five days a bright yellow colour is produced which diffuses into the medium. In certain conditions a reddish colour can be observed in the growth.

In broth the mould grows on the surface as a white fluffy growth, changing in a few days to a dark green felted mass. The broth becomes bright yellow and this yellow pigment is not extracted by CHCl_3 . The reaction of the broth becomes markedly alkaline, the pH varying from 8.5 to 9. Acid is produced in three or four days in glucose and saccharose broth. There is no acid production in 7 days in lactose, mannite or dulcete broth.

Growth is slow at 37°C. and is most rapid about 20°C. No growth is observed under anaerobic conditions.

In its morphology this organism is a penicillium and in all its characters it most closely resembles *P. rubrum*. Biourge (1923) states that he has never found *P. rubrum* in nature and that it is an "animal de laboratoire." This penicillium is not uncommon in the air of the laboratory.

IS THE ANTIBACTERIAL BODY ELABORATED IN CULTURE BY ALL MOULDS ?

A number of other moulds were grown in broth at room temperature and the culture fluids were tested for antibacterial substances at various intervals up to one month. The species examined were: *Eidamia viridiscens*, *Botrytis cineria*, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *Sporotrichum*, *Cladosporium*, *Penicillium*, 8 strains. Of these it was found