ROBERT KOCH INSTITUT

Nachlass Robert Koch
Signatur: as/b1/203
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Transkription: Michael Tietz

4/5 09

Laboratories of Pathology and Bacteriology
Medico-Chirurgical College
N. W. Corner Seventeenth and Cherry Streets
Fourth Floor
Philadelphia

J. Hamilton Small, M. D.
Demonstrator of Bacteriology

Joseph McFarland, M. D.
Professor of Pathology and Bacteriology

Edward M. L'Engle, M. D.
Demonstrator of Pathology

Philadelphia, April 21st 1909

Exellenz Robert Koch,
My Dear Professor Koch,

at the request of Dr. L. F. Flick, I began some experiments at the Henry Phipps Institute, where I am "Director of the Laboratories", to assist in your search for tubercle bacilli of the bovine type in cases of pulmonary tuberculosis.
The experiments were begun upon the lines suggested in your letter to Dr. Flick, and after following the directions and giving the patients no milk nor butter that had not been sterilized, for three days, I secured morning sputum containing tubercle bacilli from five of them. With these sputa I inoculated twenty guinea-pigs. Next day a number were dead, and at the end of thirteen days every one was dead. Some of the first to die showed mennococci, but many showed no microorganisms in the blood or body fluids.
We anticipated this result for at the Phipps Institute we have found that sputum and urine from the patients contains some highly infectious or toxic agent that usually kills the guinea-pigs very quickly – an experience that I have not had elsewhere.
Do you think there would be any objection to treating the sputum with an antiseptic before injecting the guinea-pigs?

Very Respectfully Yours,
Joseph McFarland.

4/5 09.

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LABORATORIES OF PATHOLOGY AND BACTERIOLOGY
MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL COLLEGE
N. W. CORNER SEVENTEENTH AND CHERRY STREETS
FOURTH FLOOR
PHILADELPHIA

J. HAMILTON SMALL, M. D.
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