A new human mycosis.
A study of the morphology and biology of "Oidium brasiliense", n. sp.,
the etiological agent of a new human disease.

by

Dr. OCTAVIO DE MAGALHÃES

(With plates 4 to 14.)

In preliminary notes, published in the "Brazil—Medico" of September 29 and October 22 1914, we mentioned some characteristics of the agent of this new human mycosis.

In later numbers of the same journal we enumerated the chief differential characters of the new disease, and stated, as a result of several observations, the curability of this disease by iodides. In order to fulfill our promise, we now proceed to give more details about the fungus.

While director of the laboratory of the hospital of Bello Horizonte, we examined daily several sputa by various processes. In the course of 1912 we isolated from the sputum of a patient, whose observation we only obtained much later, a fungus, the biological characteristics of which allowed us to consider it a new species and to include it into the family of the Oidiaceae. The request was labelled "research of the bacillus of Koch". The negative bacterioscopic result induced the chief of the clinical department to make a new request, this time with the observation "that it was a typical clinical case of pulmonary tuberculosis, in full secondary evolution".

It is hardly necessary to state that the new researches, this time not only bacterioscopic but also microscopical (homogenisation, inoculations etc.), were always negative. On the other hand, new cases with the same clinical symptomatology and similar result of microbiological researches appeared after our attention had been roused. Careful and long lasting studies, continued for more or less 3 years, showed the high pathogenic power of the isolated fungus. The animals, after any form of inoculation, all died, within a varying lapse of time, with the same lesions, from which we succeeded nearly always in again isolating the parasite.

Two facts called our special attention, forming, so to say, the starting point of our studies.