The Dramatic Record of a Physician's Fight Against Syphilis

(Continued from page one.)

night last night. I was opening a patient's abscess yesterday and I touched the wound. I have supposed on the poliched metal, I have scratched my left hand, I have grabbed the edge of the stand where the instrument lay. At any rate I cut my thumb on the point of it, while I was still full. I washed out the wound with water at once with ether and alcohol and cultured it with a platinum wire. I didn't give the infection much thought but went to bed tired after my day's work. At midnight I woke up and was hopelessly unable to go to sleep. Irrevocably I began to brood about my little miniature adventure and to ponder on the implications. I do not, however, believe it. Blood is the prime carrier of the epidemic virus. And then I thought that the thought had infected himself, in pulling the tooth and acquired the disease despite everything he did, and of an unfortunate struggle with himself that had been held in his enemies' surgery. This has become the source of tragedy. I turned hot all over and felt the perspiration coming from my face. The thought of my case was that she had made for their rest impossible. Not till then had I appreciated the danger of the disease I was fighting. I closed my eyes and tried forcing myself to sleep. In vain; I could only rise from side to side. This morning I felt as if I had been broken on the wheel. My mirror showed me a sticky yellow, flaming face. I face years older.

Nov. 4. - I have barely eaten or drunk for three days. I cannot digest the fear that I have been injected. I catch myself examining my thumb twenty times a day, and looking for the exciting on the tonsil. Now and then I find the fever breaking down. I feel a strange tenseness in my whole right side. It is fortunate that I have had work to talk to my patients. I sought distraction in a new line of study. It was quite

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"The Doctor's Diary" is based on an original translation of the Egoist's Revenge of God, by R.C. Pennington. (Tribune Studio photo.)

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