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852

PRELIMINARY NOTE ON THE RELATION OF
DERMATITIS HERPETIFORMIS TO HERPES
GESTATIONIS AND OTHER SIMILAR
FORMS OF DISEASE.¹

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IN my original communication on Dermatitis Herpetiformis,² the symptoms, characteristics, and the several varieties of the disease were described. It was also stated that the pustular variety was the same manifestation as that described by Hebra as impetigo herpetiformis. The view was likewise put forth that the herpes gestationis of authors was probably merely another variety of this affection. In a more recent paper, just read before this Association,³ the relation of the impetigo herpetiformis of Hebra to dermatitis herpetiformis has been shown, and the conclusion reached that the former is but a variety of the latter disease. In the present note I desire to bring forwards supplementary views which have of late been forced upon me by study of the literature of the subject, to the effect that not only the herpes gestationis of writers, but also other similar forms of eruption reported with various titles are

¹ Read before the American Dermatological Association, 1884.

² Read before the Amer. Med. Assoc., May 6, 1884, and published in the Journ. of the Amer. Med. Assoc., August 30, 1884.

³ Journ. of the Amer. Med. Assoc., Aug. 30, 1884.

all merely instances of one process, namely, dermatitis herpetiformis as I have defined this disease.

To be more definite, some of these cases may be mentioned.

The "herpes circinatus bullosus" of Erasmus Wilson;¹ the "pemphigus pruriginieux" of Hardy;² the "herpes gestationis" of Milton,³ Bulkley,⁴ Thompson,⁵ Liveing,⁶ Cottle,⁷ Gale,⁸ and W. G. Smith,⁹ all represent manifestly the same disease, and are expressions of the vesicular and bullous varieties of dermatitis herpetiformis. In like manner the "pemphigus" of Klein;¹⁰ the "pemphigus circinatus," of Rayer;¹¹ the "herpes phlyctænodes" of Gibert;¹² the "pemphigus aigu pruriginosus" of Chausit,¹³ and the "pemphigus composé" of Devergie.¹⁴ Certain cases of so-called "hydroa," should, I think, also be viewed as forms of dermatitis herpetiformis, as, for example, the cases reported by Handfield Jones¹⁵ and Bulkley,¹⁶ and that of "Florence S.,"

¹ Diseases of the Skin. Sixth ed. London, 1867.

² Leçons sur les Mal. de la Peau. 2d part, p. 136. 2d ed. Paris, 1863.

³ Path. and Treat. of Diseases of the Skin. London, 1872. Page 205.

⁴ Amer. Journ. of Obstetrics, February, 1874

⁵ Archives of Derm., October, 1875.

⁶ Lancet, June 1, 1878, p. 783.

⁷ St. George Hosp. Rep., 1879.

⁸ Lancet, 1880, vol. i. p. 601.

⁹ Dublin Journ. Med. Sci., 1881, 3 s., lxxi. p. 70.

¹⁰ Allg. Wien. med. Zeitung, August, 1867; quoted in Journ. Cutan. Med., July, 1868. p. 203.

¹¹ Treatise on Diseases of the Skin. English translation. London, 1835, p. 219.

¹² A Practical Treatise on the Special Diseases of the Skin. English translation. London, 1845, p. 118.

¹³ Annales des Maladies de la peau et de Syph. March, 1852.

¹⁴ Mal. de la Peau, p. 309. Paris, 1857.

¹⁵ Med. Times and Gaz., September 6, 1873.

¹⁶ Archives of Derm., April, 1877.

described in the *British Medical Journal*, 1870. Likewise such cases as that of Oswald,¹ reported with the heading "a peculiar skin eruption occurring during pregnancy;" and of Leigh,² a "bullous eruption of a peculiar character."

The very unusual case of Jarisch,³ designated "herpes iris," and the case of Meyer,⁴ "a fatal pemphigus-like dermatitis," have also points in common with the disease under consideration.

Finally, without doubt some cases of so-called pemphigus, especially of "pemphigus pruriginosus," might more properly be regarded as examples of dermatitis herpetiformis.

¹ Lancet, June 10, 1882, p. 951.

² Lancet, January 6, 1883, p. 11.

³ Viertelj. für Derm. u. Syph. 2 u. 3 Heft., p. 195, 1880.

⁴ Archiv für path Anat. u. Phys. November, 1883, p. 185.

described in the British Medical Journal, 1890.
I have such cases as that of O'Connell, reported with
the heading "An unusual case of abortion occurring
during pregnancy"; and of Leigh's "abortion crisis
in a parous woman," etc.

The very unusual case of Jarvis, is also reported
"Lancet," and the case of Meyer, in the
"Medical Record," have also points in com-
mon with the disease under consideration.
Usually, without doubt, some cause of so-called
pregnancy, especially of the kind of "pregnancy"
which is more properly to be regarded as examples of
"abortion per se," etc.

The case of Meyer, is reported in the
"Lancet," and the case of Jarvis, in the
"Medical Record," etc.

- 1. "Lancet," 1890, p. 100.
- 2. "British Medical Journal," 1890, p. 100.
- 3. "Lancet," 1890, p. 100.
- 4. "Medical Record," 1890, p. 100.
- 5. "Lancet," 1890, p. 100.
- 6. "British Medical Journal," 1890, p. 100.
- 7. "Lancet," 1890, p. 100.
- 8. "Medical Record," 1890, p. 100.
- 9. "Lancet," 1890, p. 100.
- 10. "British Medical Journal," 1890, p. 100.
- 11. "Lancet," 1890, p. 100.
- 12. "Medical Record," 1890, p. 100.
- 13. "Lancet," 1890, p. 100.
- 14. "British Medical Journal," 1890, p. 100.
- 15. "Lancet," 1890, p. 100.
- 16. "Medical Record," 1890, p. 100.
- 17. "Lancet," 1890, p. 100.
- 18. "British Medical Journal," 1890, p. 100.
- 19. "Lancet," 1890, p. 100.
- 20. "Medical Record," 1890, p. 100.