

WAGNER (C.)

CASE OF ACNE ROSACEA,

OR

HYPERTROPHICA.

OUTGROWTHS REMOVED

BY

OPERATION,

BY

CLINTON WAGNER, M. D.,

PHYSICIAN TO THE METROPOLITAN THROAT HOSPITAL, NEW YORK.



(Reprinted from the Archives of Clinical Surgery, July, 1876.)

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CASE OF ACNE ROSACEA,

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OUTGROWTHS REMOVED BY OPERATION.

BY

CLINTON WAGNER, M. D.,

Physician to the Metropolitan Throat Hospital, New York.

Case of W. M., aged fifty-three, native of Alsace, but since 1851 a resident of this country, short in stature, very stout and of full habit; occupation, wine merchant; has also followed the vocation of seaman, and during the rebellion served as lieutenant in a New York regiment; was admitted into the Metropolitan Throat Hospital, August 8, 1875; his nose was covered with growths as represented in Plate 1; livid in color; and cold, clammy, and greasy to the touch; the two largest attached respectively to the right and left ala were pedunculated, and interfered seriously with the act of taking food and drink. The others were sessile, the large one upon the ridge of the septum, broad and flattened. Neither the cartilages externally nor the mucous membrane internally were involved. He stated that small swellings or lumps first appeared upon his nose as far back as 1868. No increase in size was perceptible until 1872, when they began to enlarge and in a short time attained the volume they presented at the time of consulting me for treatment. He has been an habitual drinker for many years of the light claret and white wines of France, but not addicted to indulgence in spirituous liquors or beer.

In the operation for the removal of the tumors, the pedunculated ones were divided close to the cartilage. From the large one on the right ala copious hemorrhage ensued from quite a large vessel; it was readily controlled however by torsion. From the sessile growths slices were taken by elliptical incisions and the remainder of the hypertrophied tissue dissected out from under the surface of the infiltrated skin, care being taken to leave sufficient flap to cover the cartilage. The edges

of the wounds were brought together by fine silk sutures, about fifteen being required. Under simple dressings rapid healing followed.

The portions removed weighed five hundred and ten grains. At the present time, nine months after the operation, there is no evidence of a return of the disease. Plate 2. The following observations upon the histology of this very rare form of Rosacea, together with the report of the microscopical examination of the growths removed from this case, are taken from Dr. Piffard's recent work on "Diseases of the Skin."



PLATE NO. I.

"HISTOLOGY.—The histological processes in Rosacea are probably the same as occur in chronic congestive and inflammatory states else-

where. In the third stage, which alone I have had an opportunity of examining microscopically, I have found great thickening of the corium with development of new connective tissue and enlargement of the blood-vessels, principally the veins. The sebaceous glands were many of them enlarged, sharing with the other elements of the skin the common hypertrophic tendencies. They did not appear, however, to have undergone any qualitative changes, with the exception that some of them were filled with impacted sebum. Small cell



PLATE NO. 2.

infiltration occurred to a limited extent along the course of the vessels.

In a specimen from a case of excessive enlargement referred to me by Dr. C. WAGNER for microscopical examination, in which the portions removed weighed about four hundred and forty grains, I found the following changes: The stratum corneum was exceedingly scant, consisting at most of but one or two layers, and in some parts entirely absent. The stratum Malpighii was very thick, with mostly large and

well formed cells. In some parts, however, the nuclei were shrunken and deformed, or entirely absent, leaving vacuoles. The papillæ were enlarged in length and breadth, and contained many round and fusiform cells. The sebaceous glands were not much altered except that the nuclei of the cells were indistinct, and did not imbibe carmine readily. In many cases the nuclei were shriveled or absent. The margins of the cells were irregular. Some of the glands were normal, but the others were undergoing degenerative, not hyperplastic changes. The derma was very greatly thickened, but presented the aspect of an adult tissue, and not one in the course of formation. There were a few round and spindle cells, but immature connective tissue was not seen. The lesion, on the whole, appeared to be a pure hypertrophy of the dermal connective tissue, manifested by an increase in the number, but not in the size of its elements, with degeneration of the glands, probably from pressure."

A microscopical examination of the specimen was also made by Dr. E. B. Bronson, with the same result as obtained by Dr. Piffard.

The accompanying wood cuts are from photographs.

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