





## A CASE OF GIANT(?)URTICARIA.\*

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A. J. ——— aged twenty, five feet, eight inches high, weighing 130 pounds has always been in good health. September 5th, he ate some crackers and watermelon and sometime after had a sensation of uneasiness in his stomach. The same evening he drank a bottle of Hunjadi Janos water, which acted but very slightly. The next morning I was called and found him with a hot and dry skin, intense thirst, rapid and full pulse, abdominal pains and constantly vomiting, with intense nausea. He complained of feeling a lump in his bowels. I prescribed small doses of soda-water to allay the irritability of the stomach together with powders containing very little morphia with some subnitrate of bismuth.

Upon examining the skin it was found covered with minute papules, and macules and beginning to itch slightly.

In the evening the irritability of the stomach had subsided to some extent as also the abdominal pains.

The next morning, Sept. 7, I prescribed a mercurial to be followed by a saline cathartic five hours later. It was then that the skin presented a most unusual sight. The patient was covered *from head to foot* with the characteristic wheals of urticaria. Their size varied from a large pin-head to half the size of the palm and could be found even upon the scalp. The face was swollen, and an intense pruritus was present all over the body. Frictions with whiskey were ordered to allay the itching.

The cathartic that had been ordered acted well and the patient's bowels were thoroughly emptied that night.

At noon the next day the eruption had nearly all disappeared and the patient ate a full and hearty meal. In a few

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more days he was thoroughly well again and about his business.

The chief points of interest about this case are :

1. The fact that the cause of the attack was undoubtedly an indigestion of the food taken on the 5th of September, by which means a derangement of the gastro-intestinal canal was caused, and this in its turn was the means of provoking the eruption.

2. The general disturbance which, as a rule, does not accompany such attacks. Although there was fever, no headache was ever felt.

3. The amount of surface invaded by the eruption. Generally in adults or after puberty the surface is not so largely invaded nor accompanied by such strong constitutional symptoms as in infants.

4. The duration of the attack was also rather prolonged, lasting almost, if not, four days. As a rule, the wheals are ephemeral, appearing suddenly and disappearing in a very short period of time.

5. The size of the wheals was unusual. The large ones were, of course, formed by the fusion of several smaller ones; still wheals as large as half a palm—and there were several noticed—are but rarely observed.

6. Another point was the appearance of the eruption and its evolution, beginning as a macule, then becoming a papule and a number of these becoming infiltrated and converted into a wheal.



