

CASE OF NÆVUS; OR HYPERTROPHY, CORRUGATION AND DISCOLORATION OF THE SKIN.

[Read before the Norfolk District Medical Society, May 9th, 1866, by G. J. ARNOLD, M.D., of Roxbury.]

MARY B., aged 25 years, a poor, semi-demented creature, was confined with an illegitimate female child, at full time, after a normal labor. Upon the left arm of the child, involving nearly the whole limb, was a peculiar deformity, which had for the most part the appearance of an immense mole. Beginning just above the wrist, it covered the entire arm and shoulder, spreading out upon the chest in front nearly to the nipple; upon the back to the median line, and descending as far as the angle of the scapula. Its color was an intense brown, or quite black, for the most part; much lighter on the fore-arm, but there also with black spots upon the brown. Most of that on the body was shaded off with a lighter brown, varying from half an inch to two or three lines in width. Upon the top of the shoulder, the upper portion of the arm, and about the region of the spine of the scapula, the surface was deeply corrugated and fissured. The flesh was raised into ridges and prominences, and was largely nodulated. These nodules were to the feel quite firm, as if arising from thickening and obesity of the skin and the tissues just beneath it. The region of the biceps seemed almost entirely occupied by these thickened masses, which were much blacker there than on the surrounding parts. An abundant growth of hair also covered this part, quite long, silky, and perfectly white.

There was another large spot upon the back and upper part of pelvis of left side, measuring from two to two and a half inches in diameter, somewhat oval in form, not intensely dark, but with some prominence and density of tissue. Upon this spot also the hair was abundant. Still another spot, of about half an inch in diameter, occupied the right hip. There were also numerous scattered brown spots,



like common moles, measuring from two to three lines in diameter, here and there over the body and extremities; but hardly a trace upon the head. There was no appearance of ecchymosis in any part.

As the child died twenty-four hours after birth, photographs were taken, from which the above wood-cuts have been prepared, which will give a better idea of the case than a more lengthened description.

In Saint-Hilaire's "Anomalies de l'Organization," vol. i., p. 331, we have the following, which more nearly approaches the case above reported than any other we have been able to find. We give a translation.

"The lower part of the back, loins and thighs were covered with a blackish, thickened, rugous, and deeply furrowed skin—with an appearance of cicatrices in many places, and covered with short, coarse and pretty closely set hair. In these cases the skin presented a striking resemblance to that of a hog. Besides this large blackened surface, the limbs, the whole body, the face, and even the scalp, were thickly spattered with spots of a reddish-brown color—some round or oval, others elongated and irregularly quadrangular, and others triangular. The skin otherwise was very white."

In a note, Saint-Hilaire says, "the color affected the whole thickness of the skin itself"—as it apparently did in the case we report.

## Reports of Medical Societies.

### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—THE MEETINGS OF THE SECTIONS.

#### *Section on Practical Medicine and Obstetrics.*

*Discussion on Diphtheria.*—The Section was organized by the appointment of Dr. Lake J. Tefft, of New York, Chairman, and Dr. W. B. Bibbins, of New York, Secretary.

Dr. H. D. Holton, of Putney, Vt., Chairman of the Committee on Diphtheria, as it had prevailed in the United States, made a report by reading an elaborate and interesting paper. He gave a history of the disease from its first appearance in this country, more than a century since. He insisted that diphtheria should not be confounded with follicular tonsillitis and kindred affections; in fact, nothing should be dignified with the name that did not present the characteristic exudation, with swelling of the cervical glands, &c. Neither should it be confounded with scarlatina or croup. Tables were presented showing the fatal months, the proportion of deaths at various ages of the three diseases. The disease was divided into diphtheria simplex, diphtheria maligna or gangrenosa, and tracheal diphtheria. He entered at some length into the discussion of the sequelæ, stating that they were paralysis, rheumatism and general cachexia.

After discussing the various plans of treatment, he divided it into local and general. Such mild cathartics should be used as the case seemed to require, although nothing like active purgation should be indulged in. Chlorate of potassa should be given pulverized with an equal amount of sugar, a little placed in the mouth, and allowed to run down the throat, that the local as well as the constitutional effect might be obtained.

Sulph. quinæ and tr. ferri chloridi should be used as occasion required; also alcoholic liquors, either alone or combined with cinchona