

ment, would you not expect that nerve to resent the intrusion? Would it not do so if any other foreign body of the same size were introduced? How much more then, if in addition to mere mechanical irritation, the cell proceeds to abstract or decompose the fluids. That it does this, which is indeed the essential function as a scavenger, we see in *favus* and ringworm, where especially in the former, the odour produced by it is intolerably fetid and irritating. It is clear that what with the actual pressure of the outspreading fungus, and the irritating products which it engenders, there are strong *prima facie* grounds for believing that the fungus does actually produce disease.

Then again if proof were wanting, observe the peculiar character of *lichen annulatus*, fairy-rings in miniature, presenting all the characters that fairy-rings do, and showing clearly enough that the fungus and rings of inflammation proceed *pari passu*.

The form of the disease will be determined by several minor conditions affecting the growth of the parasite; these we have before mentioned as warmth and moisture, suitability of food and density of tissue, all of which influence the development of the plant; thus we find in *Lichen*, one form; in *Pityriasis*, another; in *Favus*, a third, and so on; the spread of the disease being co-equal with that of the plant, and the degree of passive resistance which the tissues offer to its inroads.

It must be admitted here, as in the case of plants, that an unhealthy condition of the structures and fluids is necessary to the development of a parasite, for without these it would be incapable of establishing itself. The first attack would in a healthy body be at once resented, and the intruder repelled.

I would remark before concluding, that those diseases which are probably considered as of parasitic origin, have recently been shown by clinical observation to be identical, and capable of merging one into another by imperceptible gradations; thus establishing the fact which I had asserted from experimental enquiry and the development of the parasites.

In conclusion, a word or two as to the treatment of this class of diseases may not be out of place.

The primary consideration will at once suggest itself, that since the fungi can only attack an enfeebled system, it is essential for the cure of the disease that the general health be restored by treatment appropriate for that purpose; for we cannot expect a successful result while this important cause is still in operation.

The remedies which have attained celebrity as specifics, have little claim to be so considered, since if we except arsenic, which by the way is only useful when it is pushed to a dangerous extreme, they are all of but little value.

Of the topical applications I may observe, that my own experience of them is, that they are either inefficient or dirty, or both. The one to which I trust almost solely, has this to recommend it, that it is neither.

Its action is founded on what ought to be our guiding principle in the treatment of these cases, viz., the destruction of the parasite; and this from extended observation I believe to be effected by the Tincture of Iodine, far