

taken only during a few hours in the morning, and this from habit, not because of any particular disturbance during the night. Sores appeared on the penis and scrotum, but healed up entirely about seven months ago. For the last three weeks he has been complaining of a dull continuous pain in the neighbourhood of two hard, immovable, rounded nodes, on the second and third ribs at their junction with the sternum: they are not tender on pressure. He has been unable to walk during the last two years, most of which time he has spent in bed, although he can easily and does sit up.

*Present condition.*—When first seen he was lying on his back, with a thick yellowish-white ropy mucous dribbling from his mouth, the mucous membrane of which is thickened and roughened, as is also that of his tongue. The sense of taste is nearly wholly lost. The integument of the face is harsh, tense, glazed, brownish-yellow, with purple spots, and thickened especially over the superciliary ridges, malar bones, and lips, giving the face a very morose expression. The eyelids are wide open and everted; the conjunctiva intensely congested and thickened, with a portion roughly corresponding in shape and position to the cornea, elevated about one-eighth of an inch above the surrounding surface. No remains of either iris or pupil are to be seen. The septum nasi is visible for about a quarter of an inch, the point and alae of the nose being destroyed to that extent. The sense of smell is wholly lost. Scales of dark-brown colour, surrounded by a purple deeper zone and superficial zone of white flakes, some of which are as large as herring scales, fleck the face, on which are also small hard immovable tumors and purple puckered cicatrices. Only a few thin straggling hairs are to be seen beneath the chin,—his eyebrows, eyelashes, whiskers, and the hair above the forehead having all fallen out.

The integument of all the extremities presents similar appearance to that of the face, like nodes and cicatrices being noticeable. On the right ulnar styloid process is a punched-out ulcer one inch in diameter, with raised purple

edges, discharging a small amount of greenish ichorous pus, with a foul gangrenous odor. Similar ulcers occur on the back of the hands. The fingers have lost the nails and portions of the terminal phalanges, the stumps being intensely congested, with the bone projecting in the case of one or two. The toes are in a similar state. Owing to this condition of the hands, and to the fact that general sensibility is greatly diminished, he is unable to use his hands for anything save large objects. All the movements are awkward. The chest is somewhat emphysematous; breathing slow and laboured. The intelligence is clear, temper irritable and desponding, sleep disturbed. Speaks in a hoarse croaking voice, and that only after a deep inspiration. Pulse very fair.

The foregoing are the notes almost in full. There is no doubt but that the disease is the tubercular form of elephantiasis Graecorum. It was with no little difficulty that Mr. Fletcher obtained the information. The people in some cases being able to speak only Gaelic, he had to pursue his investigations by the aid of an interpreter. The chief point of interest in these is their etiology. It is to be regretted that a more full account of the early history of Betsy McCarthy could not be obtained, as to whether she was in any way exposed to the leprous contagion, if such there be, prior to her removal to Cape Breton. Mr. Fletcher may perhaps be able to obtain further information on this and other matters connected with the cases at some future time.

Tilbury Fox, in discussing the manner in which leprosy is propagated, quotes from the Leprosy Reports of 1867, of the College of Physicians, that "all but unanimous conviction of the most experienced observers in different parts of the world is quite opposed to the belief that leprosy is communicated by proximity or contact." But he himself is a strenuous advocate of the contagion theory, as well as of that of hereditary transmission, and in support of his views instances the history of leprosy in Madagascar and in the Sandwich Islands. In the former, while those affected were excluded from society, leprosy was kept within bounds; but the law of exclusion having fallen into dis-