

Syphilis, tuberculosis and malignant diseases of the skin have been claimed by the surgeons, and the exanthemata, which occupy so much space in the works on dermatology of the early part of this century, have been almost given up by the dermatologists and annexed by the physicians, who in their text-books describe them very fully.

One hundred years ago the classification of skin disease, as described by Plenok in 1783, Willan in 1808, and Bateman in 1813, was based purely on the external appearances of the eruptions, the "physical signs" as they might be called. The classifications adopted by these men are all much alike, namely, Maculae, Pustulae, Versiculae, Bullae, Papulae, Squammæ, Tuberculae, etc. Bateman has a class of exanthemata. Parasitic diseases were almost unknown, though Plenck has an order called "Insecta Cutanea." Elephantiasis Arabum, lupus, pellagra, syphilitica, keloid, diseases of the hair and nails, etc., were classed separately.

This classification was adopted by writers in England and on the Continent, either wholly or in a modified form. Then came the classification of Alibert, which divided the diseases of the skin into families, and was illustrated by a magnificent atlas of plates, which tended to popularize his views. His classification was as inaccurate as his pathology was erroneous; Rayer said, "it was deficient in unity and principle."

Hebra, inspired by Rokitsansky, was the first to classify diseases of the skin on a pathological basis, and though his scheme has been much modified by recent discoveries and the better methods of histological investigations, most writers, even at the present time, have a classification more or less modelled on Hebra's system. I must not omit to mention the diathetic school of Hardy in Paris, and the anatomical and therapeutical school of Erasmus Wilson in London. In this Association both the clinical and anatomical classifications have been discarded, an alphabetical list of diseases being thought sufficient to fulfil all requirements.

Enough about classifications—a troublous sea on which I do not intend further to sail.

At the beginning of the 19th century *Impetiginous Eczema* of children was considered beneficial rather than injurious to the general health, and no remedial measures were advised. Now we know this eruption is due to a specific organism, and is best treated with germicidal remedies, and when cured the patient is much benefited. Cutaneous cancer was considered as the outward manifestation of a diathesis, the effect of which would soon be felt by some of the internal organs. Now we know that cancer is "prima facie" a local disease, and only becomes