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Original Articles

ROSACEA PUSTULOSA

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By most writers on dermatological affections rosacea pustulosa is described as the second clinical manifestation of acne rosacea, the three being in the order of their appearance, rosacea erythematosus, rosacea pustulosa, and rosacea hyperthropica, or rhinophyma. Acne rosacea is a term rapidly falling into disuse, rosacea, as applied to the three stages in the process and of which this has been said to be the climax, superceding it. As rosacea means rosy, and erythematosus redness of the skin, there would seem to be a doubling of terms in the first clinical condition. Would it not be better to describe the first stage as rosacea simplex, the second as rosacea pustulosa, and the third as rosacea hyperthropica? The second most often comes under the attention of the physician for treatment.

It is manifestly altogether wrong and unsuitable to define any of these associated affections, outside of perhaps in some cases the third, as a chronic inflammation of the face and nose, generally due to the free use of alcoholic stimulants, or to nickname the affections as "brandy-nose" or "brandy-face." Such is at best only an occasional etiological factor, and should be reserved for those cases where alcoholic addiction actually contributes to the condition.

By far the greater majority of the cases of this often unsightly, disfiguring, common, and somewhat disgusting-looking affection, are of innocent origin. Indeed, the first, rosacea simplex, rarely comes under observation until the pustules—they are perhaps always larger than common acne—are implanted upon the rosaceous or erythematous base. In some cases, however, patients affirm the appearance of pustules antedated the appearance of the rosacea. What can, however, generally be elicited, by close questioning, is preliminary, intermittent flushing of some part of the