

prostration, neither the most diligent enquiry, nor the most careful physical examination, tends to throw the slightest gleam of light upon the precise nature of the patient's malady; nor do we succeed in fixing upon any special lesion as the cause of this gradual and extraordinary constitutional change; but, with a more or less manifestation of the symptoms already enumerated, we discover a most remarkable, and, so far as I know, characteristic discoloration taking place in the skin—sufficiently marked, indeed, as generally to have attracted the attention of the patient himself, or the patient's friends. This discoloration pervades the whole surface of the body, but is commonly most strongly manifested on the face, neck, superior extremities, penis and scrotum, and in the flexures of the axilla and around the navel. It may be said to present a dingy or smoky appearance, or various tints or shades of deep amber or chestnut brown; and in one instance the skin was so universally and so deeply darkened, that, but for the features, the patient might have been mistaken for a mulatto.

“In some cases this discoloration occurs in patches, or perhaps certain parts are so much darker than others, as to impart to the surface a mottled or somewhat chequered appearance; and in one instance there were, in the midst of this dark mottling, certain insular portions of the integument presenting a blanched or morbidly white appearance, either in consequence of these portions having remained altogether unaffected by the disease, and thereby contrasting strongly with the surrounding skin, or as I believe from an actual defect of coloring matter in these parts. Indeed, as will appear in subsequent cases, this irregular distribution of pigment-cells is by no means limited to the integument, but is occasionally also made manifest on some of the internal structures. We have seen it in the form of small black spots, beneath the peritoneum of the mesentery and omentum—a form which in one instance presented itself on the skin of the abdomen.

“This singular discoloration usually increases with the advance of the disease; the anæmia, languor, failure of appetite, and feebleness of the heart, become aggravated; a darkish streak usually appears upon the commissure of the lips; the body wastes, but without the extreme emaciation, and dry harsh condition of the surface, so commonly observed in ordinary malignant disease; the pulse becomes smaller and weaker, and without any special complaint of pain or uneasiness, the patient at length gradually sinks and expires. In one case, which may be said to have been acute in its development as well as rapid in its course, and in which both capsules were found universally diseased after death, the mottled or chequered discoloration was very manifest, the anæmic condition strong-