

as it were, independently of, the subjacent structure," or the disease actually commences in the cutaneous surface. Thus we observe that the attention of pathologists has long been directed to the cutaneous importance of cancerous disease, a few histologists like Mr. Butlin holding that all varieties of cancer have an epithelial origin. Gross (Vol. II, p. 272) writes: "Although scirrhus generally commences in the glandular structure of the mamma, yet occasionally its primitive seat is in the common integuments, &c." ; thus we observe here a recognized principle. The great majority of pathological productions contain cells analogous to epithelial cells, or to the corpuscles of the connective tissue. (Virchow's Cellular Pathology, p. 63.) That we may have eczema of the breast, independent of cancer, is undoubted ; hence the importance of discriminating between the purely simple and the *malignant papillary dermatitis*. The age of the individual, the duration of the disease, the intractable character, associated with the well defined margin of malignant dermatitis, and the evidence, when the tissue is grasped between the fingers, of infiltration in the papillary layer, doubtless point to the true character of the diseased condition. The demonstration within the past few years, of a local cause of several cutaneous diseases, formerly classed as expressions of blood states, is undoubtedly an advance beyond the old basis of an undefined *materies morbi*. Still, error would arise out of a general acceptance of such local power. From the microscopic character of eczema, Dr. Bulkley is disposed to consider it more decidedly constitutional than local. (Virchow's Cellular Pathology, p. 61.) "In the micrographical school of the west, a certain number of observers have come to the conclusion that in the series of new formations there is only one particular structure which is specifically different from natural formations—namely, *cancer*." Under such circumstances, traced up diversity becomes doubly interesting. The nature of eczema, as described by Dr. Tilbury Fox in London *Lancet*, in 1870, is not supposed to arise from mere capillary excitement ; that capillary congestion is a sequence of cell activity, and that the abnormal state of the cells may be the result of perverted