

congenital formations composed chiefly of blood-vessels, which have their seat in the skin and subcutaneous tissues. They may be prominent, turgescient, erectile, or even pulsating, tumor-like growths (angioma cavernosum tumour erectile), or they may be flat, non-elevated, well-defined or faint, smooth patches (nævus simplex). The latter is the 'mother's mark' or 'port-wine mark' of popular language. Angioma cavernosum is, in reality, rather a tumor of the deeper tissues than a disease of the skin. The superficial form of vascular nævus may be either congenital or acquired. The latter variety will be described under the head of Telangiectasis." The foregoing descriptions exhibit discrepancies, due perhaps to haste in the preparation of the article ("Nævus," in the "Reference Handbook of the Medical Sciences"); otherwise they are much clearer than the bulk of literature on the subject, and the classification given is the one to which I shall adhere in my paper.

Quain, in speaking of capillary angiomata says: "Microscopically, a nævus is composed of large capillaries, amongst which are seen arterial and venous trunks of larger size. Between the vessels are found connective tissue or fat, and sometimes the special constituents of the skin, such as sweat or sebaceous glands. It must be remembered that the nævus element enters rather largely into the composition of some other tumors, and notably of congenital moles (benignant melanoses)," and again, "Microscopically a cavernous angioma presents fibrous trabeculae, lined with the characteristic vascular endothelium, and in parts, perhaps separated by layers of alveolar or any other tissue which the tumor may be involving." Quain uses telangiectasis as a synonym of angioma.

In the supplement to Ashurst's International Encyclopædia of Surgery, under the article "Tumors Angioma," we read "Gessler collected 1,178 cases of tumors of the blood-vessels, and found that seventy-six per cent. occurred on the head, eleven per cent. on the trunk, nine per cent. on the extremities, and three per cent. on the back. The disease is congenital in nearly 11 cases. He also found that it was more than twice as common in the female as in the male. (2.4)" Wyeth says, "The arterial and capillary cutaneous tumors are almost always congenital; the venous tumors are rarely so."

Of the forms of vascular nævus, the capillary is the most frequent, and the venous the least so. The different forms of nævi vary greatly as to color, size, shape and number; the pigmentary form may be of any shade from light fawn to jet black, in size from a pin head to a foetal head; as a rule the smaller, the more regular is their outline, they may be single or multiple, covering the skin with hundreds of spots in reported cases; the vascular variety may be any color from the faintest blush to the deepest purple, from the size of a pin point to the extent of an extremity, or even half the body, in punctate spots, as a tortuous vessel barely below the surface, as a stain, or in the form of small tumors. Hutchinson reports a case of a child which had over one hundred nævi, all distinct and superficial.

Again I quote from Van Harlingen: "As regards the cause of nævus, the explanation given by Virchow, namely, superfluous vascular formations in those portions of the embryo at which junction of the various parts takes place, seems most plausible. A small quantity of matter left over, squeezed out between the joints, as it were, like superfluous building material, forms these nævi and the similar growths of lymphatics, hair, pigment, etc." Nævi frequently disappear spontaneously in the early months, or perhaps years of childhood; they also frequently remain in a stationary condition, but they quite as frequently grow very rapidly, both in size and extent; they are generally benign, but often cause serious inconvenience and great disfigurement. Wyeth says, "Moles, whether simple, hairy, or pigmented, are