

History of present disease.—Patient states that numbness and stiffness of the fingers were the first symptoms to appear. In two weeks the disease extended to lower half of forearms and then the legs and feet also became affected. The disease gradually extended until nearly every part of the surface of the body was attacked. The affected parts were stiff, hard and dry. The movements of the joints were interfered with and the stiffness of the muscles of the thorax caused some difficulty in breathing. The patient states the muscles of the jaws were so stiff that he was unable to masticate his food and had to be fed; black colored spots appeared on the arm. The subjective symptoms at that time were numbness, coldness, shooting pains in the extremities, and insomnia. Patient was very nervous and had a poor appetite. About three years ago his eyesight became dull, and on account of this he entered Toronto General Hospital and was placed under the care of Dr. Burnham, who treated him with potassium iodide and pilocarpine. Considerable improvement appeared to result from this method of treatment.

Present condition.—The hardness of this skin has to a great extent disappeared except that on the hands. All the fingers were nearly fixed and somewhat deformed. Many of the natural lines are abolished. Patient is in a very poor state of health; appetite is poor, and patient suffers from indigestion. The irides and conjunctivæ are inflamed.

Treatment.—Patient has had the advantage of many forms of treatment. While in New York he was successively under the care of Robinson, Bronson, and Fordyce. Hot baths, thyroid ext., electricity, massage, tonics, cod-liver oil, ichthyol, potassium iodide, pilocarpine, and many other drugs, have been tried. Some of these appeared to benefit the patient for a time. When he came under my care I gave him desiccated thyroids, and although he has appeared to improve, the stiffness and hardness of the hands still remain.

*Scleroderma*.—Case 2. M. M., aged thirty-five, female; a patient of Dr. F. J. Guinane, admitted to St. Michael's Hospital on March 25th, 1901. Mother, one brother, and two sisters are healthy. Father died of apoplexy at the age of seventy-six. Patient had good health until present illness. There is no history of rheumatism. During last August patient was caught in rainstorm and got her clothing drenched, and although she did not feel any immediate ill effects from the exposure, still it was shortly after this that the first symptoms of her present illness appeared. The patient states that the first symptoms to appear were pains in arms and legs. She thought that they were due to rheumatism. These pains occurred two or three times a week, and did not last long. About two months later she noticed that the legs below the knees became tender to touch and the skin glossy and hard, and about the same time the thighs also became tender to touch. The disease