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On the Exanthemata which have prevailed in Quebec during the past twelve months. By WM. JAMES ANDERSON, L.R.C.S.E.

When we consider the important functions dependent on the skin; that through it there transpires in an adult, every twenty-four hours, from thirty to forty-five ounces of matter, and that the diseases which affect it cause one ninth of human mortality, the importance of the study of the Protean forms which the exanthemata present will at once be admitted, especially at the present time, when there is much reason to suppose that they, as well as other forms of disease, have been, and still are undergoing *change of type*. Having already made the exanthemata my special study, I have availed myself of the opportunities lately presented by the prevailing epidemics, of prosecuting my enquiries, and in so doing, I have had the advantage of consultations with several friends, who have afforded me opportunities of observing many cases of interest both in private and Hospital practice, and I now propose to give the results.

Of the primary sources of the exanthemata, we know nothing certain, but it is instructive to mark the gradual expansion in their diagnosis. All of them have sprung up since the sixth century; and the Arabian physicians were impressed with the belief, that small-pox and measles, the only two of the now numerous family, then known, were pathologically associated; and as late as 1687, Diemerbroeck asserted that these two diseases were only different degrees of the same malady; but Sydenham, his contemporary, who had devoted much of his attention to measles, permanently separated small-pox from them (which he designated *morbilli*), and pointed out also the probability of scarlet fever being another distinct disease though the belief of the identity of measles and scarlet fever still generally prevailed, and it was only a century later