

HISTORY OF CASE.

March 9th.—Miss A. was brought to me by her mother, complaining of a very peculiar disease, for which several remedies had been tried in vain. As I had been spoken to by a friend of the family about some of the peculiar symptoms manifested in Miss A's case, I was prepared to be somewhat surprised when I should see for myself, but a look at the patient increased my wonder still more.

The following history of the case was obtained. A. is now fifteen years of age. She began to menstruate at the age of twelve years, but there has always been something peculiar about the discharge. It appears regularly, but has always been of a higher and somewhat different tinge from any that the mother ever saw. A. had, however, enjoyed very good health till within the last four months, at which time she was at a considerable distance from home, living with an aunt who was childless, where her grandmother, who was paralytic, also resided. The grandmother was very peevish and would allow no one to do anything about her, or for her, but A., who had also to attend school regularly and get up a considerable round of lessons at night. This, no doubt, proved a very great drag on A.'s mental and physical powers, but she bore up bravely till the death of her grandmother. She then became so sick that she begged to be taken home. When she returned to her parents she did not look very ill, but complained of occasional severe shooting pains, which she said were like those of toothache, through the top of her brain; she did not sleep well, and was always late getting up in the morning, and although she did not lose flesh, she was seen to eat hardly anything; bowels regular; catamenia, as stated above, regular but peculiarly tinged. She also complained of a pain in the left side, resembling that which often goes under the name of spinal irritation.

On looking at A. the first thing that attracted the eye was the existence of two peculiar looking very dark spots below the eyes, covering the lower lid, and the semilunar depression underneath. These spots had made their appearance suddenly after she had partaken of a few doses of a particular mixture, which had been made up for her by a physician of this city, at his surgery, and had continued ever since to get worse, becoming darker almost daily. The mother said that when A. sat near a fire, the spots could be seen to increase in intensity of color, until they became as black and shining as the skin of a very dark negro. Their appearance was certainly very peculiar, and they were a source of great annoyance to the patient and her friends, for it seemed as if the girl was the subject of some mysterious disease of which no one had ever heard before. To the patient herself they were utterly unbearable, as she