

general when the lymphatics are involved and the disease has lasted some time, that if eradicated early and thoroughly, it can be cured in many cases.

It was believed that the appearance of eczema or a lichen during the course of an internal malady, was always followed by a favorable solution of the disease; that during an acute disease the cutaneous affections would sometimes disappear, and physicians considered it was most important to administer remedies to bring it back so that by this means there might be a favorable termination of the internal disease. The idea that it is not well in all cases to try and cure an eruption, say of the scalp, for fear of entailing something worse upon the patient, is not yet extinct among intelligent people.

In the beginning of the last century in all works on Dermatology, Lepra and Psoriasis had separate chapters for their description, and were looked upon as distinct diseases. From the description given by Bateman in 1819, one would now conclude that they were one and the same disease; the only essential difference being that the patches in lepra are circular and discrete, while in psoriasis they are irregular and diffuse, and in 1842 S. Plumbe, although he devotes 12 pages to lepra and 21 to psoriasis, says that "he is fully convinced that for all purposes of useful discussion lepra and psoriasis might have been included under one head." He says also that "the information we have at present acquired in the modern study of cutaneous diseases, does not enable us to find a better reason for their separation than that afforded by the circumstance of its having been made by the ancients."

Arsenic and pitch were given with good effect then, and sulphur baths were strongly advised, but bleeding and purging were condemned by Bateman. White precipitate ointment is advised in some cases, also unguentum picis and dilute citrine ointment. Bateman found the decoction of the leaves and twigs of the *Solanum dulcamara* most beneficial.

As to the etiology of the disease, as much was known a hundred years ago as now; heredity was held to be a factor, and certain foods and drinks were said to produce it, cream, vinegar, oatmeal and alcohol, and in some cases violent exercise of the body are given as causes. Willan says cold and wet will bring it on, but the conclusion of most of these early writers is that the causes of this disease (lepra) are involved in much obscurity. No less than three varieties of lepra are described and eleven of psoriasis.

The history of *Scabies* is a most interesting one. Four different forms were recognized, viz., *S. Papuliformis*, *S. Lymphatica*, *S. Purulenta* and *S. Cachectica*. The clinical features of each one of these