

The fact of chronic eczema of the nipple being closely connected with mammary cancer was first observed by Sir Jas. Paget in 1874. In the London *Lancet* of January 27th, 1877, he most cautiously expressed the opinion that he could only speak of the clinical character of these cases. He had no doubt of the frequency with which chronic eczema, or any chronic irritative disease of the breast or nipple, was followed by cancer. Fifteen or twenty cases had come under his observation, from which he was led to believe "that if any irritative condition were present in the skin of the areola and nipple for a period of three or four years (the patient being of an age favourable to cancer), cancer of the breast would ensue." The clinical value of this fact was so important that in December, 1879, at a meeting of the Royal Medico-Chirurgical Society, Mr. Erichsen stated "he could not but think that this condition of nipple, when associated with cancer, was something different from any known form of cutaneous disease," and attention being first called to it by Sir Jas. Paget, he termed it "Paget's Disease of the Nipple." At a meeting of the Royal Medico-Chirurgical Society, January 23, 1877, Dr. Thin maintained that the supervention of cancer upon eczema of the nipple was unknown, except in London. It is true that, as far as Ottawa is concerned, during a period of 28 years work in two General Hospitals, the present is the first opportunity which has presented of recording this peculiarly interesting clinical fact.

Dr. Thin, in examining carefully the histology of this disease, has come to the conclusion that the breast-tumour in Paget's Disease is actually duct cancer, developed from the epithelium of the lactiferous ducts, and never true scirrhus or parenchymatous cancer, which he considers is developed from the secreting epithelium of the acini: so, from the origin of the disease, which spreads downwards to the gland and promotes at the same time, superficially, this type of eczema, termed *papillary dermatitis*. In examining into the clinical history of this subject, we find that Walshe, "on the Nature of Cancer, 1846, p. 473," has recorded, in reference to cancer of the breast, that the skin sometimes undergoes cancerous infiltration coevally with, and,