

to study the literature of the subject I have not found a similar case. At first sight without going into the history of the case, one might take the case for one of small-pox, the pustular eruption was so similar. As a rule, the pustules remained discrete throughout the attack; in some places, however, they were confluent. The inflammation extended to the derma as evidenced by the scars which remained. These scars, however, were in many instances the result of scratching rather than of the disease itself. In places which had not been irritated the cicatrization was very slight.

#### SPASMODIC SPINAL PARALYSIS.

A. P., aged forty-two, born in Canada, resides in a small town in a northern part of Ontario. His family history is good. Some of his relatives both on his father and mother's side suffered from rheumatism. Patient was engaged in the lumbering business, leading a very active life until about eight years ago; since that time he has kept a hotel. About two years before he left the lumbering business, he was exposed to cold, working in the water. He was then seized with a violent pain in the left hip joint which appears to have been of a rheumatic character. It prevented him from working for some time. The present disease commenced two years and a half ago. He noticed first pain in the left hip, and afterwards numbness in the leg. In a short time he found that he had not the proper use of the limb, and contractures began to take place. In about six months after the commencement of the disease the right leg also became affected, but was not so bad as the left until a little over a year ago. Since that time the right has been worse than the left. Last summer there was some improvement in both legs, so much so that he could go around with the aid of crutches.

*Present Condition.*—Patient is a tall, well-developed man and from his appearance one would consider him to be in excellent health. There is no wasting of the limbs. He sits on a chair or lies on the bed; not being able to move about even on crutches.

There are present, numbness of the feet, paresis, more particularly of muscles connecting

the thighs with the trunk, diminution of sensibility, contractures of the limbs and tremors. The patellar tendon reflex is very much exaggerated. Patient is very sensitive to cold. He can pass water without great difficulty, but has lost control to some extent over the bowels.

The diminution of sensibility is quite easily made out by the æsthesiometer. The contractures are very marked and cause the patient more annoyance than any other symptom. They are sometimes brought on by attempts at movements, and sometimes when the foot touches the cold floor. He states that when he has an inclination to have the bowels move, he must get out of bed at once as he cannot control the sphincter. Very often at this critical moment he will be seized by the contractures, one leg going in one direction and the other in another. At such time he would lose entire control of the limbs. The contractures last for some seconds, after which he can gradually move the limbs to their proper position. He remained in the hospital for a few days and then returned home.

*Remarks.*—This would appear to be a case of spasmodic spinal paralysis with some symptoms of sclerosis of the posterior columns. The slight loss of sensibility and the partial loss of control over the sphincter are symptoms not met with in spasmodic spinal paralysis, at least not until later stages of the disease, as it is described by Erb in Ziemssen's Encyclopædia. It is probable that the sclerosis in this case affected not only the lateral columns but also to some extent the posterior root zones.

A RARE OCCURRENCE.—On the 16th of April last as Dr. Cameron, of this city, was engaged in applying a Sayre's jacket to a young lady, about twenty years of age, affected with rotary lateral curvature of the spine, the following incident occurred:—The patient, a tall, well developed young lady, had suffered from scoliosis for the last six years. Three years ago Sayre applied a plaster jacket and recommended daily self suspension, which has been regularly practised since, the jacket being renewed once every six or eight weeks. During the suspen-