

A *pustular* disease of the skin is a common result, too, of the presence of the acarus. This eruption I have observed more commonly in the lymphatic and the debilitated. It may be observed on either the hands, the feet, or the nates. The pustules when situated on the hands or on the feet, are of the same average size as the vesicles, but on the nates they often resemble small furunculi. I have even seen small abscesses on the nates of children, due entirely to the irritation of the acarus.

It is by no means uncommon to see patches of *eczema* or of *impetigo*, as the result of scabies; these occur more frequently about the wrists, in the flexures of the elbows, in the axillæ, about the ankles, in the hams, or (in the female) on the breasts.

There is another disease of the skin which the acarus may give rise to—when I say may give rise to, I do not merely mean may reëxcite, but may cause to appear for the first time—and that is urticaria. This, I believe, has not been noticed by any other author. I have seen very severe urticaria form the principal feature of cases which, on careful examination, I have found to be cases of scabies.

Besides the above detailed eruptions, there is another symptom of scabies, which, though less obvious than any of the preceding, is of infinitely greater importance, since it is not only most constantly present, but once recognized is pathognomonic of the disease. The symptom referred to is the track, left by the female acarus in its passage through the substance of the epidermis, the *acarian furrow*, as it has been termed. This presents the appearance of a curved dotted line under the surface of the epidermis, varying in length from the thirtieth to the third of an inch, and assuming the form of a comma, of a horse-shoe, or of the letter S. It may be either white or of a greyish colour. At one extremity of the furrow is a minute, rounded, opaque, white elevation, the “acarian eminence;” from this, with a little address, the acarus itself may be extracted on the point of a pin. It is, however, easy to detach small pieces of epidermis, of about the size of an acarus, where no acarus is present, and I have often seen this mistake made. The itch may be distinguished from fragments of epidermis by several tests; of these the most unequivocal is to place the suspected atom under the microscope, when the well known anatomical characters of the acarus (if acarus it be) will at once reveal themselves; but the microscope is an instrument that we may not have always at hand, and in its absence there are other tests which are scarcely less certain. Thus, if the point of the pin to which the particle adheres be held up to the light, if it be an acarus, the atom will have a semi-transparent and plump appearance; if it be a piece of epidermis, it will look opaque and shrivelled.