

In the past, the indurated nodules, as well as the resulting ulcers, have almost always been taken for syphilitic lesions, which they very closely resemble, false and injurious inferences as to past history or inheritance have been drawn, and prolonged courses of treatment undertaken quite unnecessarily. It is evidently important, then, that the existence of this affection should be widely known, and that it should be borne in mind when cases of multiple ulceration of the legs, especially in young people, having the clinical appearances of syphilis, present themselves for diagnosis and treatment.

Referring to this point, Dr. Calcott Fox, in a paper read before the British Medical Association at its recent meeting, said :—"The distinction from syphilitic gummata is certainly very difficult, and it is only by observation of the case, and consideration of all the circumstances, that a correct opinion can be formed. The persistence of individual lesions, the prolonged course of the affection as a whole, the number of the lesions, the frequency in young girls, and the bilateral localization on the legs, are the chief points against syphilis."

As already mentioned, the disease resembles erythema nodosum, but may be diagnosed from it by keeping in view the following points of difference :—(1) The tendency the lesions have to ulcerate. This is not the case in erythema nodosum. (2) The position of the lesions, which are generally on the posterior aspect of the leg, over the gastrocnemius muscle. (3) The lesions themselves are more circumscribed, firmer, and of a somewhat different colour. (4) There are no constitutional symptoms and no local tenderness.

To what extent it is necessary to differentiate this affection from scrofulo-tuberculous gummata is at present uncertain. As Bazin's name implies, it is no doubt closely allied to tubercular troubles of other kinds, and will probably come to be classed as one more clinical form of the great group of affections for which the tubercle bacillus is directly or indirectly responsible.

As regards treatment, Mr. Hutchinson says :—"In my early cases I tried many different methods of treatment, and laid par-