

does acne in its various forms imply? he has these suggestive words: "We should, I think, have to reply that in the first place it denotes original and heritable peculiarity in the structure of the skin; next, that its common form in young persons usually implies greater or less disturbance of tone in connection with the sexual system." But does not acne imply still more? Do we not find in all our cases of physiological acne a laziness (if I may be allowed the expression) on the part of every excretion of the body, and an altered character in this secretion? These patients are often the subjects of indigestion, and, as they say, bilious; or, in other words, the secreting glands of the stomach are slow in action. The feebleness of the action of the liver modifies the glycogenic process. Are they not again constipated, and does not this constipation point to an altered state of the secretion from the intestinal mucous membrane? If the patients are women, we find the menstrual secretion is scanty and often much changed in character. Again, very many of these patients complain of sexual debility manifesting itself in many degrees, at times even amounting to impotence. If we take a higher flight we shall, if we know them intimately, discover that they are slow of perception, very often unusually lazy, and intolerable sleepers. And not a few from the want of activity in the excreting organs glide into gout as they become older.

Let us ask ourselves one other question: What is it that determines the introduction of acne, and what its decline? We know as a matter of universal observation that, as the sexual life of the organism approaches, the human being develops a second crop of hairs on the pubis, axillæ and limbs, and in the male sex on the cheeks, chin, and upper lip, and where this activity spends itself in the production of vigorous hair, the condition is a natural one, but where this process is spent in such situations as the cheeks, the nose, forehead and chin, where hairs are not produced we find acne spots appear. In women you will find the situations where the hair grows on the male sex very often occupied by acne, and in our sex where the facial hairs are not developed from some inherited peculiarity, acne may occur in the whisker regions. I am supposing in these cases that the skins are thick and greasy. There are happily many hundreds of human beings who cannot produce acne.

When once this acne is established it undergoes very many changes. If we watch our cases attentively we shall find any cause which depresses the vitality of the patient, causes the acne to become more pronounced. In women it is very common for a few acne spots to appear on the face during each menstrual period. In men excessive sexual indulgence has the same effect, and masturbation may produce precisely the same result. It is this latter part which has induced some to attribute (without any data I should say) all cases of acne to masturbation. The changes under the lower eyelid which we see occurring at each successive menstrual period, are due to the increased pallor of the skin of the face owing to the loss of blood, and is not in any way increased pigmentation. It disappears too quickly for such to be the case.

The association of the advent of sexual potency and acne has induced the laity to attribute these spots to chastity, and I have even heard this view supported by our own brethren. But there are manifold debilitating influences other than these which foster acne spots. The exhaustion induced by study, by late hours, by bad living, by too close confinement, by want of exercise in the fresh air; each one of these will occur to us all as being more general in their influence upon acne spots than the exhaustion induced by sexual indulgences or bad practices. It is very interesting to note in passing, how dermatologists have looked upon the causes of acne from different standpoints, those who are disposed to view the human race from a gloomy view attribute the disease to sexual excess or masturbation. Whilst the optimist attributes it to excessive chastity and over-continnence.

I have one other form of acne to bring before your notice. "The acne of the climacteric period of life." I have made a separate group of these cases because they stand out in many ways as a distinct picture. This is the story. Women who had, during their age of adolescence, acne, arrive at the period of life when the menstrual function ceases, or in other words when their functions as women come to an end. And at this period of life they very often grow a crop of hair, of variable lengths on the upper lip, or cheeks, but more commonly on the chin, and we find in those who have thick follicular skin—that a crop of acne differing neither in etiological or pathological nature from the acne of youth. The common occurrence of