

CASES IN PRACTICE.

BY J. E. GRAHAM, M.D., L.R.C.P., LOND.

Lecturer on Dermatology in the Toronto School of Medicine.

PECULIAR PUSTULAR ERUPTION FROM
EXPOSURE TO RAYS OF SUN.

Peculiar pustular eruption on the skin produced by the action of the sun's rays. Came to me July, '80, when the following notes were taken :

A. B., aged six., born in Canada. For the last $4\frac{1}{2}$ years has lived in a town in Western Ontario. Family history, good ; no trace of hereditary disease in any of her relatives.

Present illness : About two years ago last April some pimples appeared on the face and hands. About a week after their appearance she took diphtheria and during her confinement in the house from this disease, the spots faded away without leaving any scars. Similar spots appeared in June after she commenced to go out of doors. This time they grew larger, filled with matter, attaining their full size in two or three days, when a dark spot appeared in the centre of each, and gradually a scab formed, which in a short time fell off. During the summer of '78 several successive crops of these spots appeared which passed through the successive stages as above described, in about nine or ten days and then went away leaving slight cicatrices. They only appeared after the patient was exposed to the sun, and the severity of the attacks seemed to be in proportion to the amount of the previous exposure.

In the fall of '78 the eruption disappeared altogether and remained away until the latter part of the winter of '78-'79. It then reappeared after the exposure on a bright sunny day when snow was on the ground. That portion of the face which was protected by the winter hood was not affected. While wearing gloves, the hands were not affected, but they became so when she ceased to wear the gloves. The wrists which were covered for a time in the spring were not affected. In the summer, however, they also became affected. The eruption was not accompanied by much itching. A slight irritation was noticed on its first appearance.

Patient had scarlatina in the summer of

1879. This disease had no effect on the eruption, except that it faded away on account of the confinement to the house. Patient has constantly worn a glove since the 1st of May last on her left hand. This hand has not been at all affected.

As a general rule the eruption has been much less during the winter season, owing to her being kept in the house. Her mother thinks that the rays of the sun in the winter have not quite the same effect as in summer. The eruption always appears after she has been out for a few hours when the sun is shining. It will also appear sometimes after she has been sitting at an open window with the warm breeze blowing on her. On a cloudy day when the sun is completely concealed, no effect is produced.

She had a slight attack of ague in the spring and some symptoms of that disease presented themselves during the summer. Her appetite is fairly good. She is fond of acids, vinegar, &c.

Present Condition, July 1880.—There is a copious eruption on the face, ears and right hand. On the face it is made up for the most part of ordinary sized pustules, some being umbilicated and resembling those of small-pox, others were covered by scabs, others presented cicatrices, the scabs having fallen off. The nose is swollen ; the lips are much swollen and covered with scabs. The ears also are covered with large pustules. Some of the pustules on the face were as large as a ten cent piece, some much larger. Patient was vaccinated when she was eight months old. Nothing unusual followed the vaccination.

Nearly all applications seemed to aggravate the disease, and all forms of internal treatment adopted were of no avail.

Remarks.—The patient was first seen by me in January '80, when notes of her case were taken. I saw her again in July, but having to leave town, I left her in charge of Dr. A. H. Wright, who saw her when one of the attacks of eruption was at its height and who wrote the history of the case as given above. The eruption appears to be solely the effect of exposure to the sun's rays, and is of a very severe character indeed. So far as I have been able