

such name. The pigmentation and freckling which are characteristic of the disease were, in the present case, very pronounced. Hebra's cases were stunted in growth and of defective mental capacity. This, however, is far from being constant. In this case the height is 5 feet 2 inches, but the figure is proportionate, while her intelligence is excellent, and she has shown marked courage and resolution.

Fibroma molluscum is rare among diseases of the skin; Crocker gives the figures 9 in 16,863 American cases, and 1 in 10,000 Crocker's and McCall Anderson's cases. This authority, however, thinks these figures should be somewhat modified.

I can recall at least two other cases that I have seen in the General Public Hospital in the past six or seven years, one occurring in a condition closely resembling acromegaly.

The etiology and pathology are obscure. Heredity apparently has its influence. The condition which affects the father of Mary H. is, judging from her description, fibroma molluscum.

Crocker says that the presumption is in favor of fibroma molluscum being mainly due to obstruction of the superficial lymphatics, at least in the diffuse cases, but that we are entirely ignorant as to how the obstruction arises. This theory and many points in its anatomy bring it into pathological relationship with elephantiasis Arabum. Crocker also states that fibro-neuromata coexist in some cases with fibroma molluscum. They are regarded by others as a part of the disease, and are a well marked feature in the present case.

Fibro-neuromata might naturally be supposed to be characterised by pain. This seems rarely to be the case.

The New Sydenham Society has recently re-issued a "Treatise on Neuroma," by Dr. Robert W. Smith, written over fifty years ago, and the preface states that the observations are of as great value as at the time of original publication. It is here stated in reference to idiopathic neuroma: "The pain accompanying neuroma has always been considered as one of the most important characteristics of the disease. When the tumors exist in great numbers they are, in the majority of cases, the source of little or no uneasiness to the patient; but the solitary neuroma is in general the seat of agonizing pain, the pain darting along the trunk and branches of the nerve with all the suddenness of an electric shock."

Erichsen states that fibromata of nerves are almost invariably painless. The present case bears out the rule fully.

"Virchow and V. Reckling Lausen (to quote Dennis) have directed attention to the fact that fibroma molluscum may grow from the fibrous sheaths of the nerves and from sweat ducts and hair follicles. From these facts pathologists regard these growths as fibro-neuromata." "The absence of filaria in the blood flowing from the tumor indicates that the affection is not elephantiasis."

It still remains for some one to point out the true nature of fibroma molluscum and possibly establish it among the parasitic or germ diseases.