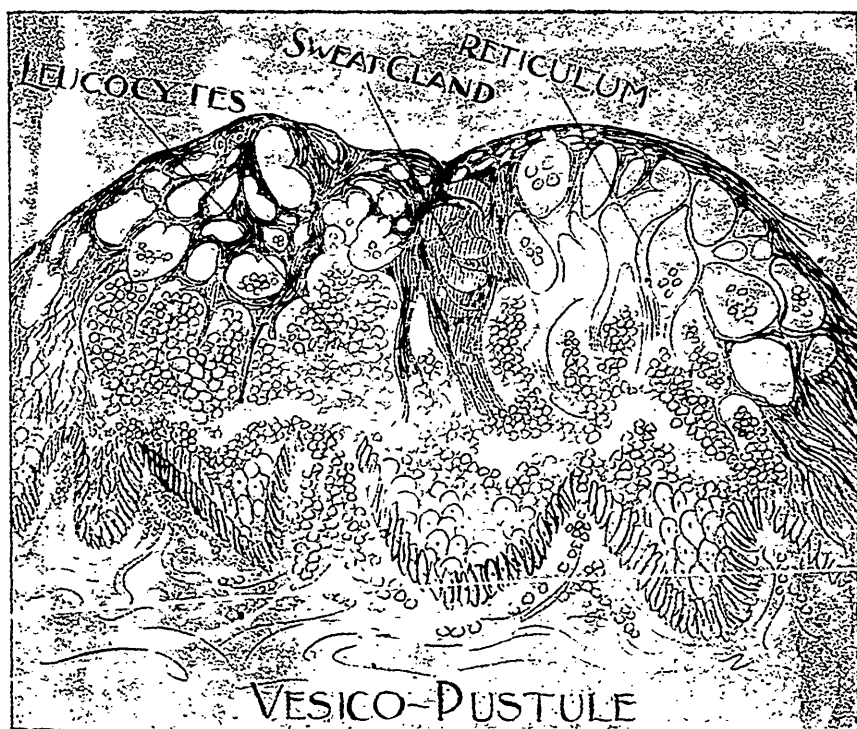


follicle or sweat gland (see diagram). But a vesicle, which does not contain a hair-follicle or sweat gland, may be umbilicated; another explanation is, that the epithelium which proliferates around the edges of the vesicle raises its outer margin, while the centre is held down by the reticulum. That some escape umbilication may be because their reticula in the centre break down early, and the pressure of the accumulated fluid contents keeps its top level. The roof of the vesicle is the stratum corneum, the stratum lucidum, and the upper malpighian layer; the floor, the lower malpighian layers, unless the



virulence of the poison leads to a complete disintegration of the papillary layer, when the corium will be invaded. If this occurs, the consequent ulceration will cause pitting. The breaking down of the reticulum and the invasion of the vesicle by leucocytes are the factors in the formation of the pustule. Its contents disintegrate, its roof becomes rubbed off, and dessication and scabbing follow. Micrococci have been seen in the vessels of the corium, and in the contents of the vesicle; but it has not been shown that these are concerned in the causation of the disease.