

artificial anus is almost closed, and without doubt will be perfectly cured.—*Med. Times.*

Medicine.

ON THE DISEASES OF THE SKIN, CAUSED BY THE ACARUS.

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The effects produced by the presence of the acarus in the epidermis are—*Itching*, aggravated towards evening, in some cases felt only in the evening, and even then but slightly, but in others severe enough to deprive the patient of sleep and rest during the first half of the night. The itching and the scratching that it provokes are to some people not altogether disagreeable. I have noticed that those who describe the sensations produced by scabies as agreeable are usually persons of lymphatic temperament, while to persons of nervous temperament the disease is always tormenting.

One of the diseases that results from the irritation of the acarus is *Prurigo*. By this I mean an eruption of papules (discrete, not confluent) attended with considerable itching of the portions of skin on which they appear; this itching leads to the excoriation of their summits by the patient's nails. They have been described by Willan and Bateman as papules, with vesicles on their tops; but this is an error, since the small drops of serum which exude from the torn apices of the minute pimples are not covered by any layer of epidermis. The prurigo of scabies differs from the ordinary prurigo of old persons, in that the papules are smaller; that the secretion from these summits is sanious serum, rather than blood; that they are more numerous on a given extent of surface, and that the minute crusts which result from the drying up of the fluid that exudes from them are more florid. The usual situations for this pruriginous eruption are the inner aspect of the forearms, the belly, and the inner aspect of the thighs. In the great majority of cases of scabies this papular eruption is present.

Another disease of the skin produced by the acarus is a *vesicular* eruption. The vesicles vary in size from that of a small pin's head to a large bleb. They are seen more commonly on the backs of the webs of the fingers, and on the sides of the fingers, on the back of the web of the thumb, on the palm of the hand, on the anterior aspect of the wrist, and on the feet. The vesicles are absent in about twelve per cent. of the cases of scabies that come under observation. A fair idea, both of the vesicular and the pustular eruptions of scabies, is conveyed by Part IV. of the author's published series of photographs of the diseases of the skin.