

ringworm fungus, and in 1846 Eichstädt discovered that of tinca versicolor.

The enormous influence that the discovery of the microbic origin of disease has had on surgery and medicine is incalculable. Without our present knowledge medicine and surgery would have been at a standstill, and we owe this, in the first place, to the men whose names I have mentioned above, and secondly to the magnificent work of Pasteur, Lister and Koch. As I have before said, perhaps no department of medicine has made more progress during the century just elapsed than dermatology; from being an indefinite, inexact and confused branch of medicine, it has developed into one of the most exact and scientific departments—from being a mere bye-path it has become a most important highway—and although there is much yet to learn about the pathology and etiology of diseases of the skin, nevertheless, during the quarter of the century just elapsed, and especially since the discovery of the microbic origin of many diseases, vast strides have been made.

Notwithstanding the fact that most of the pathological processes and changes are taking place before our very eyes, there is great diversity of opinion regarding the significance of those changes, and many difficult problems beset us which are as yet unsolved. Many skin diseases are more than mere local manifestations, for, as it has been said, "They have their roots in the interior," *e.g.*, such diseases as syphilis, tuberculosis, the eruptive fevers. There is a close connection between certain skin lesions and diabetes, dyspepsia, rheumatism, etc., acne may be connected with menstrual disorders, urticaria with the pregnant condition, with pleurisy, and the ingestion of certain obnoxious foods, and purpura with rheumatism. Many rashes are produced by drugs; obstructive jaundice may produce xanthoma, etc., and so it is evident that the pathology of skin disease is intimately connected with general pathology. How important, then, is it that the dermatologist should have a general knowledge of disease. The great principles of medicine and surgery should first be mastered before the study and practice of a specialty is undertaken. In this way a much broader grasp of the subject is obtained, and the specialist is much less likely to run into narrow grooves. Plato recognized this, and said that "the reason why the cure of many diseases is unknown to the physicians of Hellas is because they are ignorant of the whole, which ought to be studied also; for the part can never be well unless the whole is well."

Diseases of the skin are on the borderland between medicine and surgery, and both departments lay claim to certain skin affections.