

stimulants. Many patients will tell you that a glass of wine will set their face in a blaze.

Erythematous eczema of the face is another good example. In this disease the relationship between functional disturbances of the gastro-intestinal tract and the skin affection is often most marked. I refer here to the type depicted in Louis A. Duhring's Atlas of Skin Diseases, where the skin is red and desquamating, and the natural lines of the skin are accentuated. The eyes are sad and tired looking, as if from lack of sleep, and the corners of the mouth drawn down, giving the man the appearance of invincible melancholy. If at all observant, it is likely that this person has found that indulgence in peppers, spices, alcohols, and the strong nerve stimulants such as tea and coffee, are followed by an attack of cutaneous irritation.

Not long ago a young man applied to me for the relief of a tantalizing pruritus. I had long previously treated the father for a severe papular eczema of the face. This was not the sole trouble the father had, for he was highly nervous, had a florid face, and was addicted to drink. The son was of the same tense high-strung type as the father, and his belly had two large scars on it, resulting from an operation for appendicitis. The fact of appendicitis was itself a sign of intestinal irritation, inflammation of the appendix being only the highly dangerous part of a much more extensive catarrhal inflammation of the bowels, just as mastoiditis is the highly dangerous point in a catarrhal affection of the ear. By taking out the appendix, however, the catarrhal trouble in the rest of the intestines is not cured. My hypothesis therefore was that the pruritus was due to intestinal irritation, and that possibly the predisposition to it was inherited, and he was treated accordingly. Among other things he was set on a diet in which pepper was interdicted. Shortly afterwards he returned saying that for some time he had been better, but that the preceding Sunday night he had had a severe attack of itching, which had prevented sleep. On questioning him he admitted eating curry that evening for dinner, and affirmed that he did not know that curry is pepper. It may be that the curry did not cause the attack of itching, but its ingestion occurred at the right time for it to have had this effect. This unperceived enjoyment of pepper and other condiments should always be borne in mind in ascertaining the habits or directing the diet of even amenable patients. In the first place, people are not used to thinking along these lines. I remember one time speaking very earnestly to a thoughtful woman on the evil effects of pepper, as particularly emphasized in a member of her own