

## BENEFICIAL EFFECTS OF ERYSIPELAS.

We make the following excerpts from a lecture upon erysipelas, by M. Hardy, of Paris, lately published in *L'Union Médicale*. "Lastly, in certain cases, far from constituting a serious affection, erysipelas is, on the contrary, a fortunate complication, capable of determining the cure of chronic diseases, which may have lasted for a long period of years. This is the case with erysipelas, complicating certain chronic skin diseases. At the *Hôpital St. Louis* I have frequently seen erysipelas supervene in patients suffering from ulcers, and I have never failed to observe to my students that this apparently grave complication was a favourable circumstance, which would tend to bring about a prompt recovery from the primary disease. In individuals affected with syphilitic ulcerations, broken down by poverty and cachexia, and in whom all specific remedies have been tried without success, cicatrization has thus been observed to occur as a sequence of an erysipelas, and to be complete in the course of a few days.

I have thus seen, in the case of a serpiginous ulcerating syphilide, an attack of erysipelas produce a cure in a week. It is especially, in cases of a special affection of the skin, remarkable for its tenacity, scrofulides of whatever variety, erythematous, tubercular or ulcerous, that erysipelas is seen to occur as a complication of the skin disease. Not only then does the erysipelas not present any harmful character, unless recourse be had to some ill-advised treatment, but on the other hand it is observed to become the point of departure of an amelioration, which had been previously vainly sought by the employment of rationally indicated means. I shall cite, in support of this opinion, the case of a patient who had been for a long time under treatment in our hands for an ulcerating lupus of the cheek, an erysipelas having occurred, the sore commenced to present a remarkable modification; and, two months afterwards, a new attack of erysipelas produced an almost complete cure of the ulceration; lastly, three months later, a third attack of erysipelas occurred and left behind it a definitive cicatrization."

## ACCESSORY MAMMARY GLANDS.

The hypertrophy of the "tubercles of Montgomery," in the areola around the nipple during pregnancy, has been long since observed. Smellie and Montgomery relied upon their existence as evidence of gestation, but subsequent observations have shewn that hypertrophy of them sometimes occurs in nulliparæ, as a result of various uterine affections, interstitial myomata, &c. The fact of the glands containing a secretion has also been for sometime known, and frequently observed. Bidlos and Morgagni have observed it as a limpid liquid; and Morgagni, Winslow, and Corallo, as a thick milk. It was suggested, when a milky fluid was observed to flow from these glands, that perhaps a galactophorous tubule had been diverted from its ordinary course towards the nipple and had opened into one of these glands; but the researches of M. Duval (1867), M. de Sinety (1877), and Dr. Pinard (1877), have served to manifest the error of this view, and elucidate the physiology of these glands. "They are of three kinds: Simple sebaceous glands, sebaceous glands divided into several lobes, and lastly (and this is the interesting part) true isolated mammary glands, forming both colostrum and perfect milk under the same influence as the principal gland." Dr. Pinard, lately presented to the *Société Anatomique* a work upon this subject, together with a specimen shewing sixteen of these hypertrophied papillæ very prominent upon the areola of one side, and twelve upon that of the other,—a very unusual number. The secretion was identical with that from the breast itself. The number of galactophorous tubules opening into the nipple itself in this case was eight on one side, and nine on the other. The child, in taking the breast, opens its mouth widely in order to secure the secretion from all these sources. Out of sixty women examined with a view to determine the average number of these tubercles in the areola, four was found to be the mean for each breast. In four out of the sixty they were absolutely wanting.

In the February No. *Dublin Journal of Medical Science*, there is recorded a case of tertiary syphilis, in which the whole anterior surface of the atlas was exfoliated and coughed up. The patient recovered.