

believed to have begun in altered sweat-glands. Thiersch and Thierfelder have also both described undoubted fatal cases of adenoma of the sweat-glands. It can hardly therefore be doubted that adenoma of the sweat-glands constitutes a variety of cancerous disease. In four cases of rodent ulcer, Dr. Thin was not able to trace the disease directly to any of the epithelial structures of the skin, but in two of his cases he found the sweat coil the seat of a new growth. From this, and from the resemblance of his cases to Verneuil's case, he was led to infer that it is highly probable that the cell-masses of rodent ulcer originally begin in the sweat-glands. He points out that the cells in rodent ulcer differ from those of epithelial cancer, strictly so called, never taking on the characteristic changes of the latter. His view, that in rodent ulcer we have a true adenoma to deal with, he believes to be strengthened by the fact that he has demonstrated a membrana propria between the cell-masses and the connective tissue.

The Drs. Fox, on the other hand, say that rodent ulcer is an epithelial growth which takes its origin from the external root-sheaths of the hairs, that is to say, from a purely epidermic structure. In the discussion on their paper, Dr. Thin declared that the specimens presented were specimens not of one disease, as the Drs. Fox believed, but of two distinct diseases, some of them being preparations of ordinary epithelial cancer, and others of rodent ulcer. This wide discrepancy in the interpretation of the appearances naturally rendered the discussion unprofitable, except in so far as it has aroused attention to the questions whether there are two distinct kinds of epithelial growth producing cancer of the skin, and whether it is possible to distinguish them microscopically. We may expect before long to have this question definitely settled.—*The British Medical Journal. Medical Record, N. Y.*

The treatment of Acute Obstruction of the Bowels.—Writing on obstruction of the bowels, Dr. T. C. Allbutt says, in the *British Medical Journal*.—Let us dispose hastily of all cases of essentially chronic obstruction. They rarely need heroic action or great presence of mind either