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Priginal Communication

PSORIASIS: A CLINICAL LECTURE.

By WILLIAM S. GOTTHEIL, M.D., Dermatologist to the Lebanon Hospital, the North-Western and the German West-Side Dispensaries, N.Y.

GENTLEMEN:—The patients that I show you to-day are classical examples of a common disease, and are on that account perhaps more worthy of our attention than those rarer affections that but very seldom come to the notice of the general practitioner. And they will serve me as a text in calling your attention to certain new and very eligible forms of treatment that have been developed in the last few years, and which have largely superseded the older methods.

The first patient is an excellent example of a general guttate psoriasis, psoriasis universalis, in a female 33 years of age. She has had the malady, to her own recollection, ever since her fifth year,—the

usual history of these cases, though it does occur de novo even in advanced age, and the defective memory and carelessness of our dispensary cases often lead them to claim that the present is their first attack, It has been constantly present, in some degree, ever since the patient can recollect; at times almost disappearing, and then, under influences that we are ignorant of advancing and spreading over the body until it occupies areas as extensive as that which you see affected at the present time, Her entire body is covered with white, scaly spots, looking very much as if some molten waxy material had been liberally sprinkled on it with a large brush. spot consists of a heaped up mass of silvery epidermic scales, which can be readily removed with the tinger-nail, leaving a reddish, slightly elevated papule behind, at points of which the torn tops of the papillæ of the skin show as minute bleed-The scales are lamellæ of ing points. fused epidermic cells, and their peculiar silvery appearance is due to presence of air between them,