

minences appear filled with a serous fluid, all of which can easily be observed with the naked eye. This condition is followed by softening, which generally commences from the edges of the ulcer, and may extend over the whole patch or only a part of it. The field is seldom regularly limited; in some places the circumference may be curved, in others straight and angled, so that the whole may present the aspect of an irregular polygon, in which the ulcers may have a more central or a more periphtric seat. It is of importance to notice this irregularity of the circumference of the injected patch, because it shows the injection to be something different from the common congestion surrounding an inflammatory focus, and to have its full value as a specific symptom.

What further proves the significance of the patches described is that they may exist alone, not being an appendix of an ulcer or a tubercle. Such independent fluids may be found on old nasi. Having lasted a long time and presented the characteristic signs, they usually submit to a partial or total softening that shows itself by the formation of a crust. Yet the destruction in these cases is not so deep or so rapid as in the cases previously described; the ulcer becomes more superficial, but of the same torpid character. It heals up, leaving a depression in the skin of irregular form, either quite smooth, or partly deepened, or like a furrow. Where the whole spot is not involved by the softening, it may partly resume the normal aspect of the skin.

This phenomenon constitutes the second form in which sycosis may manifest itself. There is still a third.

This is characterized by small, thin crusts covering the mouths of one or more hair-follicles. If the coexistence of the tubercular form have not led the patient to a frequent and minute observation of the surroundings, these crusts are not easily noticed, because they are not accompanied by tumefaction of the skin. By-and-by they grow thicker and assume a dirty-yellow color, and they adhere rather firmly. Having removed them, one sees on the surface below acute prominences that present casts of the hair-follicles. Likewise here, as in the tuberculous form, the thicker and deeper-rooted hairs are more firmly adherent, while the more delicate are more easily cast off, sometimes following when the crust is lifted up; yet in general the hairs are not so liable to loosen in this form. The openings of the follicles present themselves dilated and more or less excoriated in proportion to the duration of the crusts. If the process be allowed to follow its own course it will lead to ulceration, which in these cases too has a slower development, and remains more superficial than in the tuberculous form. Where the process has gone so far as to ulcerate, depressions are left in the skin like those resulting from softening of the patches described.

It has been said above that this formation of crusts is not usually accompanied by tumefaction, yet it has been observed in one case of an eruption on the nose and one cheek. Around an ulcer on the nose,

the result of a softened tubercle, with sharp edges, without any patch of the kind described, there arose on the normal skin a regular circle of separate noduli, of the common color of the skin, feeling like the eruptions of tinea herpes. After some days there were formed on the tops of the knots small crusts of the same character as those formerly described. They adhered firmly, and in removing them several casts of the subjacent follicles followed, and some delicate hairs were loosened. The opening of the follicles appeared dilated and excoriated; in some places a superficial loss of substance of the skin resulted. As the diagnosis may be looked upon as certain, this case could be cited as a fourth form that sycosis can assume.

The essential result of a comparison between these forms is, that they all tend to ulceration of the skin, and that the ulceration in the tuberculous form extends more deeply than in the other forms, where it remains more superficial.

It seems that the disease generally commences as a tubercle, and that the other forms arise secondarily; yet a primary appearance of the other forms cannot be denied. Probably the beginning of the disease, in many cases, is not noticed.

The consequent spreading of the disease often goes on continuously; in other cases it springs from one place to another; yet almost always in such a way that only small parts of the sound skin separate the earlier and later eruptions. Often an ulcer does not heal completely, but a small edge is left, from which the process takes a new start. The above case of circular eruption of knots around an ulcer on the nose affords an unusual instance of a regular way of spreading.

That sycosis is to be placed in the group of skin-diseases due to vegetable parasites is without doubt. One can be convinced of it by examining those hairs which are easily pulled out. Even to the naked eye the root of the hair appears thickened; in the hair-sheath one can, by aid of the microscope, find both mycelium and sporules, the latter partly separate and partly forming conglomerations like blackberries.

The formation of tubercles, however, and the ulceration, cannot be accounted for by the existence of the parasite in the epithelial tissue of the hair-follicle alone. The ulceration is too extensive to be the result of any irritation or pressure caused by the parasite filling up the hair-follicle. It is more reasonable to account for the formation of tubercles, and the consequent ulceration, by supposing that the corium too becomes infiltrated by the parasite, and causes the final change.

If we consider the wrinkled condition of the red patches as the result of a defective production of the cellules which constitute the rete Malpighii, this phenomenon points to a disintegration of the corium.

The phenomena characterizing the third form, viz., the formation of crusts, excoriation, ulceration, and the remaining depressions in the skin, are evidently the consequence of the parasite gradually growing from the surface inward and involving the