

## SYCOSIS.

We have lately had two cases of sycosis before the Clinic, one of whom is here to-day. This is sometimes called sycosis menti or barbae, or more commonly barber's itch. It takes the latter name because it is by some believed to follow the use of an unclean razor or towel. The use of a dull razor is said to cause it. The truth is, I believe, we do not know its cause, and my experience is that it is met with as much if not more among those who do not shave. The disease is an eruption on the hairy parts, generally on the side of the face or chin. It is attended with the formation of pustules, and accompanied by infiltrations. At the commencement there is a small tumor the size of a millet seed to that of a pea. These develop into pustules which dry and form crusts. The pustules may coalesce and on drying form large scabs. Each pustule is pierced by a hair; when the hair is withdrawn the root is found to be swollen and saturated with pus. The neighboring skin is swollen and oedematous. When the disease has lasted some time, the submaxillary glands become swollen. The disease may be taken for eczema or a syphilide. If we remember that sycosis only attacks bearded men, and that there is absence of the moisture and itching so characteristic of eczema, we may be able to avoid making a mistake in diagnosis. It is a very troublesome disease to cure, yet if the physician and the patient persevere, in the large majority of instances a cure will result. The treatment generally recommended is purely local, but I must confess, I believe I have seen much good follow the use internally of Fowler's solution. In persons of a strumous habit I also have seen I am satisfied benefit follow the administration of the syrup of the iodide of iron. Remove the crusts with a hot poultice or warm oil. With a pair of broad bladed forceps, take out the hairs (epilate) one by one. This is painful, so only do a small part each day, then cover with ungt. zinc oxyd. Benz. spread on linen and change morning and evening. Ungt. sulph. biniodid. and Hg. nit. dil. are advised. Hebra insists on the patient shaving every day.