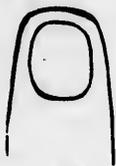


notice, that a diagnosis might easily have been made by a single exhibition of the finger tips. The nail-base or matrix does not reach to the end of the finger; is only about half as long as in other people, and is made up of a semi-circle directed upwards, and a triangle looking down towards the finger tips. In the normal the nail matrix is more circular or oval.



Normal.



Albino.

Moreover the tip of the matrix was raised and the nail given an arched direction so that on a longitudinal section it would look very much like a claw (onychogryphosis) a resemblance which was very much increased by a pathological overgrowth or hyperonychia, rendering them clumsy, thick, brittle, useless for scratching or opening a knife blade. Albinos, in whom this condition of the nails is found usually either hide them in other people's presence, or, to improve their appearance, trim them very short, close to the stumpy base or matrix.

Why such a condition should occur concurrently with albinism, I am not in a measure to explain. The points which especially struck me were the congenital nature of this gryphotic condition; its frequent if not absolute association with the pigmentless condition; the involvement of all the nails at the same time. The condition which most resembles that just referred to, is probably onychomycosis due to a fungus or a somewhat similar one due to *tinea favosa* or *trichophyton tonsurans*. Here the nails are brittle, frayed out, intersected by furrows, opaque, grayish or yellowish-white, and are lifted up and gryphotic, disfigured; the matrix being implicated, changes of growth are also present and the matrix may be painful, swollen, suppurative, (Zeimssen). This author also includes as possible etiological factors, scrofulosis, cachexia, oligæmia, and Billroth also mentions moist gangrene. Again in scleroderma, sclerodactylism may simulate onychogryphosis. But in all these changes there would be a lack of conformity to the same type, an irregularity in distribution, a history of infection or a progressive condition, in some suppuration, in others extreme deformity of the finger tips. Moreover these would not be congenital as was that condition which I observed in my albinos.

The *teeth* were also found to be hypoplastic or stunted in a variable