

perienced some difficulty in puncturing these cysts because of the density of their walls. I allude to them because I have not been able to relegate them to any other malady but acne.

If we are to recognize every altered state of the sebaceous secretion as acne, which I for one would encourage, we must take many diseases into the group. In early infancy we find the foetus covered with a layer of greasy matter, which is the sebaceous secretion that has been accumulating on the child during its intra-uterine life, and we know how much this secretion varies in quantity and consistence. Sometimes it is so tenacious that the nurse has difficulty in washing it off, in others it is absent, then the skin will found be dry and inelastic. When the hair is developing on the crown we often find the sebaceous matter accumulated on the summit in a thick, dirty cake, which gives much trouble, and in those who have an eczematous proclivity this crust begins an eczema, in fact the eczema of infants has its origin, I believe, in all cases in the irritation induced by an altered sebaceous secretion. It is too dense, and that is why cod liver oil internally and applied locally is of such signal service in these cases, it supplies fat to the secretion. Again, during cold weather, when the sebaceous matter is partially frozen like any other oily substance, we shall frequently find round patches of skin dry and scaly, especially on the face, and when this is universal we have what the laity call chapped hands and face, which in etiological phraseology is due to a too thick sebaceous secretion, which is not poured out in sufficient quantity upon the cutaneous surface. We remedy this condition by oil or glycerine, and by avoiding soap, which is an irritant in these cases, because it actually saponifies the secretion which is already too scanty, and we prevent its recurrence by warm gloves. We might reasonably include in our group Ichthyosis which, as you doubtless know, is an absence of sebaceous follicles, either on the whole or a part of the cutaneous surface. When the contents of a sebaceous gland becomes so firm that its constituent elements coalesce we have horn; in point of fact the horns of the lower animals are simply off-shoots of epithelial secretion, and in our own species we find the horns of the skin are neither more nor less than dense sebaceous matter protruding from the orifice of a skin gland.

The common boils are always due to retained

secretion in a hair and sebaceous follicle. The retention may be due to special callings, such as working amongst tar, which plugs up the orifices, or we find friction producing the same effect. That is why boils are so common on the buttocks of an oarsman or a rider, or around the neck and outer aspects of the limbs, where there is most friction. Carbuncles are due to inflammation of a group of sebaceous glands occurring in those whose general health is feeble from some exhausting cause, such as old age or diabetes. The number of orifices seen oozing on a carbuncle represents the number of sebaceous glands involved in the process. The slough which comes away represents the glands itself and their contents. There is one other condition which I must allude to, that is "molluscum contagiosum." We in this country do not doubt that this is a contagious disease. On the continent they dispute the fact; but there is so much clinical testimony to support the accuracy of the contagious view, that it is impossible not to accept it, although the actual contagium has not yet been discovered. That this interesting disease is due to the invasion of a sebaceous gland by a parasite I do not doubt. The button holes on the pearl button-like little tumors, are the orifices of sebaceous glands. I might also allude to the meibomian cysts of the eyelids, to the steatoma of the skull and of other regions as maladies which are due to an abnormal state of the sebaceous glands. The varieties of balanitis and pruritis vulvæ are, many of them, simply due to a want of integrity in the sebaceous secretion.

After this very wide digression allow me to go back to what is accepted as acne, *acne vulgaris* if you like. Young men and women come before us at about the age of 13 or 14 for spots on their faces. You find these spots are situated in those parts where good hairs are not produced, such positions as the forehead, cheeks, nose. The inner surface of the external ear is a very common situation for them. These spots consist of black headed pimples, some of which may be in several degrees of inflammation, and if we strip our patients we shall find other and similar spots on the shoulders, over the sternum, and very often on the outer aspects on the arms and legs, and commonly on the buttocks, but the grouping is exaggerated on the face and shoulders. They often itch considerably when they first appear, it is this