

extent. I shall have also to apologize for more or less abruptness in considering different points, and in order to accomplish the greatest results in the shortest space my remarks will necessarily take somewhat of a dogmatic nature, and be more or less in the form of aphorisms.

1. The first point which occurs to me is, that want of success in handling many skin cases will often come from lack of care and too little attention and study being given to the individual case. While skin diseases are somewhat difficult both in their recognition and treatment, I do not think that they need by any means present the difficulties which are imagined by many; if physicians would only devote the time and study to individual cases which are given to the same cases by the specialist, I think that much better results would often be obtained. Even a specialist is seldom willing to give a diagnosis or express a prognosis in regard to a case, much less enter upon a line of treatment, until he has thoroughly studied the case from every aspect.

2. In approaching a case of skin disease intelligently it is always necessary to give some time to several matters: (a) It is very important to go well into the history of the eruption itself, how and when it has developed, and what were the earliest lesions, and to discover, if possible, some of the primary lesions still present; (b) careful inquiry should also be made in regard to former eruptions which may have been present, either in the patient or family; (c) investigation and record should be made in regard to family tendencies, as to eruptions, bronchitis, asthma, rheumatism, gout, scrofula, etc.; (d) to understand a patient with a skin disease properly, it is necessary to know his personal history in regard to former diseases, his tendencies, former condition of life, etc.; (e) it is also always very essential to thoroughly know the present condition of the patient in all respects, the manner in which the functions of life are performed, the state of the secretions and excretions, his mode of life, diet, habits, etc.

3. In no branch of medicine, perhaps, is the advantage of taking and recording notes more clearly apparent than in connection with diseases of the skin. Not only should the notes be taken at the first visit and the diagnosis made and recorded, but at each subsequent visit notes of the condition and present state of eruption, and the results of treatment, should all be entered, together with every prescription employed. Only in this way can a case be properly studied and followed out from beginning to end.

4. The connection of certain skin affections with the general condition of the patient will often be thus most unexpectedly and valuably developed. My experience has led me more and more to recognize the dependence of diseases of the skin upon other conditions of the system, and to regard them less and less from their local aspect.

Although educated in Vienna, and thoroughly imbued with the views of Hebra in regard to the local causation of skin diseases, and having translated a German work (Neumann) on Diseases of the Skin, which was thoroughly local in its pathology and treatment, my experience has led me so far away from this line of thought and belief that the largest share of my attention in every case is now directed towards internal and constitutional causes in the treatment of these affections.

Time and space do not permit me to elaborate these and many other points of which I would like to speak at length, but some of which may be more fully treated of in connection with individual diseases later. I may state, however, that as time