

6 Cms

A CASE OF RECURRENT BULLOUS ERUPTION OF THE
FACE. PROBABLY PEMPHIGUS HYSTERICUS.

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MISS HILDA B., aged twenty, consulted me on the 10th of April, 1902, for an eruption on the face which had affected her for the last four years. Sometimes she is quite free from it. Being a girl who was fond of society, she is unable to enter into its gaieties for she never knows when her face is going to break out. The eruption appears first as small inflamed blisters on the forehead, chin, cheeks, and even nose. These blisters soon increase to the size of a ten-cent piece, fill with bloody serum, then discharge and form scabs. There may be half a dozen or more of these blisters at a time. As a rule the bullæ come out in successive crops and last about a month. She may be free for a week or so. The blisters burn but never itch. There is no regularity as to where the spots may come out; anywhere on the face, often on the same spots; never on the hairy scalp. The blisters leave a pigmented mark after healing.

The first blister, she says, appeared on the nose where she had a scratch and came out after picking wild flowers. She appeared to me a girl of rather lymphatic temperament who took little interest in life, was much sympathized with by her family and although she had no positive hysterical stigmata, still she had that appearance and her throat was somewhat insensitive.

I put her on arsenic and saw her regularly for two months, but never saw the actual bullæ, she came to me when they were passing and the scab had formed. At the end of this time she came to me with a very severe outbreak of the eruption, face was covered everywhere with scabs, the result of discharged bullæ. She now told me

NOTE: Since the above was written, the patient came to me with a fresh outbreak of the eruption. This time the bullæ were very regular in shape and there were many scratches about the face. On again making a careful examination as to hysterical manifestations, I found complete insensitiveness of the throat, anæsthetic patches on the body and general nervousness. I have but little doubt that this is a "feigned eruption," the more remarkable in that it has lasted so many years.

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