

The French, if I am not mistaken, call the affection under consideration *Riffe*, whatever that may signify. The hideous disfigurement, the itching and smarting, the serous and offensive purulent discharges that it induces are not by any means the innocent little things they appear to be, not only from the standpoint of the child, but from that of all concerned. They are practically disproportionate to the gravity or danger to life near or remote.

If I am a trustworthy index and the peace of mind of the all-round, frequently isolated and plodding man whose lot is cast in some country locality are to be reckoned with, it is safe to suggest that as many rays of light, clinically speaking, as time and circumstance will admit, should be thrown around chronic skin diseases, and, for aught I know, the importance of it has been well recognized and acted upon long ago. This is a proposition that might be extended (though not necessary to make) so as to bear a more general application, for, although the young man who is comparatively isolated, *may* and *will* thereby develop self-reliance and resource, the better he is started in life, practically in all the departments of medicine, the less *moving* he will do afterwards.

I hope I shall not be deemed rash and impertinent if I venture to express the opinion that success in ordinary diseases, such as those of the skin, will give a man as much of a rise or lift as a familiarity with the latest literature upon myxœdema or Friedrich's ataxia and things of that sort will do. It is a weakness of mine, I know, but I seldom think of dangers I may never meet. I confess I am slow to learn and act, but you must forgive me if, in these days of specialists, I try not to lose sight of the substance and grasp after the shadow. All this, however, is a gratuitous departure from the theme I had in mind at first, and will, let me assume, be readily excused. And, for that matter, it is only the right thing to state that every one is at liberty to dilute water or discount my conclusions to suit themselves.

I have lately prescribed several times for a child a year or two old, whose face is literally one continuous scab or