

of absolute cleanliness, were insisted on.—Dr. Edis spoke of the frequency with which vaginal leucorrhœa in children was due to the thread-worms creeping into the vagina. He had seen grave effects resulting from the use of a solution of carbolic acid as an injection. He referred also to possible infection from cats. Dr. De H. Hall said the central streak on the tongue was met with in most abdominal affections. He commended a Swiss baker who had announced his determination not to suffer his bread to be handled by intending purchasers. He advocated the use of iron both by the mouth and by the bowel, after the employment of free purgatives, in the treatment of oxyurides. Mr. Coles spoke of the frequency with which intestinal worms are met with among children in China, the lumbricus being most common. He advocated the free use of salt with food.—Mr. Wordsworth said that during a stay of two years in the West Indies he had not met with a single instance of the common thread-worm. Lumbrici are very common, and he mentioned a case of tetanus which had recovered after vomiting one of these worms.—Dr. J. Brunton was quite certain that these parasites are incompatible with perfect health. He first employs purgation to clear out as many worms as possible, and then gives some tonic to enable the child to digest its food. He advocated repeated doses of linseed oil in emulsion.—The President said that the skin will respond to reflex irritation, erythema in some cases, eczema in others, and so on. He mentioned an obstinate case of labial eczema due to irritation of a carious tooth. Copaiba was useful in the treatment of thread-worm.—Dr. Main said that in cases in which santonine had failed turpentine and castor oil were useful.—Dr. Sanson, in reply, thought the skin affections were the immediate result of the irritation of the worm, the ova having been found in the discharges. The ascaris mystax of the cat had been met with in man. Salt was certainly indicated; any article of diet, such as brown sugar, which goes through many hands, is to be suspected.—

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The American Medical Association meets in Buffalo on June 4, 5, 6, and 7, commencing on Tuesday, June 4th, at 11 a.m.

ON PRURITUS VULVÆ AND DIABETES.

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A few years ago, at a meeting of the Harveian Society, I called attention to the frequent association of pruritus vulvæ with diabetes. As continued observation confirms and strengthens the statements then made, and as my observations have never been made known otherwise than as above and stated in my lectures, I desire again very briefly to call attention to and emphasise the fact that pruritus vulvæ is often the only symptom of diabetes, and to point out the desirability of a systematic examination of the urine for sugar in suspicious cases.

Diabetes is only one among many affections with which pruritus vulvæ may be associated; but notwithstanding that it is mentioned in some books as a cause of vulvar itching, it is nowhere, that I am aware of, stated with adequate prominence.

Excepting itching, there may be no symptom whatever of diabetes—neither polyuria, loss of flesh, nor large appetite; and it is not therefore a matter for surprise that the underlying diabetic affection frequently remains unsuspected.

The observations of friends who have become acquainted with my views are confirmatory of them, and show that there is a more frequent connexion between diabetes and pruritus vulvæ than is generally believed. Accordingly, it seems desirable that further attention should be directed to the fact, seeing the gravity of the more important affection. It is hoped that a wider diffusion of the knowledge may prove useful to many.

Though matter of high interest, I am not concerned at present to discuss the pathogeny of diabetes; but regarding it from a purely clinical aspect, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that there are at least two (if no more) forms of diabetes; or, to put it in another way, that sugar, or some allied body equally capable of reducing copper, on the test being applied in the usual way, may often be found in the urine of stout, florid (gouty) persons, as well as in the lean, wasted people who are looked upon as classical types of the disease.