

THE DISEASES OF THE BIBLE.

(Continued from last issue.)

(b) *Leprosy*.—Perhaps there is no subject pertaining to the whole question of *Medica Sacra* more difficult of solution than the true relationships of scriptural leprosy. A careful study of Lev. xiii. and xiv. leads us to conclude that not one, but several diseases are spoken of. The word leprosy has been employed at different times with different meanings. Much confusion has arisen out of the use of the Latin *lepra* and the Greek *lepra* by authors who have written upon leprosy. Three distinct skin diseases seem to be mentioned by different authors. There is *lepra alphas*, or ordinary psoriasis; *lepra leuke*, or vitiligo, and *lepra melas*, or leprosy.

The first of these, psoriasis, is an inflammatory disease of the skin. It is not in the least contagious. There are reddish, dry, inflamed patches, which vary much in size, and are covered by an abundant crop of greyish to white scales. The disease is often very chronic. The condition known as psoriasis might be complicated by the existence of scabies or itch. In such a case separation of the affected person would be a wise precaution. Then again psoriasis might be accompanied by some of the vegetable parasites that are widely known as ring-worm. It is sometimes difficult to make a positive distinction between a patch of skin inflamed and scaly from the presence of one of the vegetable parasites and a patch of psoriasis, or *lepra alphas*.

Vitiligo, or *lepra leuke*, is a variety of skin disease characterized by whitish spots. These spots may be of round or irregular shape, of different sizes, and located on various parts of the body. Around their margin, the skin is usually darker colored than normal. The hairs in these patches become white. It usually lasts throughout life, does not affect the health, is not contagious, and gives rise to no suffering. Although vitiligo has been classified by