

the skin ; but I am loth to abolish names which we have used for years.

We may get out of the difficulty in this way : By lichen we mean a papule, which consists of an imprisoned hair without an adequate secretion of sebaceous matter : and by an acne spot we mean a condition in which the sebaceous matter is plus and the hair minus. I am aware that this is a new way to look at the maladies, but let any candid observer strip a case of lichen, and he will, in a good light, find the lichen spots to occupy the position of a hair, but he will find these spots do not occur in the ordinary acne situations. Let me be clear on this point ; lichen is usually formed on the limbs, outer aspects, sometimes on the chest and back ; or, in other words, it is found where the pubescent hairs grow abortively, but in such situations as the axillæ, the pubis or whisker regions, where the hairs grow luxuriantly, we never find lichen, whilst acne is found on the nose, cheeks, forehead and chin ; or, in other words, it is found where hairs do not grow.

I must say here that I look upon the following definition of lichen as the only one which we can use. It is a papule which is always umbilicated, which has never an inflamed base, and which is always a lichen spot, it never becomes vesicular or suppurated.

Having cleared the ground as well as I am able of this difficulty, let us ask ourselves what it is which stops the mouth of a sebaceous follicle ? In the greater number of cases the over secretion of the gland is only an expression of general disorder of the whole organism, in which this secretion takes its part. Persons whose skins are thick and greasy, whose hair and nails grow fast, whose heads are scurfy, who are sleepy and stupid, who look muddy and are often the subjects of stomach derangements, are the subjects of acne. Believing that this over secretion does occur, we must follow out the effect of this bloated gland. The first stage is an elevated spot with a black head which can easily be raised from its bed, and, as we all know, if squeezed a column of sebaceous matter bulges up like a maggot, hence the name comedo (with a black head). This black head is simply due to dirt blocking up the orifice of the gland. If we place this secretion on a slide we find nothing beyond epidemic scales and oil globules. According to Gustav Simon, a six-legged parasite with a

long belly is common in these sacs. I have never seen it although I have looked for it many times. If the over secretion of the gland occurs in sebaceous follicles without an excretory duct, we have the round, pearly white bodies which are so common about the eyelids, and in the line of a cut where the ducts would be severed. These white spots are called milium, or better still, white acne.

We pass by an easy transition to true acne. The first stage of comedo is so common that it is really a normal condition of all adult skins ; but where, owing to other causes, this distended sebaceous follicle becomes inflamed, we arrive at a pathological process which will attract much of our attention and task us severely in subduing. The first process is a congestion around the sebaceous follicle, which soon runs into inflammatory action. The source of irritation is due to decomposition in the secretion, and is not a peri-follicular inflammation set up by a distended sac. You can ascertain the truth of this by smelling the contents of a large sebaceous cyst of the scalp which has become inflamed ; the surrounding tissue may be free from any sympathetic process and the contents of such a cyst are most offensive. Many suppurating sebaceous follicles of the face and elsewhere do not give rise to the formation of pus in the neighborhood of the gland, it is essentially an inflammation in the sac—this is the simple form of acne. Where the surrounding tissue becomes inflamed we have other factors at work, such as scrofula or syphilis, and these are the cases which go on for so many years and which cause such frightful disfigurement. I have under my care at the present time several cases where the history is as follows : The patients were the subjects of acne commencing in youth, they have contracted syphilis, and in addition have lived freely and drunk heavily. These cases came to me at intervals, with large bosses of inflamed tissue, especially on the forehead. This tissue as a rule suppurates, and I have in some instances let out as much as half an ounce of pus from one cyst. These are the cases which are designated acne indurata.

There is one kind of cyst which I have not yet found described, but of which I have now seen three examples. The cases which I have met with have all been women, and they have had several semi-transparent cysts on the free edges of the eyelids which looked like boiled sago. I have ex-