

I was here first led to remark the extraordinary vigor with which the renovation of skin and cuticle goes on among this race. Although, in these cases, the original skin had been completely destroyed, yet, in a month or two, the scars were scarcely perceptible, being only noticeable, on a cursory view, by a more polished surface, and requiring a close inspection to trace the line of demarcation between the old and newly organised substance.

I subsequently found many varieties of this, or a similar affection. On the scalp it assumes the appearance of scaly blotches. Frequently it shows itself in a swelling, accompanied at points with acute pain over a large extent of the areolar tissue. For instance, the whole extent of one upper extremity, including the fingers and shoulder, or all the space occupied by one or both scapula, and part of the back, or one cheek may seem greatly swelled. There being no discoloration, one would fancy this to be produced by simple œdema; but on grasping the part, though it yields to the impress of the finger, it does not pit, but possesses an elasticity, which enables it, on the pressure being withdrawn, immediately, to resume its preceding form. If not checked, this swelling points at one or more places, and a copious thin discharge, with a gaping sore or sores, gradually assuming the appearance of those I have described, is the result. Sometimes the muscular fibre seems to be involved, and then, though the external sore skins smoothly over, there is a considerable depression under it, marking the loss that has taken place.

On more extended inquiry, I was led to doubt the connection of the affection with venereal, and am not yet satisfied as to this point. I tried various other methods of cure. I found several more or less effectual. Thus applying cautiously, and to portion by portion, a solution of cor. sublimate, or, sometimes, simply touching the part or parts affected with lunar caustic, would check, or remove it. But I think on the whole my original treatment, by some combination of iodine and mercury, succeeds best with me. I have indeed never found a case that has withstood the united action of the two. I ought, however, to add that I have seen cases, in elderly people, where the malady affecting one or both of the lower extremities, has assumed a form, very closely resembling elephantiasis, as it appears among the Spanish, or rather negro population of New Grenada—the limb permanently swelled and stiff, with deep scars, apparent loss of muscle, and a toe or two dropped off. I have wished to essay the effect of a similar treatment on some of these, but have not found any willing to try it, and very much doubt if it would have any considerable success.