

subject to long continued heat; Erasmus Wilson supposed it due to night air, and many to blunt razors (a very probable contributory cause). Hebra said it was due to letting the beard grow; he laughed at the idea of the disease being caused by a dyscrasia.

Now we know that the disease is of microbic origin and contagious, and is often conveyed by the shaving brushes and towels of barbers. According to Unna, there are two forms of the disease, one of cocco-genic, the other of bacillogenic origin.

Nearly all the works on dermatology in the early part of the century have a chapter on *Vaccinia* or cowpox, and give accurate directions how to procure the vaccine virus, and the appearance of the vaccine "pock" in its various stages is described minutely. *Vaccinia* is classed under the pustular eruptions. A number of spurious vaccine pocks are described. Casenave (1829) mentions the fact that small-pox sometimes co-exists with *vaccinia*, or that *vaccinia* does not always protect, the same may be said of inoculation, yet both will modify the attack of small-pox if they do not protect. He concludes by saying, "Vaccination without inducing any danger in itself is still a preservative means of the highest grade of utility, and it is perhaps the most glorious victory of the art of medicine."

Would that all thought so now! In those days people were familiar with the terrible ravages of small-pox, and knew that few reached adult life without being pitted, so they welcomed with joy any means which held out a promise of relief from the dread scourge. Now-a-days, anti-vaccination societies abound, and it has become as much of a cult as Christian Science, Homœopathy, and such like delusions. Alas for the progress of the human race and its improvement by education! Education has not destroyed superstition or the belief in fads, for it is among the so-called educated classes that quackery flourishes and has its chief support.

In this brief sketch I have given you a sufficiently long account of the state of knowledge of some of the diseases of the skin in the beginning of the 19th century, and have told you how confused most of this knowledge was. The discovery of the parasitic origin of many affections aided much in clearing away the clouds and mists which enveloped diseases of the scalp especially, and prepared the way for the Vienna school of pathology which was led by Hebra, who was inspired by Rokitsansky. Hebra, by his scientific knowledge and his common-sense way of looking at diseases of the skin, has done more than any man to drive away the superstitions and fallacies which enshrouded dermatologists at the beginning of the last century, and in this he was assisted by Hardy of Paris and Erasmus Wilson of London.

During the last quarter of the 19th century the histological and