

SEBORRHOEIC DERMATITIS.

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Unna claims seborrhoeic eczema or seborrhoeic dermatitis to be now one of the common forms of skin disease.

Certainly, when confronted by one of the multiform varieties of eczema, one should make sure that one has not got a case of this kind on hand.

To mistake it for an ordinary case of eczema would be direful in results as regards treatment, as what would be suitable for an ordinary eczema would not be beneficial in a seborrhoeic eczema.

According to Crocker, seborrhoeic dermatitis may be divided into three forms: seborrhoea eczemaformis, resembling eczema; seborrhoea psoriasiformis, resembling psoriasis; seborrhoea papulosa seu lichenoides, resembling lichen.

There is also a form of seborrhoeic dermatitis occurring in children.

What are symptoms of seborrhoeic dermatitis?

The eruption usually begins on the scalp as a seborrhoeic sicca, and then spreads downwards over the body. The itching may be severe or scarcely noticeable.

Morris says the course of the eruption is as follows: beginning on the head it extends over the scalp, thence to the ears, forehead and cheek, the neck and down the front of the chest and back, especially into the interscapular furrow, into the axillae and bends of the elbows and hands, into the groin and crura-scrotal fold, over the genitals, behind the knees and between the toes. The affection begins as a latent catarrh; first manifests itself by an agglutination of epidermic scales, which are thrown off in large lamellae.

There is a faulty distribution of fat in the skin, hair becomes abnormally dry, while the epidermis and exfoliating scales are abnormally fatty. Scales may increase in quantity or become massed into fatty crusts between the hairs, leaving a bald spot on the top of the head.

Skin may become red and swollen, and weeps profusely. Fatty scales do not form, or are washed away by