

Selected Articles.

A CASE OF RECURRING OR RELAPSING VARIOLA.

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As in other infectious diseases, so also in variola, the question of relapses has often engaged the attention of medical men. Although, as Curschmann* properly observes, these are to be accepted with caution; yet they are not to be considered as impossible, having been verified by the best authorities, who have also quoted authentic cases. We, ourselves, in the late epidemic, which is now drawing to a close, have seen some of these in the Cotugno Hospital. Cases of relapse after a very short interval are not very exceptional, as one of us (Professor Matoni) when examining the records of cases of variola in this hospital for a statistical work now in course of preparation, found many cases which might be added to that related by Montefusco† (1886), and one especially, which we shall now report, as it is brief and convincing, and moreover occurring in a child.

The patient was Irolla S., of Naples, seven years old, vaccinated in early infancy with positive result, but with one incision only, showing on the right arm a small vaccination scar. He was admitted to the hospital for the first time on June 30th, 1901. At the time of admission he showed macules and papules scattered over the body and on the face, and had been ill four days. Professor Romanelli made a diagnosis of vario-
loid. The temperature was 37.5. The first of July the temperature was 37.2 a.m., 37.5 p.m. A few vesicles could now be seen forming. On the 2nd July the temperature rose in the evening to 37.8, and the vesicles already began to dry up. On the 3rd July, crusts began to form without further rise of temperature. These began to fall on the 4th July. On the 5th the boy was declared convalescent, and on the 9th he left the hospital. About seven days later, on the 16th July, the child again entered the hospital with a diagnosis of discrete variola at the beginning of the pustular period. The temperature was 37.5, and rose on the evening of the 17th to 38.3, when the pustules were more fully developed. From the 17th to the 20th the temperature did not fall below 38. On the 20th the pustules on the face began to dry, but those on the body, which were

* Curschmann. Variola in Ziemssen "Pathology and Therapy," II. P., p. 267.

† Montefusco. A case of relapsing variola after a very short interval (1886).