

## Part Second.

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### REVIEWS.

*Die Hautkrankheiten : für Aerzte und Studirende dargestellt.* Von Dr GUSTAV BEHREND, Pract. Ärzte in Berlin. Braunschweig: Friedrich Wreden : 1879.

*The Diseases of the Skin : for Practitioners and Students.* Compiled by Dr GUSTAV BEHREND, Physician, Berlin. Brunswick: Frederick Wreden : 1879.

THE energy of busy workers has narrowed the field of original research in all departments of medicine, and while brilliant discoveries continue to be made, such are chiefly accomplished by those who concentrate their efforts in one direction. Hebra, after silently observing for many years, at length produced a work of immense research, and of inestimable value in dermatology, both clinically and pathologically. Neumann and Kaposi, by removing portions of diseased skin from the living patient, were enabled to add vastly to our knowledge of the histology of cutaneous diseases. Indeed, the value of this mode of examination, painless when the ether spray is used, and harmless to the patient, is hardly yet recognised, though likely in the future to throw more light on the true nature of many morbid processes than any other. Hebra and Neumann were fortunate in being almost the first labourers in a virgin soil, and their reward was a plentiful one; but many others have now been following in their track, each adding his mite to the sum total of knowledge. Some one, however, is needed from time to time to gather up these scattered fragments into one, and to place them in a digested form before those who have not the leisure nor the opportunity for collecting them themselves. Such an one, though he must know his subject thoroughly, need not be an original investigator himself, but to do it properly special talents for selection and combination are required.

The work of Dr Behrend is of this kind. It is in no sense a record of personal investigations; it is an attempt, and a very fair attempt, to place in the hands of the German student and physician a concise account of skin diseases, regarded purely or almost purely from the German standpoint. And here we have our main complaint to make of Dr Behrend—he ignores all recent additions to cutaneous medicine made either in Great Britain or America. Is it well that German students should, by implication, be led to believe that it is in Germany, or in German-speaking countries alone, that any knowledge of skin diseases is to be found, or that any treatment other than that advocated by Hebra

is of use? Willan and Bateman may have been in error in the plan of classification they adopted, and may have led astray by directing too much attention to the mere form of the lesion, irrespective of the tissue involved; but since their day many important advances have been made, both in this country and on the other side of the Atlantic, which were certainly well worth some reference in a handbook professing to be brought up to the present time. Having said this much, we are pleased to see that there does exist in Germany a capacity for condensation; many German handbooks correspond to our encyclopedias, and are full and exhaustive, if not even exhausting treatises on the subjects they embrace. But we have here a neat volume on skin diseases of about the size of one of Churchill's or Renshaw's manuals. On reading it over, though we are satisfied with the correctness with which the various diseases are described, we have met with little, to any one at least who is familiar with the works of Hebra and Neumann, which is new either as regards the symptoms or treatment. Indeed, we see little of Dr Behrend at all; he is altogether behind the scenes, and possesses so little egotism that, while stating the opinions of others, he seldom commits himself to offer his own, or to state the results of personal experience.

Under the head of the physiology of the skin a good account is given of the mode of heat regulation, worthy, we think, of translation. "The variations of external temperature render requisite certain corrections in the bodies of warm-blooded animals, in order to maintain an equality of bodily heat, and to impart a degree of independence of the temperature of surrounding media, such as the air. Two important factors demand notice in connexion with this, one, the secretion of sweat, but especially the rich supply of muscular elements in the skin. The relaxation of the muscular fibres of the skin, which occurs simultaneously with that of the muscular coat of the vessels when the external temperature rises, has, as its result, an increased determination of blood to the surface of the body, and by the addition to the quantity of blood circulating at the same time through the exposed parts, the possibility is afforded of greater heat exhalation by conduction and radiation. With the increased afflux of blood to the skin a rise in the secretion of sweat takes place, which by its evaporation withdraws no inconsiderable quantity of heat from the body. The contrary is the result of a fall in external temperature. Here not only do the muscles of the bloodvessels contract and diminish the volume of blood by a narrowing of their lumen, but the rich system of smooth muscles which ramify in the skin contracts also, the horizontally disposed bundles bring the elements of the cutis closer, in such a way as to narrow the papillæ, while the vertical and oblique ones approximate the surfaces of the cutis vera. In all directions there arises a compression, a condensation of the component parts of the cutis, as well in the perpendicular as in the

horizontal. As regards the capillaries the same effect results as is occasioned in the larger vessels, provided with a muscular coat through its contraction; their contents are diminished; the capillaries will be pressed together, their contained blood proportionally forced out, and with it the escape of heat into the surrounding medium lessened."

Cutis anserina is held to be purely physiological, and not a manifestation of diseased action. Not only is it induced by direct irritants, such as cold and the electric current, but also reflexly, and through the influence of such causes as fright or mental emotion. This is especially noteworthy in hysterical persons, and a case is cited where a lady of this class exhibited this phenomenon under the slightest psychical excitement, "as even when kissed by her lover." This latter mode of origin of gooseskin has, according to Dr Behrend, important relations to forensic medicine. While met with pretty constantly in drowned persons, it is found with far greater frequency in suicides of every form, though absent in those who have been murdered. This affords a point of distinction, when it is in question whether a given case is one of murder or suicide. We seem here to have an instance of Bacon's *idola specus*, an error arising from theoretical as compared with clinical study. The distinction may be of interest pathologically, but is rather too fine a one for actual practice.

Dr Behrend gives a remarkably good account of venereal warts, and notices the variety first described by Hauck, called subcutaneous or endofollicular wart. These form within the sebaceous gland, obstructing its opening, and hindering the discharge of its secretion. There arises in consequence a whitish-yellow prominence of the size of a barleycorn, from which, when squeezed, there escapes first a little plug of sebum, and then follows the small wartlike growth. Kaposi regards these formations as identical in nature with so-called molluscum contagiosum, and as only differing in form; he proposes the name of Molluscum verrucosum for them. In treating venereal warts Behrend rightly observes that it is not sufficient to remove them by the knife or scissors; to check their tendency to regeneration the base so exposed must be touched with nitrate of silver or liq. ferri perchloridi. He also expresses himself favourably of savine, used as an ointment, composed of three parts of powdered savine to twenty of glycerine of starch. This is to be thickly applied night and morning by means of a brush. But while dealing with the local treatment of these warts, our author entirely omits to notice the most important part of all, viz., the curative treatment by astringent injections of the irritating discharge, which, in the female at least, both causes and maintains them. Without attention to this all mere local medication affords but temporary relief. And to neglect of this is due a circumstance noted by him, that warts which had existed during pregnancy are apt to recur after parturition.

The chapter on Vascular nævi is carefully written, and three varieties are discriminated. *Nævi vasculares*, or congenital, and *Angioma simplex* and *cavernosum*, both acquired after birth. Speaking of *Angioma simplex*, Dr Behrend remarks, that while the port-wine mark is often developed during the first year of life, or else making its appearance at puberty, it is frequently first observed in older individuals, especially such as indulge in spirituous liquors. "At least I have not seldom had occasion to notice numerous marks (Flecke), varying in size from a barleycorn to a lintseed scattered over the bodies of such persons." Though all the ordinary modes of treatment of these marks are mentioned, evidently with some doubt of their utility, we miss Mr B. Squire's ingenious adaptation of Volkmann's plan of multiple scarification by means of sharp needles. There is reason to believe that this repeated sufficiently often, with, in some cases, the simultaneous or subsequent use of some of the milder caustics, promises best as a mitigation of a distressing disfigurement.

About the longest section in the volume is devoted to Lupus, and this is not surprising, when we consider that nearly every advance both in the elucidation of its true nature and rational treatment has come from Germany and Austria. The section on lupus vulgaris is complete, but that on lupus erythematosus is one of the best we have met with. Behrend freely admits what Neumann first clinically demonstrated, that there is no necessary connexion between disorder of the sebaceous glands and lupus erythematosus, and suggests that the seborrhœa accompanying it is due to continued irritation near the glandular capillary system, leading in time to the peculiar characters of the lesion. His views, in fact, closely correspond with those expressed in an admirable lecture on lupus erythematosus by Mr J. Hutchinson in the *Medical Times and Gazette* of 28th December 1878.

An equally excellent description of cancer is given; the opposing views of Virchow and Remak as to its origin and nature are clearly stated. The starting-point of all cancers in the epithelial elements of the tissues is strongly insisted on, and a good explanation afforded why it originates, for which, as it is too long to quote, we must refer our readers to the work itself. Since there is no originality in this work to induce medical men to consult it, it is unlikely to obtain many purchasers in this country; but we can commend the diligence with which Dr Behrend has collected the labours of his fellow-countrymen.

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*London Hospital Reports: Medical, Surgical, and Skin  
Departments. 1877.*

THIS volume, which has only recently appeared, contains a great amount of valuable information in a carefully tabulated form, the