

STELWAGON (H.W.)

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circinate lesions xxx





A CASE OF PURPURA WITH CIRCINATE LESIONS.\*

BY

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IN the early part of last April there applied at the service of the Philadelphia Dispensary for Skin Diseases a male adult regarding an eruption which had appeared some time previously, and through the persistence of which the man had been finally led to seek advice. The patient was forty-four years of age, strong and robust. On examination the trunk, and, to a slight degree, the upper parts of the arms and thighs, were found to be the seat of a peculiar eruption. The lesions were macular, without elevation, of a reddish purple and bluish color, and the greater number of annular form. Here and there could be seen small pin-head to small pea-sized simple macules; those of larger area were ring-shaped, the central part of a faint bluish or dark tint, and the border, from one to several lines in width, of a reddish or a reddish-blue color. Upon careful investigation all stages from the plain macule to the perfectly formed ring could be seen. The developed lesions, those about the size of a dime, were most conspicuous, the color being of a purplish blue shade. While many of the advanced lesions were almost perfectly annular, many also were irregularly rounded, and in places several had merged and given rise to larger patches with tortuous margins. The eruption existed in greatest profusion upon the anterior part of the trunk, across and above the epigastric region. There were few spots on the upper part of the arms and thighs. The lesions from beginning to end were of a hemorrhagic nature, there being no preceding or accompanying hyperæmia.

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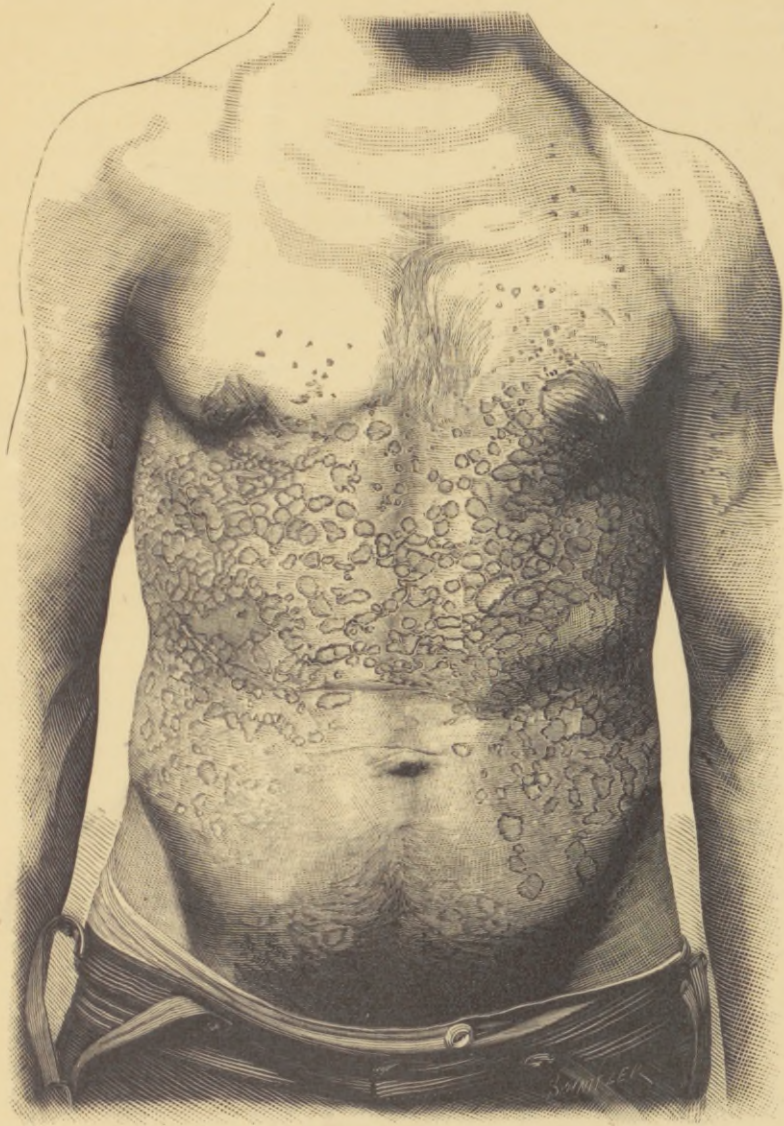


According to the statement of the patient, the eruption had first appeared as small round spots of a reddish or orange-red color, about three months previously just above the umbilicus and then gradually extended. As the spots became the size of a small pea the centre began to disappear, and in this manner the type of the eruption had become circinate. There were no subjective symptoms, and apparently, and so far as the patient himself knew, his general health was good. The case remained under notice about two weeks, at intervals of a day or two, and in this time the course of the lesions was noted to be the same as the man had described. The patient then ceased his visits to the dispensary and was not seen until four months later—the middle of last month (August). An examination disclosed the fact that the eruption had almost disappeared; here and there, over the upper part of the abdomen traces being seen in the form of irregular, serpentine, faint bluish lines or bands. In all the process had lasted eight or nine months.

The literature, so far as a somewhat hasty search shows, records but one case of a similar nature—a case reported by Drs. Duhring and Van Harlingen in the *Medical and Surgical Reporter* of August 3, 1878. In their case the eruption was confined to the legs, and the annular form was not noted until seven months after the disease first appeared; in the case just reported, the eruption was practically limited to the trunk, and the lesions from the start tended to become rapidly of the circinate type.

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