

She refused any treatment at all, and passed into the hands of a cancer quack, who gave her some solutions, which had been analysed, and pronounced by Dr. Wynter Blyth to be inert preparations of aconite. The patient remained free from any extension for twenty years; during that time the breast shrivelled. He saw the woman twenty years afterwards, and she then had commencing carcinoma, and she lived with that condition three years. At this stage the late Sir Alfred Pearce Gould recommended radium, but he (Dr. Little) did not think it worth while trying it, and he believed the patient was happier under the policy of non-interference.

Case for Diagnosis (? Urticaria Pigmentosa).

By M. G. HANNAY, M.D.

THIS is a case of so-called urticaria pigmentosa of adults. If the diagnosis depends upon the histology, and the presence of an excess of mast cells is considered a necessary criterion, then some of these cases must be ruled out of the group of urticaria pigmentosa, and another name will have to be found for them.

This man is thirty years of age. The eruption began four years ago on the forearms, and quickly spread to the arms, trunk, and lower limbs. There are two types of lesion: small pigmented macules and papules which have no tendency to urticarial reaction, and slightly red, non-pigmented papules, some of which become distinctly turgescient on friction. There are no subjective symptoms.

Dr. MacLeod has kindly examined a section, and is of opinion there are a few more mast cells than are usually present in an inflammatory exudate, but there is certainly not a marked excess.

DISCUSSION.

Dr. WHITFIELD expressed his gratitude for the opportunity of seeing this case, as there seemed to be some doubt as to whether these cases were, ætiologically, more or less identical with the urticaria pigmentosa of children. Histologically this was unlike the latter. One could say there was some cystic dilatation of sweat glands and an over-richness in cells of the whole corium; but these were mostly fibroblasts, with perhaps an unusually large proportion of mast cells. In the urticaria pigmentosa of children the mast cells were in dense aggregations, forming an infiltration resembling a tumour. It was for Dr. Hannay to devise an appropriate name for the condition; one was required.

Dr. E. G. GRAHAM LITTLE (President) said he thought cases of urticaria pigmentosa varied in the amount of mast cells presented. He had had cases in adults which had shown more mast cells than some cases in children. He agreed that the diagnosis rested on the histology; he would be reluctant to make the diagnosis unless there were mast cells. Some time ago a suggestion was made that a sub-committee should inquire into these cases as the nomenclature was inconclusive, and it would be interesting if Dr. Hannay would collect adult cases which showed mast-cell infiltration and cases which did not.

Dr. J. M. H. MACLEOD said he agreed with the diagnosis. With regard to the microscopical section, he said that he examined the section without any idea of the suggested diagnosis, and came to the conclusion that it was possibly urticaria pigmentosa, as there was a definite increase of mast cells, though they were not in the same profusion as in certain phases of the disease in children.