

## Remarks on warty-looking affection of the skin observed in imbeciles

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Remarks on a warty-looking affection  
of the skin observed in Impetigo.

By E. H. Woodworth R. A. C. Lancaster.

Having noticed that considerable interest  
has recently been taken by Dermatologists in  
a skin affection, not described in the ordinary  
Text-books, but familiar to me for many years  
past in my practice amongst impetigo, I have  
taken advantage of the present opportunity to  
show a patient, & make a few general remarks  
on the subject. Dr. H. G. Brooke of Manchester,  
has kindly undertaken to describe the  
Microscopic appearances of a section of skin  
from one of my cases, & I trust he will favour  
us with such particulars as may elucidate  
the pathology of the affection from the point  
of view of the Specialist.

It will suffice for a general understanding  
of the appearance of the affection, if I state  
that in the 4 cases which have fallen under  
my observation, it has been characterised by  
a chronic eruption of minute warty-like  
nodules distributed over the face, usually

affecting by preference the cheeks, but subsequently spreading to the forehead & chin. The photographs, which I send round, give a very good idea of the general appearance, that of the boy showing a more advanced stage than that of the girl. In a third case, of which unfortunately a photograph was not secured, the affection was in a less advanced stage, the nodules were paler, & their distribution was limited to the cheeks & just above the eyebrows. I will now give a brief outline of the history of these cases.

No. I. The Rylance photograph is shown, was admitted into the Royal Asylum <sup>aged 8</sup> in 1878, & remained there till 1890 when he was transferred to the W. Riding Asylum at Thirsk. His imbecility was attributed to a fall on the head followed by fits at 12 months of age: there was no history of hereditary neurosis, & the head was well-formed, & did not furnish any evidence of thickening or deformity from injury. When admitted the presence of rose-colored spots, arranged

in dots & lines on cheeks, chin and forehead was noted. The mother thought some had existed from birth. The color ranged from a faintly bronzed to a bright red. As time went on the nodules increased in size & deepened in color, & when the lad was discharged in 1890, at 20 years of age, they formed a complete mask over cheeks & the chin, & on the forehead, over left eyebrow, there was a large patch. Mentally the condition was low, the boy suffered from Epilepsy, & was idiotic.

Case II. The Girl, whose photograph is shown, was admitted into the Royal Albert Hospital, July 1882, aged 9. Her imbecility was attributed to "infantile convulsions" occurring from 3 to 18 months. The mother was however not sure whether she was all right when a baby, & the <sup>imbecility</sup> ~~case~~ was probably congenital. On admission it was noted that there was a patch of discoloration on the left brow (naevus), that there was a sort of butterfly-wing's arrangement

of raised spots, ranging from pearly white to red in colour, on both cheeks, & that there were some scattered spots on the chin & a few on the nose. As the girl has grown older (she is 18 now) - these have become more numerous & deeper in colour. Her general health is good, & she has considerably improved in intelligence & in domestic usefulness.

Case III. J.S. Admitted to the Royal Albert College, March 1889, then 8 yrs. old. Imbecility attributed to "Fits from 4 months to 3 years of age". A low grade idiot, with large globular head. Mother first noticed <sup>reddish</sup> spots on face when child was about 6. These are now found principally on cheeks, & to a smaller extent on forehead. They vary in colour according as the child is flushed or otherwise, sometimes appearing to be of a pale pearly hue, & occasionally approaching a bright red tint. This boy died in an epileptic fit in 1891, & unfortunately a portion of skin, sent aside for examination, has been mislaid.

Observations The skin affection has been described under various names by dermatologists. See Brooke's paper. Torök, Langhans & Jaquet regard the affection as a "local development of the growth from embryonic epithelium, either gland-buds or debris."

General conclusions. Pringle p. 116.  
B. J. L. Dermatology.

*Udenom a*  
*Sebacum.*

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