

**On the influence of age in the causation of skin-disease : as ascertained by the analysis of five thousand consecutive cases of skin-disease.**

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THE following Tables serve to show the effect of age in the causation of skin-disease, as ascertained by the analysis of five thousand consecutive cases taken from the carefully kept register of the Hospital.

In each Table the range of life from birth to ninety years of age has been divided into eighteen equal periods of five years.

In the *first* Table, the five thousand patients of either sex are distributed, *according to their age at the time of their application*, amongst these several periods.

In the *second* Table the results given by the first are corrected and checked by sorting the cases in a somewhat different manner, viz.:—by distributing the same patients amongst the same periods, but *according to the age they had attained when their disease first commenced*, instead of according to their age at the time of their application.

The two Tables taken together afford a result which is compounded of the age at which, in each individual, the disease commenced, and at a later age at which in the same person, the same disease was known to be still existing. Thus, a more accurate view is presented of the effect of age in the causation of skin-disease than could be derived from either of the Tables separately.

Of the five thousand cases, two thousand six hundred and eighty-six were males, and two thousand three hundred and fourteen were females.

Of the five thousand cases, *at the time of application at*

ink) of the five thousand cases of cutaneous disease\* are contrasted with a parallel statement (printed in red ink) of a *general* population of five thousand, the items of which are calculated from the census of the population of London, shown in Table III., so that in Table IV. is shown at a single view how a population of five thousand cutaneous patients is distributed amongst the various periods of life; and, at the same time, how a population of five thousand people of all kinds is distributed amongst the same periods of life.

In Table V. is shown the results obtained by the comparison of the one with the other, that is to say, each of the black figures in Table IV. has been divided by the corresponding red figure placed beneath it, and the result expressed in decimals, which display the relative liability to skin-disease of each of the stated periods of life.

In the diagram annexed (overleaf) is presented a pictorial view of the results obtained in Table V.

The black zig-zag represents the results arrived at in the cases of males, and the red zig-zag the results in the cases of females.

Further investigation is necessary to establish what may be the precise interpretation of these fluctuations. But it is clear at a glance that, in the female, skin-disease becomes suddenly and markedly more common at the two climacteric periods of life.

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\* These statistics have been procured by adding each of the items of Table I. to the corresponding item of Table II., and halving the product, so as to procure a more average result than could be derived from either Table I. or Table II. taken separately.

TABLES SHOWING THE INFLUENCE OF AGE IN THE CAUSATION OF SKIN-DISEASE.

TABLE III.

Census (taken on April 8th, 1861) of the Population of London, as published by the Census Office, July 1st, 1863.

Both Sexes.	Males and Females.	Under 5	5—	10—	15—	20—	25—	30—	35—	40—	45—	50—	55—	60—	65—	70—	75—	80—	85—	90—	95—	100 and upwards.
London.	M. 1,307,781	180,893	149,335	130,799	119,949	122,548	111,668	102,755	88,336	82,068	62,782	51,497	34,985	30,438	17,614	12,241	6,133	2,706	779	183	38	4
2,803,989	F. 1,496,208	181,403	150,924	133,550	139,206	154,841	140,367	122,012	102,151	93,832	71,408	61,231	43,202	40,878	25,322	18,862	10,061	4,821	1,615	412	93	17

TABLE IV.

In which the Statistics of the Population of London (reduced to a total of five thousand) are contrasted with the Statistics of Five Thousand Persons affected with Skin-disease.

	Males and Females.	Under 5	5—	10—	15—	20—	25—	30—	35—	40—	45—	50—	55—	60—	65—	70—	75—	80—	85—	90—
Affected with skin-disease ..	Males .. 2,686	289	125	159	283	364	315	258	204	174	129	137	70	76	38	38	19	6	2	..
Population of London (reduced)	Males .. 2,332	323	267	233	214	219	199	188	158	146	112	92	62	54	31	22	11	5	1	..
Affected with skin-disease ..	Females .. 2,314	245	169	161	281	275	290	204	153	150	98	108	57	52	38	25	5	3	..	..
Population of London (reduced)	Females .. 2,668	324	269	238	248	276	251	218	182	167	127	109	77	73	45	34	18	8	3	1

TABLE V.

Statement in Decimal Figures (calculated from Table IV.) of the Comparative Liability of Males and Females respectively to Disease of the Skin at successive (equal) Periods of Life.

	Under 5	5—	10—	15—	20—	25—	30—	35—	40—	45—	50—	55—	60—	65—	70—	75—	80—	85—	90—	95—
Males .. .. .	.894	.668	.682	1.322	1.662	1.582	1.409	1.291	1.191	1.151	1.489	1.129	1.407	1.225	1.727	1.727	1.2	2	..	..
Females .. .. .	.756	.628	.676	1.133	.996	1.155	.935	.84	.898	.771	.99	.74	.712	.844	.735	.277	.375	..	..	..



DIAGRAM OF THE COMPARATIVE LIABILITY (EXPRESSED IN DECIMALS) OF MALES AND OF FEMALES, RESPECTIVELY, TO CUTANEOUS DISEASE AT DIFFERENT AGES.

BLACK INK — MALES.

RED INK — FEMALES.

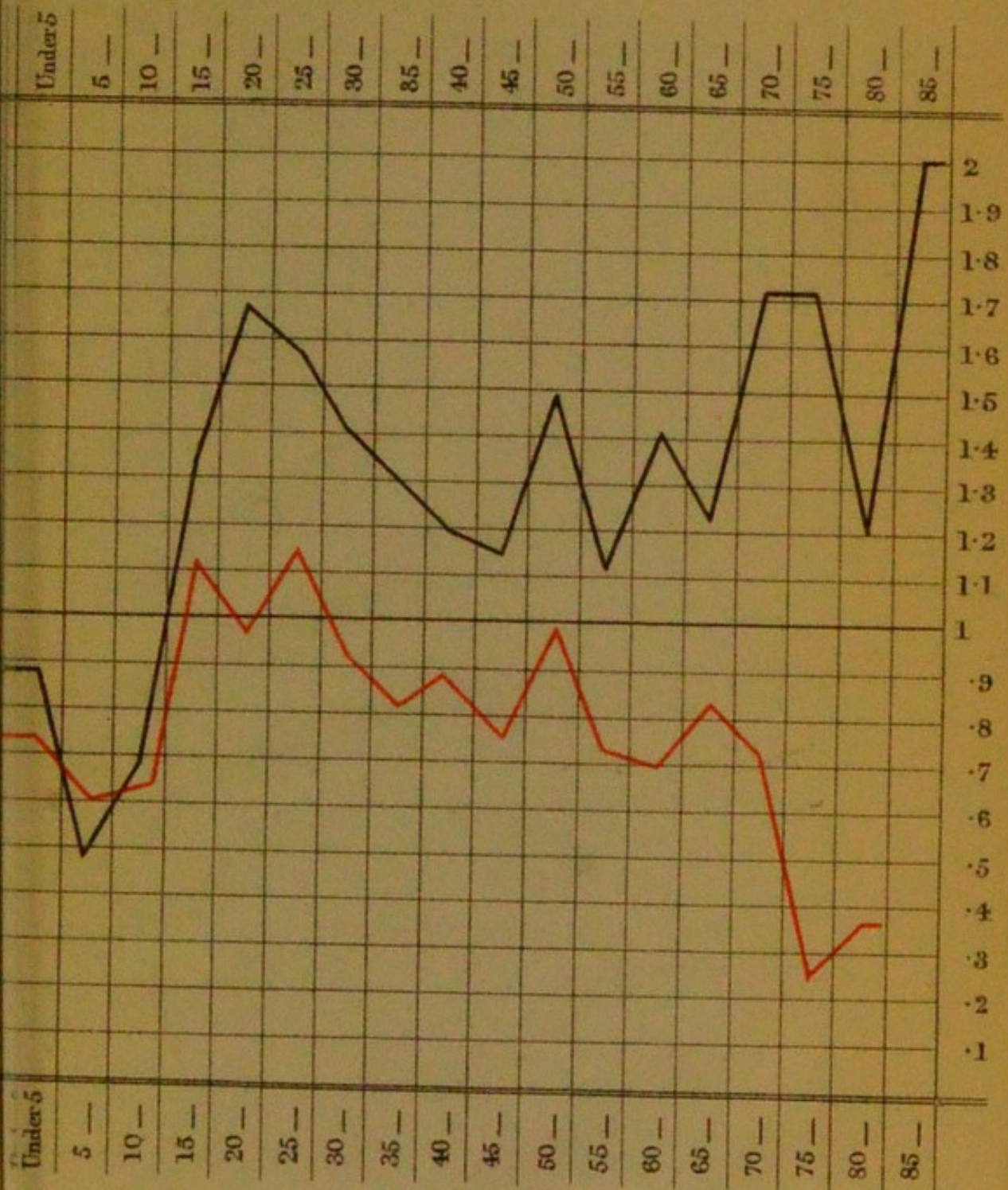


DIAGRAM OF THE COMPARATIVE LIABILITY EXPRESSED IN DECIMALS OF MALES AND OF FEMALES, RESPECTIVELY, TO CHANCOUS DISEASE AT DIFFERENT AGES

BLACK INK - MALES  
 RED INK - FEMALES

