and far inferior to the chemical action of chloroform and other narcotic vapours. So also as an ordinary hypnotic. It is far less certain, far more troublesome, much more rarely capable of application, and much more likely to produce mischief, than opium or sulphonal, or any other of a dozen narcotics which are always at hand, are cheap, easily used, and under ordinary circumstances innocuous when properly used.

As to the treatment of other diseases, I have, I believe, read all that is to be read on the subject, whether from the school of Nancy, of Paris, or of Vienna, and I have arrived at the conclusion that Professor Charcot, with his abundant good sense, his great erudition, and his vast experience, is fully justified in the conclusion at which he and his eminent pupil Richer, Babinsky, Déjerine, and others have arrived; that, for curative purposes, it is very rarely useful, generally altogether useless, and often injurious.

THE PRACTICE OF HYPNOTISM, EXCEPT BY SKILLED PHYSICIANS, SHOULD BE FORBIDDEN.

And here let me end by saying that, since no evident advantage has during forty years of extensive, patient, and elaborate trial and research been obtainable by the hundreds of physicians and physiologists who have de-

Fig. 11.

voted themselves to the study of the question, it is justifiable to say that the practice of hypnotism, mesmerism, electro-biology, and so-called animal magnetism, being almost invariably useless and often dangerous, even in the hands of the most highly skilled, careful, and conscientious physicians, it is a practice which ought to be forbidden to the unqualified, and is a most unfit and improper subject for platform shows. It is equally unfit for private amusement, and dangerous and improper as a society game. It is liable to gross abuse, and is frequently the means of fraud and imposture, extortion of money, and degradation of body and mind. It is apt to induce serious injuries to both. The confirmed and trained hypnotic subject is a maimed individual in mind and body, and likely at any time to be dangerous to himself and to society. Instances of this are so common that I need not, even if I had time, follow up this branch of the subject. I conclude by expressing the hope that this outline of the physical facts connected with hypnotic phenomena may help to arm those who had not before had an opportunity of investigating the subject against the wiles of the impostor and the vain suggestions of the somewhat impious persons who endeavour to connect these phenomena with the incarnation in themselves or their favourite "Sludge" of spiritual power and relations. At any rate, I hope that it may have given some correct ideas of the

nature of the hypnotic state, and have cleared away some of the fictions which have been associated with it by imaginative, ill-informed, or interested persons.

A CASE OF XANTHOMA MULTIPLEX IN A CHILD.

[WITH A COLOURED PLATE.]

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XANTHOMA (*xanthelasma vitiligoides*) is met with in two forms—namely, *xanthoma planum* and *xanthoma multiplex seu tuberosum*. The first of these, which implicates the eyelids, is by no means an uncommon affection, while the second is decidedly rare, especially the form which occurs in children,

Fig. 1.—Section stained with log-wood; the affected part highly cellular contrast with normal at either side.

Fig. 3.—Section stained with osmic acid, showing the cutis vera with cells which are fatty.

of which not more than twenty cases have been recorded. In them the eyelids almost invariably escape, and the liver is not affected. On the other hand, when *xanthoma multiplex* does not commence till after puberty, in most cases (about four-fifths) there is chronic jaundice from obstruction of the bile ducts, and the eyelids are almost always implicated—in deed, the disease commences there.¹

The following is a good illustration of apparently congenital *xanthoma multiplex*.

² D. F., aged 3, was admitted to Ward 4 of the Western In-

¹ See, if desired, the Report of the Xanthoma Committee in the *Transactions of the Pathological Society*, vol. xxxiii, p. 376.

² Reporter, Wm. Jack, M.B.

TO ILLUSTRATE PROFESSOR McCALL ANDERSON'S PAPER ON XANTHOMA MULTIPLEX
IN A CHILD

firmary of Glasgow under the care of Professor McCall Anderson on May 30th, 1892, suffering from an eruption of unknown duration. Her aunt states that she knows nothing of the history of the child, whose parents died some time ago. The eruption was in its present condition when she came under her aunt's care three months ago. As far as is known, she has always been healthy.

The eruption consists of numerous papules, very closely set, and varying from the size of a pinhead to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in diameter. Where two or more of these have run together, they form patches about the size of a split pea. The separate papules are rounded, and have a flat surface, glistening in certain lights. The outline of the confluent patches is

Fig. 2.—Part of Fig. 1 with high power; many of the cells are large and multinucleated.

made up of segments of circles. The papules, which are elevated in proportion to their size, are of a light buff colour, soft in consistence, and the surrounding skin is nowhere thickened or infiltrated, or in any way altered.

The eruption, which is symmetrical, is situated upon the face, neck, shoulders, arms, and legs, and is most copious upon the shoulders. The papules, and the patches formed by their coalescence, are grouped into irregular clusters. The largest of these is situated over the deltoid on either side, and extends along the posterior aspect of the arms as far as the elbows (see coloured plate). A few papules are scat-

Fig. 4.—Part of Fig. 3 with high power. The fat is in cells, chiefly large ones, such as those shown on Fig. 2.

tered over the flexor aspect of the arms as far down as the wrists. These are for the most part of smaller size and lighter colour. There are none on the hands. A large band of eruption runs from the lobe of the ear on one side beneath the chin to the corresponding point on the opposite side. The eruption is also present on

the forehead, but here the papules are small and discrete. A few discrete papules also appear on the cheeks. The trunk is free anteriorly, and posteriorly as low down as the last sacral vertebra. There it reappears, and extends in a discrete form down the back of either thigh as far as the knees. A few scattered papules occupy the flexor surface of the knees and legs: the feet are not affected. Sections of the nodules were made by Dr. Joseph Coats, and the following is his report:—

"Small portions of the skin, including parts of the eruption, were excised under ether spray. They were then hardened in Müller's fluid, and sections were cut in the microtome after freezing. Some sections were stained with logwood and with alum carmine, and some were treated with osmic acid. The structure is illustrated in the four figures, Figs. 1 and 2 being from a section stained with logwood, and Figs. 3 and 4 from one treated with osmic acid. The eruption is in the form of a slight elevation of the skin as shown in a rounded prominence of the general surface. The prominence is due to an enlargement of the cutis vera, the epidermis being somewhat flattened over the surface, and the interpapillary processes considerably diminished. This is seen by contrast with the unaltered skin on either side of the prominence. The prominence is obviously due to an excess of cells in the affected portion of cutis vera. This is abundantly visible in Fig. 1, where the contrast in this respect with the normal skin on either side is very marked. The cells are only to a limited extent related to the blood vessels.

"Fig. 2, which is a part of Fig. 1 more highly magnified, shows the character of the cells in the affected area. The cells are mostly of considerable size, and many of them are of very large size. In the figure several of these latter are shown with a number of nuclei, and with all the characters of giant cells.

"Figs. 1 and 2 are from a section mounted in Canada balsam, and are prepared so as to show the individual nucleated cells. Figs. 3 and 4 are from a section stained with osmic acid, so as to bring out the presence and locality of the fat in the lesion. In Fig. 3 fat is seen to be present by the appearance of dark areas throughout the affected area in the cutis vera. Even with this power it can be seen that the fat is collected into definite masses or clumps suggesting cells.

"In Fig. 4, which is from the same section more highly magnified, the fat is seen to be in larger and smaller collections, evidently limited by the outlines of cells. It also appears that many of these cells are of large size, being strictly comparable with the giant cells shown in Fig. 2. In sections stained with alum carmine and osmic acid the nuclei of these cells could be seen along with the fat. The fat, as shown in Fig. 4, is in the form of small homogenous granules, giving the characteristic appearance of fatty degeneration.

"Summing up the pathological conditions present, it may be said that we have here evidences of an irritant acting on the skin, and producing the lesions of chronic inflammation in the form of a cellular new formation. The cells are similar to those arising from such irritants as those of tuberculosis and syphilis, but have not the arrangement or mode of aggregation which is generally found in the latter. There is the further resemblance to a tuberculous lesion that the cells have this striking degenerative tendency manifested in the fatty condition. I do not mean to say that the irritant here is that of tuberculosis, but the presence of giant cells and the degenerative tendency certainly suggest that a morbid virus of some kind has played a part in the production of the eruption."

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION IN ROUMANIA.—A new service of medical sanitary inspectors has been organised in Roumania, and enters on its duties with the new year. The inspectors are to be selected from among members of the medical men who have been at least ten years in the public sanitary service. They will receive a salary of 10,800 francs (£432) a year with travelling expenses at the rate of 3,600 francs (£144) a year, and with the right of free railway passage. They are to be under the orders of the Minister of the Interior or of the General Director of the Sanitary Service. Their duties will be to inspect and supervise the administration of the sanitary laws throughout the districts, cities, and communes of Roumania, to keep a watchful eye on public and private pharmacies and the sale of drugs, and on the treatment of the poor.