HORNY EPITHELIAL TUMOUR.

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THE tumour, which was oval in shape and about 15 cm. long by 10 cm. wide, was removed, in St. Mark's Ophthalmic Hospital, from the outer side of the brow of a woman aged about thirty years.

It was situated not far from the left external canthus, and was believed (before removal) to be an ordinary dermoid, so common in that situation. It was easily enucleated, not being adherent to the bone or skin, and the wound healed as usual by first intention. I handed the tumour to Dr. Graves, who at once, on opening it saw it differed from any dermoid he had ever seen, and so hardened it and cut sections for microscopic examination. He will state the particulars of the microscopic examination, which the accompanying photograph [exhibited] will further illustrate.

Report by DR. GRAVES.—The tumour is completely enveloped in a firm fibrous capsule, which is joined by numerous trabeculæ from the interior. These trabeculæ pass between masses of horny epithelium; the latter contain, here and there, an island of Malpighian cells, from which these horny cells grow.

The tumour not being adherent to either the bone or skin could not have originated from either of them. Its origin becomes an object of extreme interest; the history pointed to a gradual growth from birth. As the tumour could not properly be described as a dermoid, I think that perhaps

“horny epithelial tumour” best describes it. Its position points to the possibility of its having originated in an enclosed group of unappropriated epithelial cells. The slowness of growth and excess of horny cells was possibly due to the very trivial blood supply which it received. Indeed, as far as I could make out, no blood-vessel entered the capsule, nor were there blood-vessels in the trabeculæ.

Last year I showed in the Pathological Section a very similar tumour, removed by Mr. Wheeler from the neck of a boy. This tumour was macro- and microscopically identical in structure and history. (See Transactions of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland, vol. IX., page 428.)