woodcut illustrates the form, size, and distribution of the lesions, and the general pathology of the manifestation is fully considered.

THE PROTOZOA-LIKE BODIES OF HERPES ZOSTER.

In a short paper read before the American Dermatological Association (*Journal of Cutaneous and Genito-Urinary Diseases*, September, 1894) HARTZELL calls attention to and describes certain peculiar bodies found in the vesicles of herpes zoster, which Pfeiffer regards as protozoa and the cause of the disease. The author found these bodies not only in the ordinary forms of zoster, but also in a case of traumatic zoster in which there had been many recurrences for a period of years. He does not regard them as protozoa, but forms of cell-degeneration:

THE ETIOLOGY OF PEMPHIGUS.

DUMESNIL reports (*Archiv für Dermatologie und Syphilis*, Band xxx., Heft 2) in detail the histories of five cases of pemphigus, and from his observation of these and other cases he is led to the conclusion that the affection is dependent upon an anomaly of function of the nervous system, which is partly acquired and partly congenital. The author calls attention to the fact that pemphigus often recurs after strong psychic disturbance; and that the hysterical and those whose nervous system has suffered in its powers of resistance through chronic alcoholism or other toxic influence furnish a large contingent of pemphigus cases.

ELEIDIN.

DREYSEL and OPPLER, in a study of this substance as found in normal and pathologically changed skin (*Archiv für Dermatologie und Syphilis*, Band xxx. Heft 1), formulate the following conclusions:

1. Eleidin is a viscid substance found everywhere in the stratum lucidum of the human skin, in the borders of the hair-follicles, and in those parts of the excretory ducts of the sweat-glands which pass through the horny layer, in the shape of fine drops and larger accumulations. In the mucous membranes eleidin is found only in those parts adjoining the skin, and there only in small quantities.
2. Brief hardening in alcohol has no essential influence upon the tingibility and consistence of the eleidin. Its demonstration in alcohol-hardened skin is very simple. Staining succeeds heat in picro-carmin and sulpho-acid nigrosin. The eleidin is fixed in a certain measure through staining, and shows after this an increased resistance to certain chemical influences.
3. The amount of the eleidin in the epidermis is not always proportional to that of the kerato-hyalin; in normal skin it is, in general, dependent upon the thickness of the horny layer, and is, therefore, greatest in the soles of the feet and tips of the fingers.
4. From numerous examinations of pathologically changed skin it can be concluded that in pure hyperkeratoses an increase of the eleidin, as of kerato-hyalin, is present. In diseases which accompany anomalies of cornification-parakeratoses the eleidin more completely and earlier disappears than

the kerato-hyalin, and has never been found when the nuclei in the stratum corneum have retained their tingibility, although kerato-hyalin may be demonstrated in such places.

In molluscum contagiosum the eleidin, as well as the kerato-hyalin, is greatly increased.

A CASE OF PAPILLARY AND PIGMENTARY DYSTROPHY (ACANTHOSIS NIGRICANS).

DARIER reports (*Annales de Dermatologie et de Syphilographie*, 1895, Nn. 2) a new case of this interesting and rare disease. The patient was an officer, thirty years of age, and while not exactly cachectic, he was perceptibly emaciated and pale. When examined nude one noticed a brownish discoloration of certain regions of the skin, particularly of the neck, the articular folds, and the epigastric region. Besides this abnormal pigmentation there was a verrucous or papillomatous condition of the skin in the same localities and in some non-pigmented places. There were also multiple papillomata and numerous nævi. The cutaneous affection had developed during the course of a grave chronic dyspepsia, which was probably connected with a gastric neoplasm. From this case and others previously observed the author concludes:

1. Papillary and pigmentary dystrophy (acanthosis nigricans) is a legitimate and well-defined morbid type, a regional and symmetric dermatosis, affecting from its beginning precise and constant localizations, and characterized by papillary hypertrophy and abnormal pigmentation.

2. This dystrophy seems to develop always secondarily to a gastric or abdominal carcinosis without one being able to say at the present time what is the physiological mechanism by which it is produced. It should be placed among the dermatoses which depend upon internal maladies.

A PUNCTURE WITH A BONE OF A LIVING FISH IN THE WEST INDIES, FOLLOWED BY LEPROSY, IN A CAUCASIAN SUBJECT.

ASHMEAD reports (*Journal of the American Medical Association*, March 16, 1895) the case of a man, aged thirty-five years, who received a wound from the fin of a fish in Cuban waters, which was followed immediately by great swelling of the arm, lasting a week. Immediately afterward an eruption appeared on the front of the chest, the head, and the face, consisting of watery vesicles, which broke and formed large scabs. When the eruption had disappeared, after some months, red blotches remained on the nose and forehead, the latter situated symmetrically over the eyebrows. These blotches gradually thickened and became nodulated. This condition continued to increase, the ears becoming tuberculated. Soon after the first appearance of the blotches the patient discovered numbness on the ulnar side of the forearm; this was followed in time by numbness in the feet. At the present time the patient presents all the clinical features of leprosy; and sections made of an excised tubercle from the third finger of the left hand showed an abundance of the bacillus lepræ and leprosy cells. There is no history of leprosy in any preceding generation, and his children and grandchild are healthy.

CASE ILLUSTRATING THE NEUROTIC ORIGIN OF HYDROCYSTOMA.

MR. JONATHAN HUTCHINSON reports (*British Journal of Dermatology*, May, 1895) a case of hydrocystoma in which the cysts were much more abundant on the right side than on the left. The patient, a woman, sixty-four years of age, was presented at his clinical demonstrations as an example of unilateral sweating, the sweating occurring upon the right side. In early life the patient had suffered much from severe headaches, which were much worse on the right side. Later she had neuralgia of the tongue, also more severe on the right side. Mr. Hutchinson believes that the life-long liability to hemicrania has had something to do with the disturbance in the skin.

OBSTETRICS.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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THE OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON AND THE MIDWIVES QUESTION

In his inaugural address as President, CHAMPNEYS urged the duty of medical men to provide properly educated midwives for attendance upon the poor. He considered the first duty of the profession to be to the sick, and, inasmuch as poor women will employ midwives when they cannot obtain physicians, it is the duty of the profession to educate properly women capable of conducting normal cases.

This action of the President of the London Obstetrical Society is of interest, in view of the fact that the same problem presents itself to American medical men for solution. Among the foreign poor of American cities midwives practise extensively, and the American profession must sooner or later recognize this fact, and take action in the interest of the poor.

MYOMECTOMY DURING PREGNANCY.

LEOPOLD contributes an article under this title in the *American Journal of Obstetrics*, May, 1895, in which he describes the case of a multigravida, pregnant, her condition being complicated by a hard, round tumor on the left side above the pubis. On making an abdominal incision a calcified myoma in the anterior uterine wall was found, freely movable, extending