

from a point  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. from the middle line in front to within 3 in. of the point of junction of the lambdoid sutures behind. The lower border of bone removed was within 2 in. of the zygoma, whilst its upper border reached to within an inch of the middle line. There is now a depression of  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. at the centre of the cicatrix.

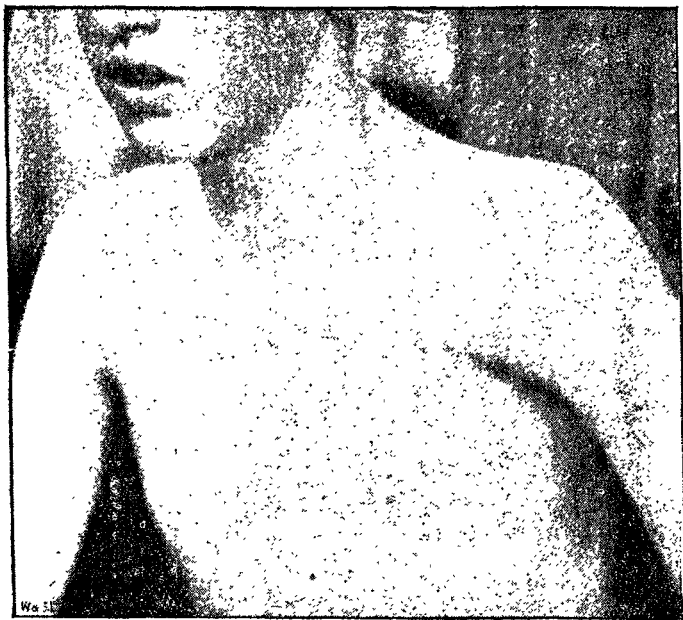
Greenhead-road, Huddersfield.

#### ABSENCE OF STERNAL ORIGIN OF THE PECTORALIS MAJOR.

By E. H. YOUNG, M.D. DURH., L.R.C.P. LOND.,  
M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

As this abnormality does not appear to be of very frequent occurrence I think that the following notes may prove of interest; the engraving was taken from a photograph.

A youth sixteen years of age consulted me in August last for cough and difficulty of breathing. On examination I found slight bronchial catarrh, and was at once struck by the



appearance of his chest. The sternal origin of the pectoralis major on the left side was quite absent, as is very well shown in the engraving. The only other malformation he presented was partial webbing of the fore and middle fingers of the left hand. He stated that as far as he remembered his chest had always been in the same condition, and he experienced no weakness on the affected side. As the engraving shows, the clavicular portion on the left side is not quite so well developed as the corresponding portion on the right; but, on the other hand, the left deltoid was more developed than the right. I have since seen a relative of the patient, who informed me that the condition was noticed by the mother during infancy. No history of maternal "impressions" was obtained.

Okehampton.

#### NOTES ON FIVE CASES OF SKIN DISEASE TREATED BY THYROID GLAND.<sup>1</sup>

By JOHN F. GORDON DILL, M.A., M.D. CAMB., &c.,  
ASSISTANT PHYSICIAN TO THE SUSSEX COUNTY HOSPITAL.

**CASE 1. Psoriasis.**—A man twenty years of age had his first attack of psoriasis five years ago after recovery from an attack of scarlet fever, and he said that the eruption covered his body. The disease reappeared in January, 1893, on the limbs and trunk, and continued—sometimes better, at other times worse—until Oct. 3rd, when I first saw him. The eruption was then very thick upon the arms and legs, with scattered patches on the trunk. From Oct. 3rd to Nov. 7th he was treated with iodide of potassium internally and chrysophanic acid ointment locally, but the improvement was only

slight. From Nov. 7th to Nov. 14th the ointment was continued, but the iodide was discontinued, and he was given one tabella of thyroid extract<sup>2</sup> twice a day. In this week the improvement was more marked. From Nov. 14th to Nov. 28th the chrysophanic acid ointment was discontinued, and he took three tabellæ of thyroid extract in the day. At the end of this time the improvement was very striking; the red bases of the patches had become light pink in colour, many of the scales had disappeared, and there was no extension of the disease. On Dec. 5th, under the same treatment, the scales were completely gone, and all that was left was a slight discolouration of the skin where the disease had appeared. Except for occasional dyspepsia he was in good general health during the treatment.

**CASE 2. Psoriasis.**—A man fifty-three years of age had suffered at intervals from psoriasis during the past nineteen years. I first saw him on Oct. 24th, 1893, and the attack had begun about a fortnight previously. The disease was very general, and the patches were covered with thick scales. From Oct. 24th to Nov. 3rd he was treated with iodide of potassium and chrysophanic acid ointment; the improvement was not very marked. On Nov. 3rd this treatment was wholly discontinued, and he was given one tabloid of thyroid extract three times a day until Nov. 14th. During this time he improved very rapidly, and no extension of the disease took place. From Nov. 14th to Dec. 5th he took two tabellæ three times a day with steady improvement, and at the latter date the scalp and limbs were nearly clear. A few scales still existed in places on the trunk, but they were very thin, and the subjacent patches were healthy looking. The patient has had no discomfort from the remedy, and says that nothing has ever acted so rapidly upon his disease.

**CASE 3. Psoriasis.**—A girl fourteen years and six months old had her first attack in October last. The disease showed itself on her arms, and in spite of treatment by chrysophanic acid ointment, and with iodide of potassium, and subsequently arsenic internally, it spread very rapidly, until the whole surface of the skin was thickly studded, except the face, the palms, and the soles. About Nov. 16th, however, a general dermatitis of the face developed, with slight febrile disturbance, but there was no formation of scales. On Nov. 21st the treatment was wholly changed, and one tabella of thyroid extract was given three times a day. The result was astonishing, for in three days (Nov. 24th) there was marked improvement, and no further spread of the disease had taken place. On Nov. 28th the change was still more striking; the swelling of the face had subsided and the skin was peeling off, with a suspicion of a silvery appearance about the flakes. On Dec. 5th the face, scalp, and neck were clear, and the disease was very much less, both in extent and in severity, over the body and limbs. No discomfort was experienced from the remedy.

**CASE 4. Psoriasis.**—A young woman twenty-three years of age has been several times under my care at the hospital during the past four or five years, suffering from psoriasis. She came to the hospital on Nov. 7th with a bad attack, and I ordered one tabella of thyroid extract three times a day. Until Nov. 21st there was decided improvement, but after that date the disease remained stationary for a time, and early in December it began to spread again. Meanwhile she complained of headache, general malaise, and dyspepsia, and I therefore thought it wise to discontinue the thyroid treatment.

**CASE 5. Acne rosacea.**—A woman thirty-eight years of age had suffered for years from acne rosacea, which affects the whole face with the exception of a margin of about an inch in width all round. The disease had hitherto resisted all treatment. She has taken three tabellæ of thyroid extract a day from Nov. 3rd to Nov. 14th and six from Nov. 14th to Dec. 5th without any discomfort. There is, however, but little improvement, except that the affected area has become paler in colour.

Brighton.

#### DERMOID CYST DELAYING DELIVERY.

By W. J. DEWAR, M.B., C.M. ABERD.

ON July 18th I was called by a midwife to assist her at a confinement. The patient had been in labour for about twelve hours without making any progress during the last two or three hours. This confinement was the sixth, and the

<sup>1</sup> The first three patients were shown at the meeting of the Brighton and Sussex Medico Chirurgical Society on Thursday, Dec. 7th, 1893.

Each tabella is equivalent to five grains of the gland.