

# A PECULIAR SKIN ERUPTION OCCURRING DURING PREGNANCY.

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THE following case may be of interest, illustrating as it does, to a certain extent, the peculiar eruption which has lately been brought into notice, and which appears only when the subject is pregnant.

Mrs. A—, aged forty, the mother of five children, was confined of a healthy male child on March 7th, 1882. She had had no child or miscarriage for eight years and three months previously. When about five months pregnant with this last child she noticed a squamous eruption appear on the upper third of the forearms, not affecting the flexures of the elbow joints. This eruption gradually became worse, the skin was indurated and raised, and eventually both forearms and hands were affected. Almost concurrently with this the lower limbs showed the same peculiarities, with some variation, however. The enlargement was very great, almost to twice the natural size, accompanied with œdema. The skin was very rough and hard, and appeared similar to "elephantiasis." About two months before the patient was confined, larger bullæ appeared on the lower extremities, but at no time were the upper limbs thus affected. Some of these bullæ burst and formed hard thickened crusts, from which exuded a thin glairy fluid. The pain accompanying this affection was very severe, and the patient was unable to go about her household duties for fully three months previous to her confinement. Immediately after the confinement the skin of the forehead, face, neck, and upper part of the chest, which up to that time had been free from blemish, began to be squamous and indurated, and very much thickened, but no bullæ appeared at any time. Both anæsthesia and hyperæsthesia were present. She is now (seven weeks after her confinement) better in some respects, although there are still a few bullæ on the legs, and the skin still shows to a slighter extent the peculiarities just described. The patient is no doubt of a rheumatic diathesis, but whether this, combined with the great changes the system undergoes during pregnancy, has helped to cause this eruption I cannot say. The only treatment adopted has been absolute rest and the administration of alkalis. Previous to her confinement eight years ago the patient had a similar eruption on the forearms and hands, and the legs and feet were affected also about two months before the confinement. In about three weeks after this the skin was quite clear again, and the severity of the attack was not nearly to the extent as in the present instance.

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