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HANDBOOK
OF
SKIN
DISEASE
—
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HANDBOOK
OF
DISEASES OF THE SKIN

EDITED BY

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EDITOR OF

ZIEMSEN'S CYCLOPÆDIA OF THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE

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1885

INDUSTRIAL PRINTING COMPANY
STETTINER, LAMBERT & Co.
129 & 131 Crosby Street, New York

AMERICAN PUBLISHERS' PREFACE.

It was confidently expected when v. Ziemssen's "Cyclopædia of the Practice of Medicine" was completed, that this volume on Skin Disease would be ready for publication at an early period. Various causes appear, however, to have delayed the issue of the German edition until the latter part of last year.

In the present translation, it has been endeavored to condense the original as much as possible, without loss of clearness or the meaning of the authors, in order to be able to include the whole in one volume of convenient size. Its shape and general appearance have been made somewhat different from ordinary medical publications, to distinguish it as a book prepared expressly for presentation, and not as a commercial venture.

It may not be amiss to state that there is no precedent for the publication of a book of this high character and size for free presentation, to many thousand persons. We trust that the pleasure we have in thus manifesting our appreciation of the generous support accorded to our publications by the medical profession will be shared by those to whom we have the honor of presenting a copy of "ZIEMSEN'S HANDBOOK OF DISEASES OF THE SKIN."

WILLIAM WOOD & COMPANY.

NEW YORK, April, 1885,
56 & 58 Lafayette Place.

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ANATOMY AND DEVELOPMENT

BY

DR. PAUL G. UNNA.

TRANSLATED BY DR. W. T. ALEXANDER.

Development of the Skin as a Whole.—The corium constitutes the real foundation of the skin. It develops from a superficial layer of the mesoblast which Remak therefore called the skin-plate, and in the second month of foetal life still consists entirely of round and spindle-shaped cells, with but little intercellular substance. In the third month, in consequence of the appearance of large quantities of fibrillary tissue, an inner layer becomes separated from it, and at the same time the boundary-line between it and the epidermis (which is genetically an entirely distinct structure) becomes more sharply defined in the shape of a light, but never double-contoured border. This inner layer is at once transformed, by the deposition of fat in its substance, into what afterwards becomes the subcutaneous tissue. Embryologically, however, it belongs wholly to the corium. The outer layer of the corium remains in an immature condition until the second half of foetal life, fibrillæ making their appearance between the cells, at first very slowly, growing from below upwards; then vessels, and finally nerves appear. The most superficial portion of the corium, which forms the foundation of the subsequent papillary layer, consists, even at birth, of young granulation tissue, with very few fibrillæ, while the cutis proper has at this time already acquired considerable thickness and density, in consequence of the continuous deposition of collagenous substance between its cells. As the papillary layer, even in the adult, differs greatly from the cutis proper in its richness in young connective tissue and the arrangement of its fibrillary frame-work, and is characterized by certain peculiarities of circulation and the presence of terminal nerve apparatus, we would have at least the same right to regard it as distinct from the cutis as the subcutaneous tissue (hypoderm, according to Besnier). It is, however, more judicious to make neither of these distinctions. Embryology teaches us to recognize only two layers of the skin, the epidermis and cutis (corium). The subcutaneous tissue owes its recognition as a distinct layer only to the circumstance that, in consequence of the macroscopically appreciable de-