



COPYRIGHT 1910 BY DR. S. TRINFORTH N. Y.

SYPHILODERMA PIGMENTOSUM

SYPHILIS SECUNDARIA

Syphilis pigmentosa. Synonyms: *Leucoderma syphiliticum*; *Syphiloderma pigmentosum*; *Vitiligo acquisita syphilitica.*

The pigmentary syphilid is a comparatively rare manifestation, but of singular character and great importance as an easily recognized infallible sign of syphilis. Its peculiar attributes are its localization, configuration, color, its persistence and resistance to treatment, and its marked predilection for women. The rash is situated upon the neck and is nearly always confined to the posterior and lateral surfaces, never ascending in front above the submaxillary region, nor above the hair line behind, and shading off below at about the level of the top of the scapulae. The skin affected takes on a tawny discoloration which is not uniform, for in the hyperpigmented area occur pale islands of a color as light as or lighter than that of the normal skin. The islands are from one-eighth to one inch in diameter, fairly sharply outlined and in places confluent. They may be so plentiful as to give the pigmented strands between them a conformation like the fabric of a

coarse lace with wide meshes. The rash is first noticed about the time of disappearance of the ordinary general secondary eruptions, that is, from the fourth to the twelfth month after infection, and it lasts indefinitely, for one, two or even ten years, without being much influenced by specific treatment. It occurs ten times as frequently among women as among men. Its presence is no indication of the severity of the disease. **DIAGNOSIS:** The condition is so characteristic that once seen it cannot be mistaken for any other discoloration of the skin. *Vitiligo* with the same pattern and distribution might be almost indistinguishable, but vitiligo does not happen in just this form and locality, and moreover the depigmented areas in that disease are much whiter than the pale spots of the syphilitic leucoderma. **TREATMENT:** Some observers have noticed the pigmentation fade slowly under prolonged and vigorous specific treatment, but as a rule all that can be done is to conceal the condition by staining the pale areas with walnut juice.