

CHAPTER XXVI.

DISEASES OF THE SUBCUTANEOUS FAT.

Relapsing Febrile Nodular Non-Suppurative Panniculitis.

Nodular non-suppurative panniculitis.
(Weber-Christian disease).

Tender indurated nodules and plaques are formed in the subcutaneous fat which terminate, after resolution, in atrophy. With the development of new lesions, a febrile reaction occurs with nausea, vomiting and muscular pains. The thighs are mostly involved. The nodules are hard, freely movable, irregular masses. A liquefying type has been described. The treatment is purely symptomatic.

Subcutaneous Fat Necrosis of Newborn.

Deep-seated, indurated areas which begin shortly after birth. Bluish-red slightly elevated, movable, rubber-like patches, involving chiefly the back, cheeks, arms, thighs and buttocks. The condition undergoes spontaneous resolution in a few months.

Sclerema Neonatorum.

A hardening of the subcutaneous fat on the buttocks, shoulders, calves and cheeks. It occurs in sharply circumscribed areas. The skin is wax-like and gives the impression of being half frozen. It is a rare disease of the newborn. Treatment is on general lines and corticosteroid therapy is effective.

Progressive Lipodystrophy.

A disease of childhood in which there is a progressive diffuse loss of subcutaneous fat. The upper half of the body looks emaciated, the cheeks are sunken, and the face resembles a death-mask.

Lipogranulomatosis.

A tumour-like growth occurring in the subcutaneous fat. The lesions are painful, nodular and confluent and are surrounded by a board-like ring.

Lipoatrophia Annularis.

Atrophy of the subcutaneous fat which is preceded by a bracelet-like swelling around an extremity. This is followed by loss of subcutaneous fat, so that the limb seems to be divided by a depressed constriction.