# DRUG ERUPTIONS: A CLINICAL STUDY OF THE IRRITANT EFFECTS OF DRUGS UPON THE SKIN

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Drug Eruptions: A Clinical Study of the Irritant Effects of Drugs Upon the Skin by Prince A. Morrow

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PRINCE A. MORROW

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Trieste



# DRUG ERUPTIONS

## A CLINICAL STUDY

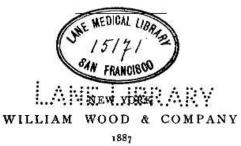
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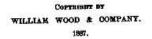
### IRRITANT EFFECTS OF DRUGS UPON THE SKIN

BY

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THE general proposition that the physician should be familiar with the effects of every drug that he employs in the treatment of disease is axiomatic. He should not only be acquainted with the drug's normal, typical mode of action, but also with its abnormal or incidental effects, the more especially since, in the case of drugs as in the phenomena of every-day life, it is often the unexpected that happens.

The abnormal phases of drug action are comparatively an unexplored field. While it has long been known that eruptive disturbances of various kinds may result from the use of certain drugs, yet the number of drugs in common use capable of causing cutaneous disorders, the clinical appearances which they present, and the conditions which influence their development, are not sufficiently familiar to the profession.

The changes in the skin caused by drugs derive a special practical interest from the fact that they sometimes simulate very accurately the eruptive fevers and other idiopathic affections of the skin, and it is important that the physician should be able to differentiate the clinical

features, and correctly interpret the pathological significance of phenomena so widely different in their mode of origin.

It is only within the last few years that this subject has received much attention from the profession. When the enormously large number of cases of drug eruptions which have been recently reported is contrasted with the comparatively few formerly recorded, it is evident that a prolific cause of cutaneous disorders long escaped recognition.

No doubt the reason that drug eruptions have been signalized so much more frequently within the last few years is attributable to the more exact methods of modern observation, the greater care and precision with which etiological factors are traced, and the recognition of the influence of numerous pathogenetic agencies which formerly were not suspected to be the originators of morbid changes in the skin. A mine of etiological agencies in the production of cutaneous disorders has been discovered, not only in the case of drugs, but also in the vaccine virus, mental emotions, traumatism, menstruation, septicæmia, pyæmia, glycosuria, etc.

It is not proposed in this work to study the cutaneous action of all drugs which have been accredited with the property of producing eruptive disturbances. The list is a long one, and embraces many agents which are not in common use, and a consideration of their dermatopathic effects would be lacking in practical value.

The relations which these cutaneous phenomena bear

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to the drug's physiological action and to conditions of individual susceptibility have not been definitely determined. In the present state of our knowledge, a satisfactory solution of the problem is perhaps not possible. We know little definitely of the laws of drug action, and still less of the conditions which govern individual susceptibilities.

The author's object has been to collect from all available sources well authenticated observations relating to every form of cutaneous disorder thus far recorded from the action of drugs. To these have been added numerous personal observations, some of which have been already published, and others appear now for the first time.

It is hoped that these results will prove of value to the general practitioner, not only in directing his attention to the large number of drugs in general use capable of causing eruptive phenomena, but in familiarizing him with their clinical appearances, so that he may be enabled to recognize and refer them to their true cause when occurring in his own practice.

The author desires to acknowledge the invaluable assistance of his friend, Dr. Charles Rice, who has furnished a series of valuable tests for the detection of drugs in the urine. As most drugs are chiefly eliminated through the kidneys, a knowledge of the processes to be employed for their detection cannot fail to be of value from a diagnostic point of view.

The various sources from which the clinical facts embodied in this work have been gleaned are acknowledged

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in the General Bibliography, and in the Special Bibliography of individual drugs, which will be found appended. The references are arranged in the order in which they are quoted.

66 WEST 40TH ST., January 1st, 1887.

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