Section for the Study of Disease in Children.

President—Dr. J. Porter Parkinson.

Multiple Neurofibromatosis (von Recklinghausen's Disease).

By E. Bronson, M.D.

D. T., aged 7 years 11 months, had the first pigmented spot about two years ago. Within six months a soft tumour had started below the right scapula and many more pigmented areas had appeared. During the past year the tumour has increased in size. It measures 4 cm. by 7 cm., and is sessile in type. The skin is dependent over it. Over her chest and abdomen, and to a less extent over her extremities, there are café au lait coloured patches, irregular in outline and varying from a few millimetres to 3 cm. in diameter. She is 45 in. in height and sluggish in mental development. Her father has had similar pigmented spots, and "tiny kernels under the skin" since his earliest recollection. He is 5 ft. in height.

Case for Diagnosis; ? Xanthelasmoidea (Urticaria Pigmentosa).

By E. Bronson, M.D.

D. C., aged 1½ years, had at birth two brown patches on his right shoulder. These were increasing in size, so an unsuccessful attempt was made to excise them. At his fifth week other similar patches appeared over the body. Since the sixth month no fresh spots have appeared, and recently all have faded somewhat, a few entirely.

1 At a meeting of the Section, held February 28, 1919.
No urticarial symptoms have ever been present, and his general health has been excellent.

When I saw him first at 9 months of age, he had twenty-eight dark brown patches, scattered asymmetrically over his body, varying in size from 5 mm. to 6 cm. They were irregularly circular and faded gradually into the surrounding skin. The larger were flatly papular, the smaller, macular. Conspicuous scars marked the unsuccessful attempt at removal.

The case is not typical of urticaria pigmentosa, if urticaria is a necessary characteristic of that condition. Dr. Norman Walker prefers the term "xanthelasmoidea," and no longer classifies the condition with the urticarias. Unfortunately the mother refused further cutting of the skin for diagnosis.

DISCUSSION.

Mr. H. C. Samuel: This case, if it is urticaria pigmentosa, is extremely atypical. In the cases which I have seen the eruption was more symmetrical and more widespread on the trunk. A diagnosis can be made by doing a biopsy and finding a large number of mast cells in the section. With regard to the condition being of a naevoid nature, dermatologists do not generally regard it as such, but rather of the nature of urticaria of chronic type, often associated with obvious urticarial dermatographia, &c.

The President: I agree with the view of Mr. Samuel. I have seen a certain number of such cases, and they had a great family resemblance one to another. The patches I saw were of the size of a threepenny or sixpenny piece, and were scattered more or less over the whole trunk. They were usually round or oval, and nothing like the size of the patches in this case. Still, I cannot confidently suggest an alternative diagnosis.

Hypertrichosis in a Mentally Defective Child.

By E. Bronson, M.D.

B. M., aged 3 years 8 months, came to Dr. Poynton's clinic at the Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street, when 18 months old, for excess of hair on his forehead, neck, shoulders, arms, and sacrum. The hair then, as now, measured from 1 in. to 6 in. in length, and had been present from birth. He had a negroid nose and rather a dog-shaped face. He cut his teeth early, and normally, except that each of his first two molars has a fifth cusp. The fontanelle closed early. Several fits occurred