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CASE 3

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A 44-year-old man sustained as a baby hot paraffin burns over the scalp which resulted in multiple scars. During World War II he was stationed in Hawaii for six months, but otherwise never left the continental U.S.

He had been healthy until 1960, when a nodule appeared in the left parietal scalp area, which was excised. Various pathologic reports gave as diagnoses granulomatous inflammation of skin, and neoplasm of peripheral nerve. Since then, the patient had twelve nodules removed from the left side of the scalp, neck and face. The nodules were at first painless, but later on the patient complained of tingling and dysesthesias over the scalp, and of pain and tightness over the left side of the neck. On physical examination there was weakness of the left sternocleidomastoid and trapezius muscles. The left supraorbital nerve also became involved, and at present there is paralysis of the left vocal cord, with hypesthesia of the second division of V.

The specimen is from the nodes on the left forehead, stained with H and E. Two unstained sections are also added.

The case is presented as a diagnostic problem and to question the basic nature of the disease.