

# OSLER'S NOTES

**Scleroderma produces a mummy.**  
The hands [in scleroderma] are converted into rigid, immobile organs. In severe cases the unfortunate victim is as though he had been put in the fabled shirt of Nessus [the bloody shirt of a centaur killed by Hercules for trying to carry off his wife], which had gradually contracted upon him. The back is rigid, the neck is fixed, and he may resemble a frozen corpse or a mummy, without the power of motion, save in eyes and tongue, which alone gives witness to remaining life.

*(Source: Diffuse Scleroderma; Erythromelalgia. In Modern Medicine: Its Theory and Practice, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. Philadelphia: Lea & Febiger, 1913-15: 1019.)*

**Concentrating narrows the mind.**  
The incessant concentration of thought upon one subject, however interesting, tethers a man's mind in a narrow field.

*(Source: Chauvinism in Medicine, In Aequanimitas, 285.)*

**The relationship of spider nevi and hepatic cirrhosis.**

The most interesting association of the spider naevus is with cirrhosis of the liver. In no other condition may we watch the development of such remarkable telangiectases.

*(Source: On Multiple Hereditary Telangiectases with Recurring Hemorrhages. Quart J Med 1907-08; 1:53-8.)*