

An Accidental Tattoo

Sir,

Generally speaking, tattoos are divided into two groups - decorative tattoos performed by professional tattooists, and accidental tattoos which arise from pigmented particles accidentally introduced as contaminants of wounds or by penetrating previously intact skin. However, rarely accidental tattoos are figurative and therefore it was considered of interest to report a case with a remarkable personal history.

A 42-year-old man presented with a tattoo on the medial aspect of his left thigh (Fig. 1). He was employed as a livestock transporter by a company for the collecting of pigs. He visited several farms every day with his lorry and at the end of the day he brought the pigs to the slaughterhouse. In order to

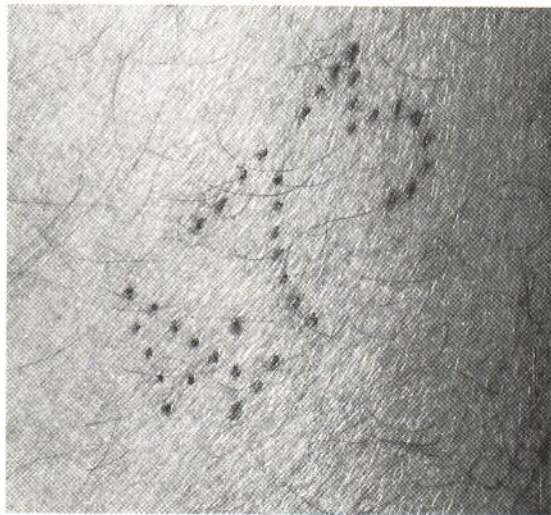


Fig. 1.

separate the pigs they were tattooed on the right gluteal region with numbers. The tattoo was made with a special instrument, using Indian ink. Unfortunately one of the pigs escaped during the procedure, resulting in a tattoo on the man's left thigh. For three years he was frequently questioned about his tattoo and on telling the story it only gave rise to laughter. He tired of the annoying questions and

requested dermatological help. The tattoo was excised and the patient was relieved of his problem.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Environmental Threat to the Skin. An International Symposium will be held at University of Wales College of Medicine, April 15-17, 1991. The meeting will consist of invited papers, free communications, a poster session and exhibits on the effects of environmental hazards on the skin, their prevention and treatment. For further information please contact: Professor Ronald Marks, University of Wales College of Medicine, Heath Park, Cardiff, CF44XN.

The *Third International Course on Occupational Dermatoses* will be organized 3-7 June, 1991 in Mariehamn, Åland, Finland. For further information please contact Lasse Kanerva, MD, Tel: (+3580) 4747288, Telefax (+3580) 413691.

The 6th International Congress of Pediatric Dermatology will be held in Toronto, Canada, on June 8-11, 1992. For further information please contact Susan B. Mallory, Pediatric Dermatology, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, 800 Marshall St., Little Rock, AR.

In the December issues of *J Am Acad Dermatol*, *Arch Dermatol* and *Int J Dermatol* editorials were published on "Dual publication and manipulation of the editorial process". As editor of *Acta Dermato-Venereologica* I would like to support this project. Instances of dual publication unethical manipulation will in the future be reviewed at meetings of the Council of Dermatology Editors. *Lennart Juhlin*.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Dermatology edited by Roger Allen, Nottingham University Hospital, 1990, 102 pages. Softcover. ISBN 3-540-19607-2. Price DM 27.50. Springer Verlag, London.

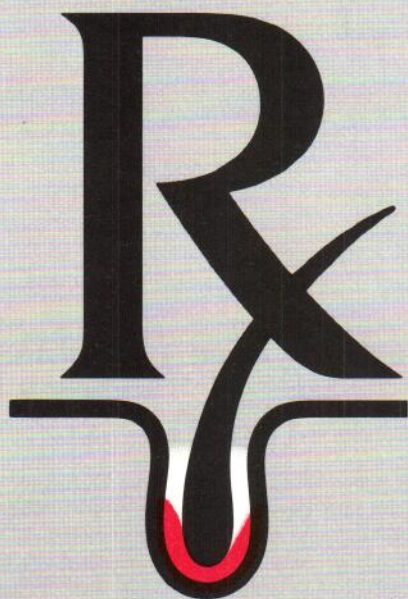
Multiple choice questions for examination in dermatology with answers and short explanations. *The Editor*.

Lecture Notes on Dermatology edited by Robin Graham-Brown and Tony Burns, University of Leicester, 1990, 176 figures, 4 tables, 266 pages. Softcover. ISBN 0-632-02765-7. Price £ 11.95. Blackwell Scientific Publications, London.

A well-written and concise text by new authors with 150 good colour photographs. *The Editor*.

Leprosy edited by K. K. Kothica, Superintendent Acworth Leprosy Hospital, Bombay, India, 1990, 73 colour and 43 black & white figures, 1000 references, 410 pages. Hardcover. Price £ 31, \$ 60 (incl postage).

Covers various aspects of leprosy, treatment and control. Appendices have staining and practical test methods and help for field workers. A good index makes this book a rich source of information about leprosy. *The Editor*.



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