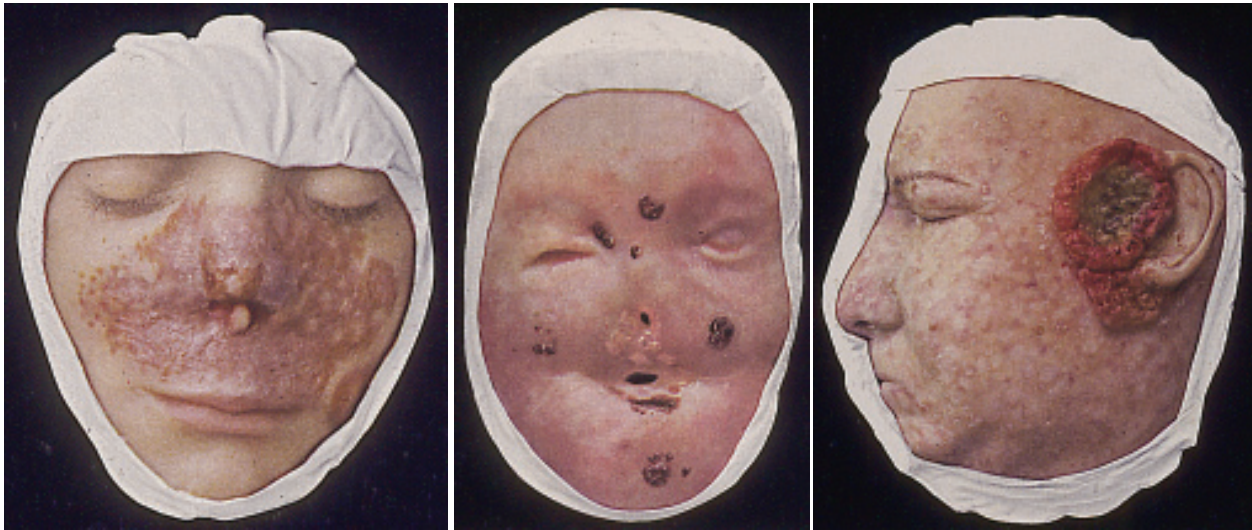


Lupus Vulgaris a Century Ago



Cutaneous tuberculosis was common at the beginning of the 20th century. It was a tragedy to be a sufferer. The key element in the skin was the granuloma, which could range from pin point size to big tubercles with necrosis and ulceration. A prominent and disfiguring tissue response accompanied the disease. Lupus (Latin for wolf) was an old lay term for horrible and long-lasting affections of the middle face thought to be due to bites from a wolf. *Lupus vulgaris* was finally understood to be caused by mycobacterial infection; a distinct entity separate from other forms of lupus such as *lupus erythematosus* and *lupus pernio*. The wide spectrum

of manifestations of lupus vulgaris is reflected in the many descriptive eponyms given to the disease: maculosus; esfoliatus; tuberculosis; tumidus s. hypertrophicus; serpiginosus; exulcerans or ulcerans (rodens, phagadænicus, esthiomenos, herpes rodens, noli me tangere, herpes exedens). Lupus vulgaris could also be extrafacial and affect for example the hand.

Cases of lupus vulgaris are illustrated (from E. Jacobi: Atlas der Hautkrankheiten. Urban & Schwarzenberg, Berlin/Wien, 1904).

