Disseminated Nodulo-Squamous Syphilide

Sculptor: Enrique Zofío. Clinica del Dr. Olavide. Figure No. 87 from the Olavide Museum, Hospital San Juan de Dios; Ward 5, Bed 13)
The clinical history accompanying this figure provides us with a precise description of the primary and secondary stages of syphilis suffered by this patient. The description continues with his response to the most common treatment of the time, based mainly on mercurial solutions. Mercurial treatment was suspended when the inherent complications—including ptyalism (sialorrhea) and other “mercurial accidents” —appeared. Treatment was resumed as soon as the patient had recovered, due to the fact that mercury was the only relatively effective treatment for the illness at the time.

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