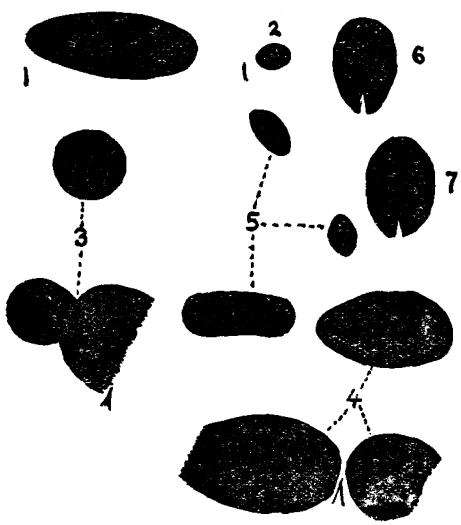
probably in blood. To my surprise, I found the spot in every one of the seven babies of pure Indian blood. It seems, however, to be far more evanescent among the Mayas than among the Japanese and other populations, being rarely found in individuals of more than ten months of age. Three babies, less than ten months in age, but of mestizo (mixed-blood) parentage, showed no trace of the spot. The spot is variable in size, shape and position, but it is always in the sacral region; in color it is blue or a bluish-purple; it gradually disappears and two or three of the cases seem to show an original single spot broken up into separate blotches which lose distinctness.




The sizes and shapes of the spots observed are accurately shown in the accompanying cut, reduced to one half the diameter. The notes made regarding each are here presented:

1. Boy; eight months. Spot well marked; dark purple; median, three inches above the anal fold. An older brother, two years old, showed no sign of the spot, but his mother says he was equally well marked at birth.

2. Girl; one year. Spot well defined; just to the right of the upper end of the fold.

3. Girl; three months. Two faint and badly defined spots just to the left of the upper end of the anal fold; a darker and better defined spot above.

4. Boy; two months. Two faint and badly defined spots, one on either side of the anal fold; a third, darker and better defined, above.

5. Boy; ten months. Only the lower of three spots is fairly defined, and it is faint, like a disappearing bruise; the other two are fainter. The three look like the separated parts of a spot which is disappearing. The group is median and located a little above the anal fold.

6, 7. Boys; twins of two months. Spots are pale blue but well defined; they are almost identical in form, size, color and position. They just overlap the upper end of the anal fold.

FREDERICK STARR.

February 6, 1903.

## THE EGGS OF THE EASTERN ATLANTIC HAG-FISH, MYXINE LIMOSA *Gir.*

EGGS of a hag-fish from the Newfoundland banks were described by the present writer in 1900 (*Mem. N. Y. Acad. Sci.*, Vol. II., pp. 31–43) from specimens in the Verrill collection, Yale University. They were then looked upon as belonging to the common North Atlantic *Myxine glutinosa* Linn. Since that time, however, the eggs of five other species of myxinoids have been examined, and a fairly definite knowledge is at hand in the matter of the degree of variation in these eggs within specific limits. It follows from these studies that the differences between the eggs of *M. glutinosa* as described by Jensen and those of the Newfoundland form are too great (*op. cit.*, pp. 35, 42) to warrant the eggs of both types to be included under *Myxine glutinosa*. Accordingly I have come to the conclusion that we must consider the American specimens as probably representing *Myxine limosa* Girard, the common hag-fish of Maine. I would also note that a study of variation among myxinoids has recently led me to conclude with Mr. Garman that *Myxine limosa* is to be accepted, not as a variety of *M. glutinosa*, but as a valid species.

BASHFORD DEAN.

## ORIGIN OF NAME MONOTREMES.

I HAVE been unable to find any reference to the early use of the now familiar name Monotremes, and the information may be of