

OLAVIDE MUSEUM

## Plaque of Tinea Circinata: Infection From a Cow

Sculptor: E. Zofío. Clínica del Dr. Azúa. Figure No. 449 from the Olavide Museum



The figure has no case history attached, but we can observe how the sculptor Enrique Zofio has represented a typical *tinea corporis*. He has produced a surprisingly precise representation of the characteristics of ringworm—better than is seen in many modern transparencies: the active edge can be clearly seen, along with the depressed central portion, and the border forming a perfect circle.

This figure is accompanied by a comment on the ticket by Dr Azúa, reporting cross-infection from contact with an animal. This is reminiscent of experiments undertaken by Dr Olavide to demonstrate cross-infection with ringworm between people and animals.

Olavide was one of the dermatologists working to prove that these infections occurred as a result of a pathogenesis based on a form of vegetable “parasite.” He viewed the infection as a seed, and the individual as the soil in which it was sown, recognizing thrush, herpes tonsurans, alopecia

(erroneously, as did Bazin), favus, and pityriasis versicolor as other phytoparasitic conditions.

He reproduced experiments from other countries to demonstrate cross-infection by “transplantation” between humans and various animals, in both directions, that is: from animals to people and from people to animals.

This research is embodied in some of the etchings in his famous book *Dermatología general y Atlas de la clínica iconográfica de enfermedades de la piel o dermatosis* (*General Dermatology and Atlas of the Clinical Illustrations of Skin Diseases or Dermatoses*) (1871-1880). One particular story involving a dog called Favicia—with the accompanying plate—provides a beautiful example of the work of this pioneering Spanish dermatologist.

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