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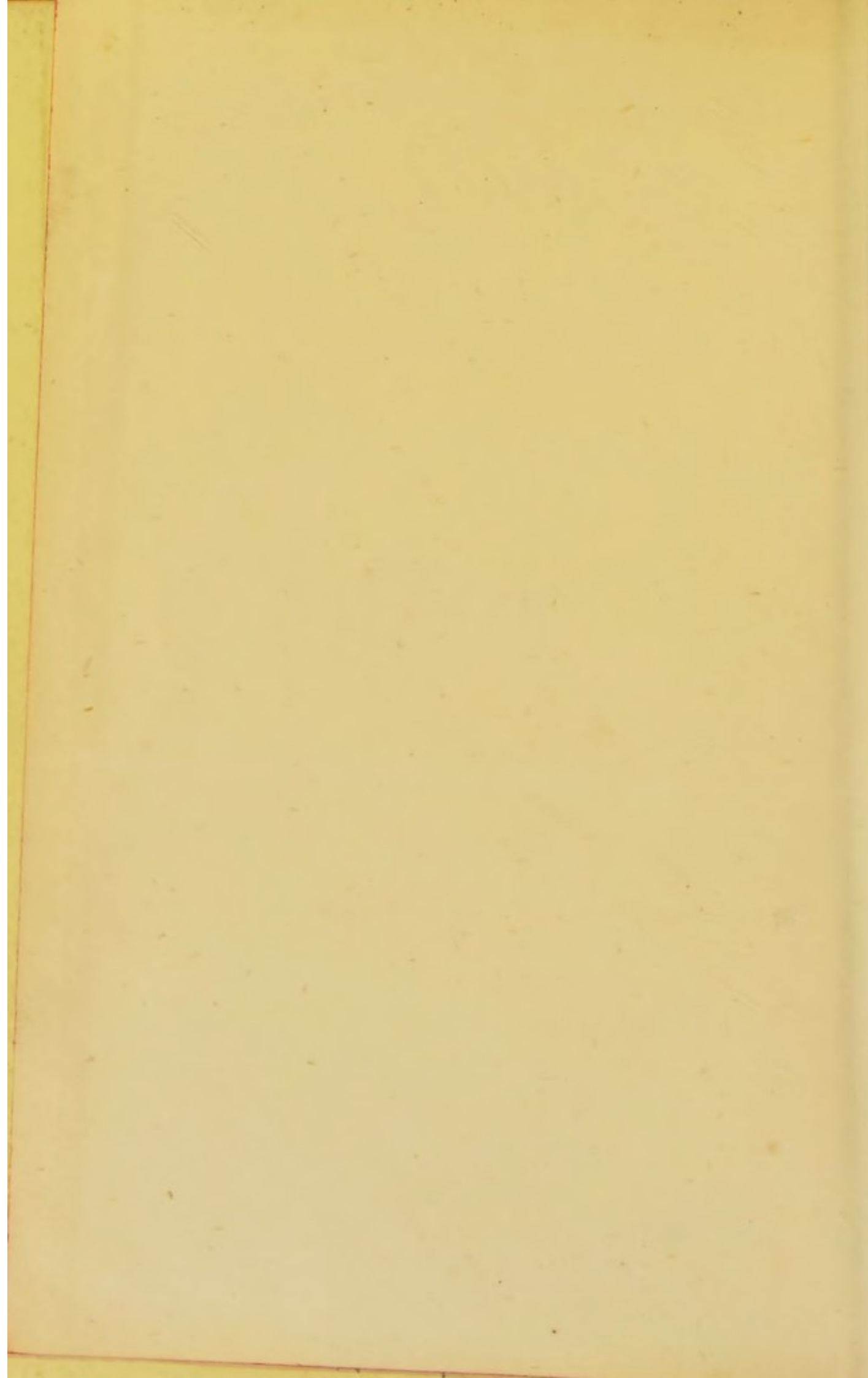
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ON
SKIN DISEASES

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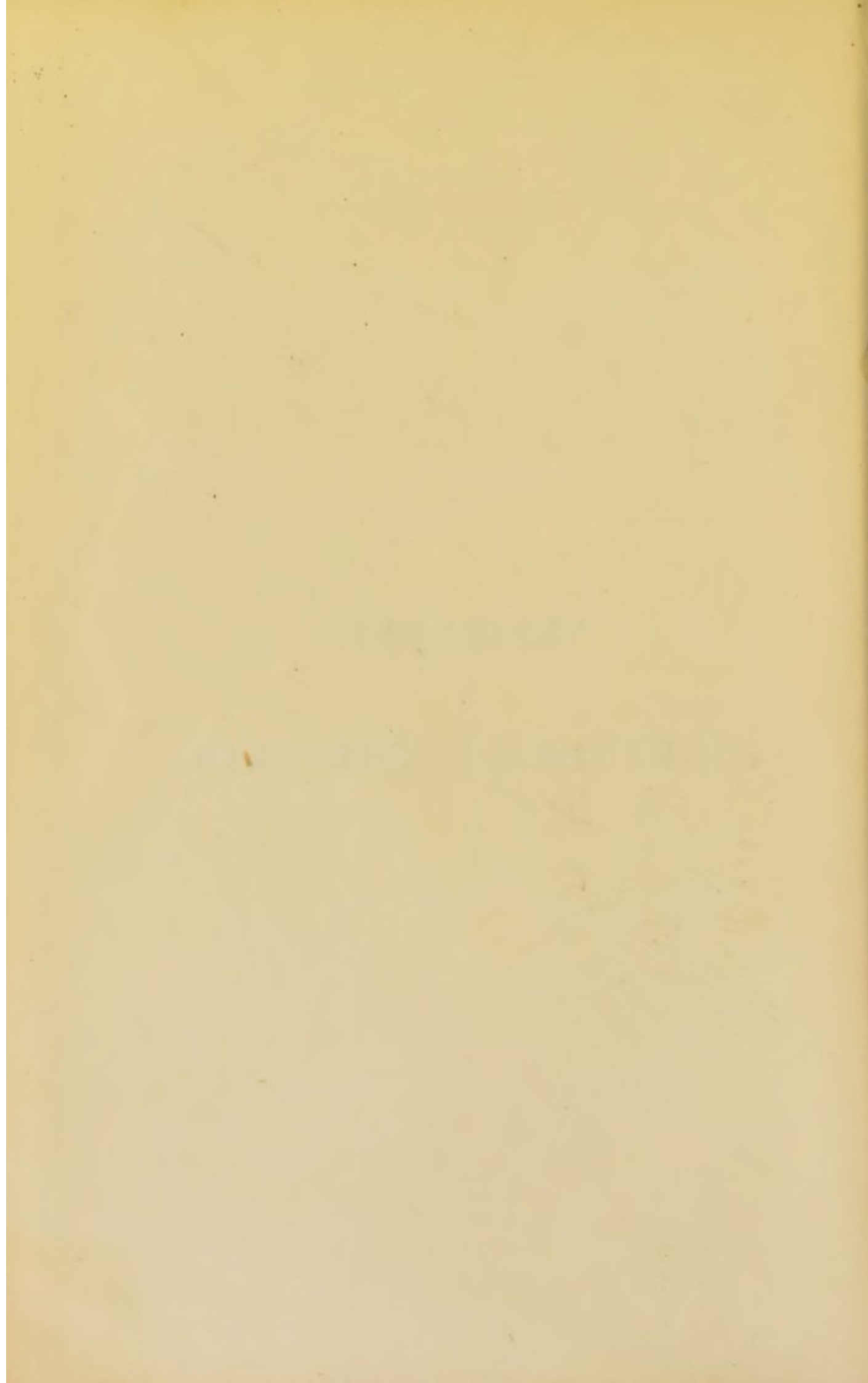
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TREATMENT
OF
DISEASES OF THE SKIN.



TREATMENT
OF
DISEASES OF THE SKIN.

BY

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P R E F A C E .

AN accurate acquaintance with the therapeutics of cutaneous diseases will be found of great advantage in practice. Patients may conceal for months some grave internal malady, or perhaps think lightly of it; but the troublesome and disfiguring eruptions of the skin at once attract attention and demand appropriate treatment, particularly when they occupy any exposed surface, as the face, the head, or hands, when they are attended with sensations of pain or irritation, or by exciting febrile disturbance, interfere with health. A correct diagnosis is of course indispensable; and as we have no special hospital in Ireland for their study, such knowledge is

difficult to acquire, though far from impossible; the wards of our large General Hospitals always affording an ample supply of interesting cases for the diligent student; cutaneous eruptions being sufficiently frequent in all classes, and especially amongst the poor, to render their investigation practicable with moderate assiduity.

The following pages are devoted to the consideration of the remedies most relied on in treating diseases of the skin: they are intended for the use of advanced students in our medical schools, and I trust will also prove of service to junior members of the profession.

124, STEPHEN'S GREEN,
May, 1864.

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INTRODUCTION.

IN treating the subject of therapeutics in relation to cutaneous diseases, it is not intended to lay down any rigid system of classification or arrangement, though sub-divisions are employed for convenience, which will embrace at least the most important remedies at present in use. Thus the alteratives are divided into two leading groups: first, that of the mercurials; secondly, Fowler's solution, with its allied preparations. Connected with the former, those eruptive diseases are considered for which mercurials are usually of service, and their injurious effects upon the skin, under certain circumstances, are described, as well as the topical uses to which many of the compounds of mercury are applied. The latter, if possible more important, will include a summary of the

constitutional symptoms that are to be expected, and the leading principles recognised in treating the eruptions for which Fowler's solution is chiefly relied on, besides general directions for prescribing it to the best advantage. The alkalies follow next,—a mixed group, in part alterative and in part antacid; after which are different tonics, arranged under chalybeates, quinine and cod liver oil; and in immediate connexion with each class, the numerous affections are dwelt on for which they are most adapted. With sulphur, in addition to describing its special uses, the hypsulphites are classified, and sulphuret of calcium, a successful remedy in scabies. In this chapter also, the questions are briefly stated that bear upon cryptogamic vegetative growths, their history in connexion with different eruptions, and the best ascertained results of treatment. The terebinthinates, of which oil of turpentine is the most important, afford an opportunity for entering on the subject of purpura, in which the oil has been largely given; the leading features it presents, its varied forms, and the complications liable to occur during its course are stated, and also those remedies that are found most successful in arresting its progress; after which the

topical uses of the preparations into which tar, creosote, carbolic acid, and oil of juniper enter, will be treated in turn.

The question of anodynes naturally divides itself into their occasional internal exhibition in the febrile eruptions, and as local applications for relieving pain; and, under the latter head, those maladies in which constant pruritus is a leading and distressing symptom receive some notice. Amongst the emollients glycerine is as fully considered as its importance demands; the numerous uses are described to which it is now turned, and its remarkable effects as a solvent for energetic compounds amply detailed, a property that promises to be most beneficial in practice; afterwards follow the oleaginous compounds, cold cream, cerates, &c. Dessicants include numerous local astringents and the different dusting powders that are simply absorbent; and the subject of baths and mineral waters (a most extensive one if fully treated) will afford an opportunity of describing, with other important considerations, the artificial baths, as those of sulphur, so largely relied on in treatment. Lastly, after a brief description of the different poultices that are recommended, and their uses, is placed the class

of caustics and local irritants which are in constant requisition in medicine. It will thus be seen that the various groups are intended to afford an introduction to the general principles of employing medical remedies, not to illustrate any abstract theory. The ordinary received names of cutaneous diseases also are adhered to, without entering on the rival merits of different classifications—many of them of great value in other points of view. With this brief explanation of the design of the following pages, I trust the reader will be better prepared to consider its contents, and allow for many imperfections in carrying out the details.

SKIN DISEASES.

ALTERATIVES No. 1. MERCURIALS.—Preparations chiefly employed: the chlorides, iodides, compounds of the nitrate and red and white precipitate. Danger of confounding ordinary cutaneous diseases with those of syphilitic origin; occasional admixture of syphilis with non-specific eruptions—rules for treatment. Use of mercurial alteratives in the impetigo of children; eczema caused by mercury—its distinctive character and treatment. Ephelis, pityriasis versicolor, and other forms of pityriasis appearing in children and adults. Local remedies in acne. Red iodide of mercury as an alterative; its action as an escarotic. Lupoid Ulcers. Button scurvy described—its leading symptoms and treatment. Calomel, its uses; calomel ointment, &c. White precipitate. Solution of nitrate of mercury an energetic caustic. Citrine ointment.

THE chief preparations of mercury which are employed are the chlorides, the iodides, the compounds of the nitrate, and sometimes red and white precipitate; and though some are used as caustics and local stimulants, it will be convenient to consider them as a group together.

Most writers separate the numerous eruptions of secondary syphilis from ordinary cutaneous diseases, and the division is found to be of practical utility, for besides the specific source from which they originate, they are marked by distinctive features in their aspect and color, and, above all, by the serious affections of the throat, eyes, periosteum and bones, which arise during their course. As it is not my intention to enter upon the consideration of those eruptions here, I need not attempt any solution of the difficult questions, as to what rank mercury is entitled to hold; whether it is a direct antisypilitic agent; or whether its action is that of a simple alterative; or how far it may be justifiable or expedient to push its influence in the treatment of those varied external evidences of constitutional contamination. We are more concerned when in any instance a previous syphilitic taint continues to lurk in the system, and to complicate by its presence some of the simpler forms of cutaneous disease; or when it is possible that an erroneous diagnosis may be made,—an error which is liable to occur in either direction; thus the larger syphilitic pustular eruption has been mistaken for pustular itch; and, worse still, I have known pus-

tular itch confounded with syphilis, and treated by liberal mercurialization, when a little sulphur ointment afterwards cured it. Another of the common causes of difficulty is psoriasis, the specific forms of which are usually to be recognised by their peculiar bright copper color, and by the comparative absence of scales and of desquamation, circumstances well worth being attended to before expressing an opinion. When there is reason to conclude, from the character of the eruption and the previous history, that a mixture of syphilis is present, most persons will employ mercurials in alterative doses, such as compound calomel pill, the green iodide, or the chloride, a solution in water of the latter salt, with an excess of iodide of potassium, forms a ready extemporaneous mode of exhibiting red iodide of mercury in a fluid form: the dose for an adult, of this or of the chloride, varies from $\frac{1}{16}$ to $\frac{1}{8}$ of a grain; or the chloride is given dissolved in any of the alterative decoctions, as bark, dulcamara, or sarsaparilla, or added to tincture of bark: this latter combination is likewise much used in treating impetiginous affections of the face or scalp in children; for whom it is prescribed, diluted with a little water, to be taken thrice daily, after meals, it improves the

health and appetite, and seldom disagrees ; but should it affect the bowels over-much, it must be discontinued ; the dose for a child above two years of age ranges from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of a grain. The scabs require to be removed by poulticing, preparatory to applying local remedies, such as weak lead or tannin lotions at first, and afterwards mild stimulant cerates. In several severe cases of eczema occurring on the lower limbs in middle aged men, and in women about the change of life, I have found small doses of the oxymuriate, with bark, of great service ; and also for impetigo attacking the face in adults, and that too where Fowler's solution had been tried and failed. Idiopathic ecthyma appears to be rare ; I have treated a few cases in young persons in a similar manner ; they require good diet, as the constitution is impaired, and cod liver oil is sometimes of benefit ; the iodide of potassium also is useful in this and in rupia, which seems to be an aggravated description of ecthyma, and to demand much the same plan of treatment.

The acute eczema rubrum, originating in the internal use of mercurials, a disease well described by the late Sir George Alley, in his essay published in 1810, under the appropriate name of

Hydrargyria, is fortunately seldom seen in its more severe form, when it extends over the entire surface of the body. One of the best marked cases which I have witnessed was that of a strong and healthy looking man, who took nearly two grains of corrosive sublimate, dissolved in whiskey, under the idea of curing a gonorrhœa; he had a narrow escape of being poisoned; and the eruption became developed universally within thirty-six hours. It was not unlike erysipelas, of bright rosy red color; vesicles soon formed, and, after two or three days, a copious exudation became poured out, which resembled viscid honey, and dried into thick yellow crusts; in the commencement he had smart febrile symptoms; his features were greatly swollen, his limbs stiff and as if œdematous; as the intensity of the attack passed off, the cuticle desquamated in large patches, coming away from his hands and feet almost entire; and there was a peculiar offensive odour from the skin throughout the disease. He required little treatment after the fever was subdued beyond frequent powderings with starch, and the use of anodynes at night to secure repose. Milder local eruptions of eczema are not uncommon, from the employment of mercurial frictions,

with persons of tender skin; and it is possible that the rancid state of the ointment sometimes has a share in its appearance: it seldom extends, and demands no special attention beyond carefully washing off all traces of the mercury, some dessicating powder dusted over the part, and occasional saline purgatives, if necessary. I am not aware of any mode of distinguishing the acute mercurial eczema from the eczema rubrum, which sometimes originates spontaneously—the skin is equally red in both.

For freckles, weak washes of the chloride, dissolved in rose-water, or almond emulsion, grss. to fʒi, are old and favorite applications—the latter imitating the famous Gowland's lotion; dilute solutions of chlorinated soda, or of subacetate of lead and simple rose or elder flower water are also used; but true freckles are little modified by treatment, though they sometimes disappear without any evident cause, or recur from exposure to strong sun-light and heat; when they originate in this manner, some distinguish them as specially entitled to the term "ephelis," which appears an unnecessary refinement. The pale yellow or brassy eruption of pityriasis versicolor must, however, be carefully separated from freckles, from which

it will differ even to the eye, as dry cuticular scales can always be detached from the surface. This form of pityriasis occurs most often in parts that are covered from the air, as the chest, limbs, or back, in detached spots or larger continuous patches, in persons whose health seems otherwise perfect; it is generally thought to be to some extent contagious; and is remarkable for the presence of a minute parasitic vegetative growth, which has not been traced in simple freckles, or in other forms of pityriasis. Various lotions are employed for its removal; chiefly mild stimulants, as corrosive sublimate, chloride of lime, or sulphate of zinc in water, or strong vinegar; or, better still, sulphur baths and sulphuret of potash lotions, under which treatment it will usually disappear in a short time. When pityriasis attacks the scalp in young persons, the affected part is often of a delicate pink or red color, its appearance being shining, yet soft and moist, as if the rash was complicated with eczema; on rubbing the head fine scales of dried cuticle become detached, perhaps in great abundance, resembling fragments of bran in appearance. In the aged it is more often seen as a dry and harsh state of the scalp, from which larger and thicker flakes of

cuticular epithelium separate when the hair is disturbed. For those affections weak alkaline washes are useful, or repeated ablutions with yolk of egg and tepid water, avoiding harsh combs or brushes, keeping the hair close cut, not shaven, and, in the worst forms, applying after a time very dilute citrine or calomel ointment, or a weak solution of tannin in glycerine. In those instances which resist local treatment, or are of long standing, small doses of the oxymuriate, or of Fowler's solution, are often required, and answer well. Infants are prone to another variety of pityriasis, in which the dandruff appears in branny scales over the entire scalp, or aggregates into thick dark colored masses, from which quantities of scurf become detached by friction, the surface underneath being raw, of reddish hue, and apparently tender or itchy. Pure glycerine, or, better still, any weak spirit, such as rosemary or brandy, mixed with an equal bulk of strong vinegar, will soften those crusts and remove them, or a weak creosote or citrine ointment is rubbed until it excites slight local irritation, and after the removal of the scales a weak lotion of chlorinated lime has been advised, to prevent their recurrence. Constant attention to cleanliness is necessary until the

hair grows; but harsh brushing and strong alkaline soaps are always injurious.

Simple acne, occurring about puberty, will disappear in most instances as life advances, and requires little treatment beyond occasional warm baths, a borax lotion, and mild tonics to improve the health. The syrup of iodide of iron is well suited for many of those cases, or the tartrate of iron, dissolved in wine and given daily for some weeks; and during the summer months cold sea-bathing is of service, when it agrees. For the indurated acne, which is always tedious, and difficult to remove, weak lotions of oxymuriate of mercury are employed, but if too long continued will harden and roughen the skin; solutions of carbonate of soda, or of borax, ʒii. to Oj. are safer after which some essential oil, as lavender or rosemary, dissolved in 10 to 20 parts of spirit of wine, should be applied with friction over the tubercles night and morning; pure benzole is another valuable remedy, but its odour is objectionable; it must be repeatedly rubbed upon the affected parts with a small flannel pad for a short time, to soften the sebaceous accretions. When the indurated and discolored chronic tubercles cause serious disfiguration of the features, patients are

naturally anxious to have them removed as soon as possible; and if they occupy a limited extent repeated blisterings of the spots themselves, with vesicating collodion, may be tried, which assists in promoting their more rapid absorption; where the eruption is more diffused, frictions with calomel ointment, or a weak cerate of iodide of mercury, or of iodide of sulphur are recommended. Undue attempts at pressing out the contents of the inflamed sebaceous follicles at too early a stage are injudicious, and will be found to increase the local swelling and protract their course. Whenever this eruption is very chronic and rebellious to treatment by ordinary means, the prolonged internal and external use of mineral waters, above all of the sulphur springs, is of most service; in females the uterine functions will often be found imperfect and require to be corrected, and of course, in every case, obvious derangements of the health must be rectified. In rosy acne treatment does but little, hence our chief reliance is in the observance of suitable dietetic rules, some patients are water drinkers, and improve when they adopt more liberal diet, and take a moderate amount of wine; others require an opposite mode of treatment, and one submitted to with greater difficulty;

namely, strict temperance and careful living. When there are symptoms of hepatic congestion purgatives are necessary, and mild alteratives, or a course of the purgative mineral waters, hold out the best prospects of recovery.

Lotions of chloride of mercury should be weak; from one half to one grain suffices for each ounce of fluid usually; it is very soluble in weak spirit or glycerine, whilst it requires the addition of a little sal ammoniac to secure its solution in water; it also readily melts with a few grains of iodide of potassium, and the resulting iodide of mercury, as already mentioned, is obtained in a fluid and convenient form for external or internal use; for the latter purpose $\frac{1}{16}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of a grain of chloride is combined with two or three grains of iodide of potassium for each dose. The red iodide of mercury resembles corrosive sublimate in its effects, being more a mercurial than an iodine salt, and its repeated use will salivate. In ointment it ought not to be used too strong; 20 grains to \mathfrak{z} i of cerate being sufficient for most purposes, and much less will often be found desirable, as it is a powerful irritant; it will remove localized patches of chronic eczema, and the troublesome herpetic rash of children, *H: circinatus*, is cured by one or two applica-

tions. This eruption, popularly termed ring-worm, is of common occurrence on the face, neck and arms, in round spots, which continue to extend until sometimes the size of a crown piece; healing in the centre, but rough and of a bright red color outside; the scalp is also liable to be attacked by the affection, when the hairs become twisted in a remarkable manner, and so brittle, that after a time the affected part is left almost bald, fortunately it is not permanent, as the hair always grows again. I am convinced that this eruption is contagious, as it will rapidly spread through families; and though true herpetic vesicles are seldom to be seen, unless at a very early stage, the surface is always rough, from fine desquamating scales: it seems to excite little itching or inconvenience, being most often discovered by accident when combing the hair. Lupoid ulcerations, and those resulting from ecthyma, are sometimes dressed with the ointment of the red iodide, which can be applied either as a stimulant or a powerful caustic; with the latter view Cazenave has recommended the salt itself to be sprinkled in powder over the surface of the sore; only a small extent is to be coated at a time, as it excites severe pain, and some days elapse before the sub-

sequent inflammation subsides and the sloughs become detached, the ulcer is then found to be more healthy, and disposed to granulate; it is dressed with a dilute cerate, or the caustic application is repeated elsewhere.

The curious affection known as button-scurvy seems to be peculiar to Ireland, and of late is becoming very rare; I do not remember to have seen it for some years, though it still occurs in our country districts. There are no grounds for considering it in any way allied to syphilis or a modification of that disease, for it is never followed by secondary symptoms; yet it is certainly contagious—spreading from direct contact or by means of garments soiled with its discharges; it is therefore fortunate that its repulsive and formidable aspect is a material check to its dissemination. The eruption is liable to occur upon every part of the body, with the exception of the hands and feet, where it is not developed: it first originates in a slight elevation or tubercle, not discolored, dry, and covered with unbroken skin; after a time this increases, the surface becomes darker, and slowly softens, at last prominent red tumours are formed, resembling raspberries in appearance, though flatter and

often of larger size; they continue an indefinite period when neglected, and soon heal under a variety of stimulant treatment, such as oxymuriate washes, and the free use of solid nitrate of silver. Sir Philip Crampton was in the habit of treating those cases with the dilute citrine and tar ointment, and small doses of the oxymuriate internally. In many of the instances which I have seen, the eruption occurred on the head alone, in scattered groups, though I have also known only a solitary tubercle to exist, and that too most often on the scalp.

Calomel is prescribed as an alterative in small doses, frequently combined with antimonials, as in Plummer's pills, for chronic impetigo, lupus, ecthyma, &c.: it is specially useful where there is some venereal taint present, when it may be persevered in until the gums are slightly affected; or given at night whilst using the iodide of potassium during the day. It is less used than formerly as an addition to purgatives, and podophyllin in doses of $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ a grain, can be substituted for it with advantage where the hepatic secretions require to be stimulated; but excessive doses of this active extract are liable to cause griping and other unpleasant effects. Calomel ointment has

already been alluded to as a means of dispersing the indurations of acne; it has also been used in chronic impetigo and psoriasis, and for the eruption of sycosis: in local prurigo, as of the anus, after this ointment is applied, a dusting powder of starch, with one fourth of camphor, is strongly recommended to allay the distressing irritation.

The effects of white precipitate in ointment appear to be identical with those of calomel, but it is gradually falling into disuse.

The solution of nitrate of mercury, like other highly energetic caustics, causes a considerable degree of local pain, and is also liable to excite erysipelatous inflammation occasionally; it is used to lupoid ulcers by being brushed over the edges and surface of the sores, or applied upon lint saturated with the caustic fluid. The parts which are acted on turn white, and afterwards a hard yellow scab forms, which falls off in the course of a few days. In acne a minute drop of this acid solution may be painted over the apex of each indolent tubercle, to cause their absorption, and, when used with caution, it is stated to leave no scar. The nitrate is of greater service in the form of citrine ointment: for most affections this is over strong, and requires to be

diluted with four to eight parts of cerate. It is fashionable to decry this old and useful remedy, but I have no doubt of its value in numerous instances, especially in impetigo of the scalp and the chronic eczema of children: it will often remove facial eczema in infants, aided by a few purgative doses of rhubarb, scammony, and magnesia: for psoriasis it may be mixed with tar ointment, creosote, or carbolic acid, and in recent attacks will sometimes cure without any other treatment; it is only necessary that it be used in a properly diluted state to secure all the benefit it is capable of affording.

Cyanuret of mercury is never given internally; its topical effects resemble those of the chloride. Weak lotions of one or two grains, dissolved in the ounce of water or glycerine, are applied as a wash for eruptions attended with itching, or painted with a small brush over the bald patches of porrigo decalvans and herpes tonsurans, to excite the growth of the hair; it is also used in localized eczematous rashes, to alter the action of the diseased part.

CHAPTER II.

ALTERATIVES NO. 2. FOWLER'S SOLUTION, &c.—Mode of action that of an alterative—often remarkable and rapid—best method of using. Increasing doses objected to. De Valangins and Donovan's solutions. Arsenites of soda and ammonia. Unusual tolerance and the reverse. Signs of constitutional sympathy. Rules for administering. Effects in psoriasis and lepra. Use of cantharides internally. Connexion between gout and psoriasis. Eczema. Lupus—its treatment. External applications,—Dupuytren's powder. Onychia. Chronic eruptions generally. Summary.

WITHOUT at present entering into the question as to whether the circulating fluids or the tissues of the body become primarily affected in disease, it may be assumed that many cutaneous eruptions originate in internal causes, and are merely local evidences of constitutional changes, often deep-seated and difficult to remove; hence the constitutional treatment of such eruptions becomes of importance, and the metal arsenic, with its numerous preparations, is of peculiar interest

from its remarkable powers of influencing the system, and indirectly removing various forms of rash. That it is an heroic remedy can be considered only an additional reason for its administration under proper precautions, and an incitement to study its action thoroughly; for with judicious management I believe it is never dangerous, and rarely disagrees, whilst its freedom from taste, its small and manageable dose, and the ease with which it can be exhibited, combine in increasing its value as a remedial agent.

Arsenic does not appear to act as a tonic in the manner that vegetable bitters do, still the appetite and digestion will improve under its use; it is rather a remedy of the class termed alterative, that is, a substance which promotes the absorption and removal of effete and diseased tissues, and, by causing an improved state of assimilation, gradually replaces morbid by healthy parts; it is true that the results which it produces are, in some instances, so marked and sudden, as to remind us of the old idea of a specific; thus, in a case of chronic burrowing anthrax of the back, occurring in an old gentleman of seventy, which had lasted for about seven months, and resisted all kinds of treatment, my friend Dr. Peebles was

induced to employ Fowler's solution; in forty-eight hours it had checked the progress of the disease, and the improvement was so rapid that it was difficult to believe it was due to the effects of the remedy; it was then discontinued with a view of determining what had caused the change, but the sloughing recurred, and was finally arrested only by resuming the solution and continuing it until the danger was at an end. The patient afterwards enjoyed vigorous health for his advanced time of life. For internal use I prefer giving medium doses of liquor arsenicalis, as three to five drops thrice daily, and often combine it with bitters and liquor potassæ; the decoction of elm bark and of dulcamara are also favorite vehicles, and sarsaparilla has its advocates, but I certainly never saw any decided results from the latter as usually given; in former times, when this decoction was taken warm, and in large quantity, and continued diaphoresis promoted by various means, it may have been more serviceable than at present, when, I believe its medical value is about equal to that of a cup of cold tea; in a few instances of cachexia I have known sarsaparilla, boiled with meat, as a broth, to prove of decided benefit: it is impossible to

say how much of the improvement was due to the addition of the latter substance.

Some prefer to increase the dose of Fowler's solution gradually, until ten or twelve drops are taken at a time; this plan is liable to disagree, and there is no advantage to be attained to compensate for the risk incurred. De Valangin's preparation, the liquor arsenici chloridi, has identical powers, but is less than half ($\frac{2}{3}$) as strong as Fowler's solution, hence it is given in doses of ten to twelve drops, and is useful when we wish to combine the dilute mineral acids with the more potent remedy; whilst Donovan's solution will be of service in those cases where the accumulated influence of arsenic, mercury, and iodine are desired, but I have not found it superior, or even equal to Fowler's solution for ordinary use; and Professor Bennett, of Edinburgh, states that it was unsuccessful in his hands in a series of cases of psoriasis in which he employed it; in this disease he relies on the local use of pitch ointment, gives pitch pills internally, and, following Bielt's practice, combines liquor arsenicalis with an equal quantity of tincture of cantharides, five drops of each for a dose, gradually increased to ten. Some of his cases recovered under arsenic alone, some

with pitch ointment, and others required a combination of treatment for a successful issue.

The arsenites of soda and of ammonia are used in doses of $\frac{1}{4}$ of a grain, in pill or solution, and do not present any advantages over the older preparation of potash, which they resemble in every essential point. It is seldom necessary to continue our treatment with this mineral beyond six or eight weeks, after which it is safer to stop for a week or ten days, and then resume if necessary, than to persevere giving it for months or years, as is sometimes done without cessation, though there is a degree of tolerance of its effects in practice far beyond what is often supposed to exist; on the other hand, persons are occasionally met who are unusually susceptible and unable to bear the ordinary dose of the remedy, but who present no external appearance enabling us to recognise their idiosyncrasy; before relinquishing it in those instances minute quantities, as one drop, or even less, of Fowler's solution ought to be tried, well guarded with opiates, and taken with the meals.

A peculiar delicate desquamation of the cuticle is asserted to occur by Dr. Hunt in the course of treatment, which he considers distinctive; it is

described as resembling a form of pityriasis, and is best observed in persons of fair complexion, in whom the skin becomes dingy and dark colored on the parts which are covered by the dress; whilst Devergie alleges that a brownish discoloration, which he claims to have noticed, appears only on the site of the diseased surfaces after the eruption fades away, and continues for six or eight months.

When medical doses are employed they seldom produce dangerous symptoms ; gastric disturbance and diarrhoea are rarely seen; the throat may become affected with a sensation of heat and irritation, and the tongue is coated with a creamy white fur. More often the incipient symptoms of constitutional sympathy are a feeling of tenderness and itching of the eyes, and the eyelids are slightly puffy and œdematous, swelling and stiffness about the face and jaws have also been observed, and in a few rare instances where there has been carelessness in regulating the treatment or watching its results—manifest loss of strength, muscular tremors, and occasionally partial paralysis of the limbs have occurred. It is admitted that the existence of gastric irritation, or intestinal disease, or of febrile exacerbations

are contra indications which must forbid its exhibition.

The following directions will be useful in prescribing any of its preparations:—

Give moderate doses, whatever preparation is selected.

Let it be taken at or after meals, never fasting.

It is better to omit it after five or six weeks for a few days, and then resume if necessary, though some have continued it for unlimited periods.

Irritation of the conjunctiva, gastric pain, purging, or other symptoms of constitutional intolerance will demand its temporary suspension.

Do not give it during febrile, catarrhal, or gastric attacks, or during the inflammatory stage of any eruption.

This is a remedy that usually does not disappoint us in treating the scaly eruptions, psoriasis and lepra, which are admitted to be modifications of one disease; at the same time those affections are essentially chronic in their character, and therefore demand prolonged medication for their permanent cure; and the tendency to relapse is such, that a considerable interval must elapse

before the recovery is considered perfect: so long as there is a blush of inflammatory redness, with tenderness, heat and irritation complained of, saline purgatives and cooling treatment will be required, the arsenical preparations being reserved for a chronic stage, in which I have never seen any advantage to result from drastic or depletory measures: in every instance strict attention to diet and abstinence from fermented fluids is requisite, and local treatment must not be neglected. When there is much itching and heat of skin, tepid baths, to which bran and borax or carbonate of soda may be added, will afford relief; if the scales are thick and adherent the sulphuret of potash bath is useful, and in chronic cases, after their removal, ointments of tar, with weak citrine ointment, or of iodide of sulphur well diluted, are applied: when the skin bears gentle stimulation, a very dilute ointment of red iodide of mercury (10 grs. to 5i) is of service, particularly in local forms of the disease, as chronic psoriasis palmaris, whilst in psoriasis of the scrotum Dr. Burgess recommends fumigations of sulphur and of cinnabar.

Bielt in several instances has found the tincture of cantharides more useful than arsenic; he prefers it when there are frequent relapses, when the

eruption is diffused, and when it occurs in those of lymphatic temperament, especially females. A combination of Fowler's solution and tincture of cantharides will often be employed with advantage; the dose of the latter is from five to twelve drops—larger quantities being liable to excite irritation of the kidneys.

There is some connexion apparently between the squamous eruptions and that state of system which attends gout; the same individual may suffer from both, and they occasionally alternate, the eruptions appearing in the intervals of gouty attacks; hence Dr. Burgess finds some obstinate cases of psoriasis will yield to colchicum and potash, in which arsenicals had previously failed. I have observed full doses of potash act as a useful addition to Fowler's solution; and it is possible that the frequent benefit which results from using the acetate and other potash salts in those skin diseases is explained by their marked eliminating action upon the renal secretions.

Severe attacks of chronic eczema require constitutional treatment similar to psoriasis; the same remedies, arsenic and cantharides, separate or combined, effecting a marked improvement; this is well seen in the adult in cases of eczema

of the scalp and behind the ears, whilst in instances where this practice has not answered, the chloride of mercury has sometimes been more successful, taken in small alterative doses. In lupus internal treatment is indispensable, if we wish to obtain a permanent cure; of the alteratives Fowler's solution is much relied on, and Donovan's solution is considered a very effectual combination by many who have spoken in high terms of it; the latter has likewise been applied directly to the ulcers as a local dressing, diluted with one or two parts of water. I have seen the chloride of barium given in doses of $\frac{1}{16}$ of a grain thrice in the day, with good results, in this disease; but the attack is prone to recur under any treatment; and from its admitted connexion with scrofula, in the cutaneous forms at least, those medicines which are considered anti-scrofulous, as cod liver oil, syrup of iodide of iron, and small doses of green iodide of mercury, are often preferred to Fowler's solution. Nor is the local treatment of lupus to be overlooked; it is most important, and will be found essential to promote the rapid healing of the sores, and in lupus exedens is necessary to prevent extensive destruction of the nose. Amongst other

caustics, numerous arsenical compounds have been employed to modify the diseased action, after removing the scabs by repeated poultices; Dupuytren's powder, for instance, is dusted over the part, or applied in the form of a paste, with mucilage; this powder varies in strength, consisting of 90 parts of calomel, intimately mixed with one to ten of arsenious acid: after some days the slough separates, leaving a healthy surface, disposed to form granulations; its use is liable at times to excite considerable pain, and it ought never to be applied over more than a small extent of ulceration at once, nor repeated too frequently, as instances do occur where tumefaction and erysipelatous redness have resulted, and worse effects still, from the absorption of the metal. I have known one case which proved fatal from its injudicious application to an ulcerated lip, in which there was reason to suppose that it became mixed with the food. An ointment of arsenious acid, 60 grains to lard one ounce, has also been recommended in lupus; and though I believe that in suitable cases, and with a little caution, Dupuytren's powder is as useful a caustic as we have, still there are numbers far more powerful which are free from the risk of absorption, as

nitrate of mercury, caustic potash, potash and lime, chloride of zinc, or chromic acid. When a mild stimulant is required, nitrate of silver answers well. In that troublesome affection, onychia, I have seldom found Fowler's solution to fail, and its action is often decided and rapid; thus, in the instance of a gentleman having double onychia for above nine months, the removal of the shrivelled remains of the dead nail, and the internal employment of this compound, was followed by speedy cure: within three days the ulcers were healing, and in a week quite well. Such rapid improvement is not always to be hoped for, but the results are in general of a satisfactory nature; and more than once I have known the spreading of the ulceration beneath the nail arrested by the use of this potent mineral, the use of which is no novelty, for M. Luke many years since employed it in the form of a weak ointment, which he found almost a specific in onychia.

There are few of the chronic eruptions for which this remedy has not been recommended; thus it has its advocates in treating chronic pemphigus, in obstinate attacks of prurigo, and in intermittent urticaria, which had resisted the usual treatment, but in which it has succeeded in

effecting a cure ; it is interesting that in some cases of nettle rash Dr. Maclagan discovered a notable deficiency in the amount of urea and uric acid excreted by patients who suffered from it, and was therefore led to employ preparations of colchicum with favorable results. In summing up the present state of opinion as to the claims of arsenic, we may say, briefly, that there are a few who would rank it as almost infallible in skin diseases, giving it in all eruptions in which no decided venereal taint is present, and for this alone advising the preparations of mercury ; of late even the co-existence of syphilis is asserted to offer no objection to its use ; but, far from claiming for it anything approaching to such powers, or thinking that it is necessary in many forms of chronic cutaneous disease, yet it must be admitted there is no medicine that better deserves our confidence, no alterative with which more can be accomplished in careful hands.

CHAPTER III.

ALKALINE PREPARATIONS. Antacids rarely used in treating skin diseases. Urticaria, its treatment. Magnesia. Strophulus, remedies in. Solution of potash as an alterative; given with Fowler's solution; also in eczema and acne. Alkaline lotions in the eczematous affections and erythema of children; in chronic eczema of the extremities; and in the chronic stages of eczema capitis.

THE alkalies are seldom employed as simple antacids, unless in the treatment of the urticaria of children and young persons, who usually are observed to suffer from acidity of stomach at the same time, and for them magnesia answers better than the preparations of potash or soda, from its secondary effects as an aperient; the ponderous carbonate is prescribed, or calcined magnesia, or Murray's solution in full doses, and should its purgative action prove insufficient, more energetic cathartics can be combined with it, as the preparations of rhubarb and scammony. When

the irritation is great, and of frequent recurrence, tepid baths with bran and carbonate of soda will afford at least temporary relief; a mixture of equal quantities of liquor plumbi and laurel water with glycerine, is also an effective application for allaying the smarting heat; but at the best, antacids are to be relied on only in the more transitory attacks of urticaria. It is exceptional for high febrile symptoms to occur in this disease, they sometimes do, and an emetic of ipecacuanha, followed by small nauseating doses of tartarized antimony, if requisite, are generally successful in relieving them.

Strophulus, the gum of infants, though of trifling importance appears occasionally attended with so much heat and itching as to prevent the child from resting; in which case the little patient often labors under some symptoms of gastric derangement and acidity: mild purgatives, magnesia, and regulation of the diet are here indicated; it may be necessary to change the nurse in obstinate attacks; and care should be taken that the clothing is light and unirritating.

The solution of caustic potash is of service, as a depurating agent and an alterative: the discovery of the former property is of comparatively

modern date; the latter has been longer known, it was much relied on before the preparations of iodine were introduced; and the potash element in it contributes no unimportant part to the medical effects of iodide of potassium. *Liquor potassæ* is a good addition to Fowler's solution in treating the scaly eruptions, as psoriasis, where there is an insufficient quantity of urea and other animal products in the urine, and perhaps a gouty state of system as well; it has also been given with the bitter infusions in some cases of eczema, and severe indurated acne, chiefly as an alterative. Carbonate of potash is too caustic to be used in external preparations as lotions, for which soda is invariably preferred.

Weak solutions of borax and of carbonate of soda are preferable to ointments for the eczematous eruptions of young children and recent impetigo of the scalp; they keep the parts clean and counteract the irritating effects of the discharge, which is acrid and excoriating; in cases of ordinary eczema some desiccating powder, as starch, with oxide of zinc or bismuth, should be dusted over the surface after it is gently dried with a soft napkin. Similar remedies are employed to relieve superficial erythema and the eczematous attacks

that appear about the genitals and thighs of infants, particularly during the period of dentition: a mixture of milk and water, or the addition of an equal quantity of new milk to a weak borax lotion, answers well in those cases. In checking such rashes which are peculiarly recurrent, as far as possible energetic interference ought to be avoided; being, to say the least, injudicious; mild local remedies, strict attention to cleanliness, with occasional purgatives and antacids must be relied on, and suffice until the teeth have made their appearance, after which recovery usually ensues. In cases of eczema of the extremities of long duration, constitutional treatment is to be recommended, though occasionally patients will improve under the use of alkaline washes alone: when they are directed, the affected part is kept constantly moistened with a dilute solution of carbonate of soda on lint, covered by another layer of dry lint, spread outside, so as to restrain evaporation, and over all a light well-applied bandage, which is preferable to oiled silk, as it increases the heat and scalding pain to an uncomfortable degree. When the surface is encrusted with thick scabs, they are best removed by poultices of bread or boiled rice, to which a little soda or

borax in solution has been added. In the chronic stage of eczema capitis Professor Bennett of Edinburgh is of opinion that it gradually becomes in great measure a local disorder; and he finds that it can be treated with advantage by employing a solution of carbonate of soda $\mathfrak{z}\text{ij}$, or less, dissolved in cold water Oiss; the scalp is constantly dressed with lint damped in this application, after closely clipping off the hair—the lotion being covered with a sheet of thin gutta percha paper. When eczema is recent, and attended with acute symptoms, wet and moisture is observed to exercise an injurious influence over the progress of the eruption, and ought seldom to be applied, unless for temporary purposes of cleanliness.

CHAPTER IV.

CHALYBEATES.—Sulphate of iron applied locally in erysipelas—other applications preferred. Treatment of erysipelas. Use of sesquichloride of iron internally: cases in which this practice is recommended. Chalybeates employed in chronic eruptions, as acne, and in the skin diseases of delicate and strumous children; phosphate of lime of service in the latter class of cases.

ERYSIPELAS was treated some years since, after the recommendation of Velpeau, by applying a concentrated solution of proto-sulphate of iron over the inflamed surface, or a strong ointment of that salt in fine powder, mixed with lard,—a practice which has gradually fallen into disfavor, some simple emollient, as glycerine or cold cream, or absorbent, such as flour or starch, being preferred; those topical remedies are chiefly useful in relieving the sensations of burning heat and soreness which accompany the eruption, though they can exert little influence over its

duration, or in improving the constitutional symptoms that attend it. The affection loosely termed phlegmonous erysipelas ought not to be classed with skin diseases, as it is a true suppurative inflammation of the subcutaneous tissues; and prompt surgical interference is as necessary in its treatment as in other forms of diffuse abscess, to prevent extensive and destructive sloughing. In addition to this marked tendency to suppuration which it displays, it is also distinguished by its accompanying deep-seated induration, and by the character of the blush of dusky redness that is always visible, gradually fading out at the edges, and never presenting the uniform pink tint, with a tinge of yellow, limited by a well-defined margin, slightly elevated above the surface of the healthy skin, which is so characteristic of genuine erysipelas; towards the termination of its course abscesses are not uncommon in erysipelas, and will form with remarkable rapidity; but they are circumscribed, and rarely of large size.

There is some difficulty in estimating the relative influence of different plans of treatment in this disease, as its natural tendency is to run a course more or less definite, and then terminate in resolution and recovery: its epidemic type also

becomes altered from time to time; and it is liable to special modification during its progress, dependant on the constitution and habits of the individual, which call for corresponding alterations in our remedial measures; in practice, at present, and for some years past, we find that the employment of blood-letting is seldom, if at all, needed with our town population, and frequent purgation or depletion of any kind, are sparingly required; after a few days the disease will, in most instances, assume an asthenic type, if not from the commencement; and throughout our attendance the chief indications seem to be to support the patient's strength and meet complications as they arise,—the choice of proper dietetics being as important as it is in fever, and stimulants equally indispensable to carry the patient in safety through his illness.

The tonic use of iron introduced by Mr. Bell of Edinburgh has been extensively tried and well spoken of: I have found its results satisfactory in several instances. It consists in the administration of tincture of sesquichloride of iron, taken in doses of 15 to 30 drops every two to four hours, with some fluid as a vehicle. Its advocates claim for it the property of rapidly

controlling the progress of the eruption, of limiting its extent, and sensibly arresting its advance within a few hours, or at farthest after one or two days, and then a rapid recovery will ensue; they assert, that this treatment has the great advantage of being seldom if ever known to disagree with the patient, but others are disposed to consider that this plan is not so well adapted for sthenic attack of erysipelas, originating in young persons of vigorous habit, and when high inflammatory symptoms are present, though they are willing to allow that in delicate individuals, in those who are of lymphatic or scrofulous state of system, or who have been weakened by the existence of previous disease or suppuration; also in cases where there is a marked absence of febrile disturbance, such as will occasionally be observed when erysipelas appears in the aged or the feeble, where it supervenes during the course of dropsical affections, or is attended with considerable subcutaneous œdema; and, lastly, when it is traumatic in its origin, and follows after either punctured or lacerated wounds; then in all these numerous instances, iron is considered capable of exerting a marked and beneficial influence in shortening the duration of the disease, and will

often arrest it within the course of forty-eight hours; and it is further stated, that in the more sthenic forms after the primary fever has been subdued by ordinary means, this tincture proves of service if judiciously administered.

Whenever decided symptoms of chlorosis are present during the existence of any of the chronic eruptions, chalybeates, of course, are employed to improve the condition of the blood, and they will go far to restore the diseased state of the skin to health; but this general principle being applicable to all chronic diseases, requires no remark in connexion with our special subject. When acne appears in young females, besides the use of chalybeates, direct emmenagogues are sometimes required, such as aloetic preparations and the oil of savin; the latter in doses of one drop thrice daily, is a useful emmenagogue, it is particularly beneficial in this eruption.

The eruptive diseases of childhood and early youth are known to be peculiarly obstinate with pale, delicate, and scrofulous children, in whom they are liable to recur on the slightest neglect or cessation of treatment; here we must rely in great measure on dietetics, and such means as are likely to improve the health in a permanent man-

ner; milk diet and eggs are always useful, with the restricted employment of animal food; and a sufficiency of warm clothing is of the first importance,—if possible change of air should be tried; and amongst medical remedies the milder chalybeates, such as syrup of iodide of iron, diluted with one or two parts of syrup of orange flower, or the ammonio tartrate of iron dissolved in white wine, the latter can be given in doses of two to five grains, once or twice daily, continued for many weeks. In rickety children with soft and flexible ribs and enlargement of the ends of the long bones, I find simple phosphate of lime acts as a serviceable tonic; it is obtained by burning for a considerable time those bones which are least dense, such for instance as the ribs of mutton chops, and then reducing the bone earth to fine powder, the dose of which is about half a drachm or more, taken twice or thrice daily; this can be given with advantage at the same time with the ferruginous tonics, and persevered in for months; its action is slow, but I have known it of great benefit in cases such as those described.

CHAPTER V.

QUININE, employed for its tonic properties; best mode of giving. Erythema Nodosum, its distinctive features and treatment. Miliary Rash. Exciting causes of Sudamina; principles of treatment. Use of Quinine in intermitting Urticaria. Varieties of Pemphigus. P: Gangrenosus, its symptoms and treatment. Pompholyx Solitarius, and P: Diutinus, remedies used in. Acute Pemphigus. Quinine in ointment applied in Eczema.

QUININE, the most useful of our vegetable bitters, is employed almost exclusively on account of its tonic properties in treating cutaneous disease; it is true that chronic urticaria will assume a well-marked remittent type, and that quinine is of service in removing it, still even in this instance it is given in moderate tonic doses, as one to three grains, rather than as an antiperiodic. It is prescribed in cases of pemphigus, miliary eruption and erythema nodosum, and generally where

the system is debilitated and the digestive powers are enfeebled; unless its bitter taste is an insuperable objection, when it must be made into pills, I always prefer it dissolved in water, with a little nitric or nitro muriatic acid, and a small quantity of tincture of orange-peel and syrup, render it more palatable; in those instances where milder tonics are indicated, equal quantities of infusion of bark and decoction of cetraria, or the effervescent bark mixture, will be found eligible preparations, which seldom disagree.

Erythema nodosum occurs in delicate females, young persons of feeble constitution, and the poorer classes who are exposed to harsh and inclement weather; its favorite locality is the lower extremities, especially the front of the leg, here it forms slightly elevated oval tumefactions of bright red or pink color, extending two or three inches in their greater diameter, which is always disposed along the length of the limb; these swellings not unfrequently are acutely sensitive when pressed on, and have a most deceptive feeling of fluctuation; in some instances they complain in the commencement of the disease that the eruption is as itchy as urticaria. I have seen a severe attack brought on in a young

lady, from slight exposure to cold weather, whilst wearing thin stockings and dancing shoes; and in another instance it originated in accidental immersion in a river. The patients will, in many cases, suffer merely from loss of appetite and a general feeling of depression and illness, or smart febrile symptoms may exist for the first week or so; the disease is, however, essentially chronic in its course, a feature that serves to distinguish it from all other red rashes; after lasting for two or three weeks, or longer without alteration, the spots become soft and gradually disappear, the skin remaining bluish-colored, or marked as if by a fading bruise, for a variable period afterwards. Our treatment is first directed to relieve any febrile symptoms, and when they are removed full doses of quinine effect a speedy cure, though in some individuals the preparations of colchicum have succeeded after quinine has failed. When erythema appears in females whose uterine functions are deranged, their restoration to health depends, in great measure, upon suitable attention being paid to this indication; if the tumefactions are painful a warm solution of subacetate of lead with glycerine, is found to give most ease; the spots must not be opened on any

account, as the incisions will produce unhealthy sores that are difficult to heal.

Miliary rash, as it occurs at present, does not deserve the name of a separate disease; the severe and fatal epidemics of unusual malignancy, which were distinguished as miliary fever, are now fortunately possessed only of historic interest; still the minute vesicles termed sudamina, from their frequent appearance during sweating, are of sufficient importance as an intercurrent affection, to excite our attention; these little spots resemble minute grains of sand sprinkled over the skin; they are filled with a colorless or reddish serum, and are best observed by using an oblique light, or may be felt with the fingers, as their presence produces a peculiar roughness of the surface; they become developed when the skin is over-acting from any cause, in the sweating of acute rheumatism, or that excited by diaphoretic medicines, during the progress of the eruptive or the continued fevers, in puerperal women; and occasionally most extensively over the body in those who are the victims of rapid phthisis. Sudamina seldom appear on the face, they are not rare upon the loins and abdomen, and the chest and neck. The treatment will consist

in keeping the room cool, allowing a free circulation of air, lightening the bed-clothes, and removing all flannel garments; sudorifics and heating drinks are to be avoided, and small doses of quinine in the acid infusion of roses, or dilute nitric or sulphuric acid with infusion of bark, given internally; in some of these cases two or three grains of gallic acid in solution, with one to two drops of hydrocyanic acid, is found to act most beneficially.

In recurring intermittent urticaria, before employing quinine it is well to give an ipecacuanha emetic and afterwards a brisk purgative; antacids are also useful: I have seen some severe chronic attacks yield to this treatment, at the same time that trisnitrate of bismuth and carbonate of soda was taken after meals, the quinine was exhibited about half-an-hour previous to eating. The eruptions of chronic pemphigus, ecthyma, and rupia, are almost invariably connected with an impaired state of health, or result from intemperate habits; hence, the tonic effects of quinine are often serviceable; the citrate of quinine and iron is a good combination when chalybeates are required with a bitter, and the chlorate of potash, in doses of five to ten grains,

is of great use in some of these affections. Pemp-
phigus gangrenosus, a disease well described by
Dr. Whitly Stokes, though not epidemic for
many years past, is still occasionally witnessed:
it appears in children who seem in other respects
in perfect health, but also occurs in those who
are badly fed, neglected, and living in close, ill-
ventilated alleys and rooms in the worst parts
of the city. The bullæ are usually distinct, and
either surrounded or preceded by an erysipela-
tous-looking redness of the skin; after two or
three days they burst, and discharge a foetid fluid,
leaving a deep spreading slough, from the edges
of which flows an acrid discharge; when these
spots of sloughing are numerous, or occupy the
head, constitutional irritation soon manifests
itself; the child loses its healthy look, and the
ulcers have a close resemblance to ordinary noma,
of which this disease is probably a modification:
in young infants it may terminate fatally within
four or five days, assuming an acute character;
more often death does not result for two or three
weeks, and is preceded by convulsions or extreme
debility. Change of air, good nourishing diet,
with chlorate of potash and bark internally, and
strong nitric or muriatic acid applied with care to

the sloughing surfaces appears to be the best treatment; afterwards terebinthinate ointments, or balsam of Peru, may be used, Dr. Stokes recommended the ointment of *scrofularia nodosa*, which is still employed. The permanganate of potash in a sufficient quantity of water, ʒj or less to the pint, is worth trying as a lotion, from its decided powers over putrefactive changes, in this and similar diseases.

In the simpler states of pemphigus which are not gangrenous, the bullæ will vary in size, from a pea to that of a large plum, rising in rapid succession at short intervals of a day or so, one after the other, constituting the variety pemphigus or pompholyx solitarius; or they last for longer periods, not unfrequently several existing upon different parts at the same time in every stage of development; and the symptoms range in severity from a mere transient sensation of heat or smarting, which often precedes the eruption of each fresh vesicle, or else painful exco-riations are formed, covered by thick crusts, disturbing the patient's rest, and accompanied by febrile symptoms and loss of appetite, terminating in the most severe cases, in destruction of the health, and sometimes followed by dropsy.

This chronic form is distinguished as pemphigus diutinus.

When the affection is recent, and unattended by constitutional symptoms of importance, there is little to be done in the way of active treatment; mild aperients, attention to diet, and protecting the bullæ from being rubbed is sufficient; dressing them, when they break, with some mild cerate, as zinc ointment. In the severe and chronic condition, tonics, mineral acids, and nourishing food are required; anodynes given at bed-time to ensure repose, and, in obstinate cases, either alterative doses of oxymuriate of mercury in bark mixture, or Fowler's solution should be steadily tried. The bullæ are covered by layers of cotton wadding, and dressed with liquor plumbi and glycerine after they have broken, or with a weak watery solution of opium if the ulcerations become painful.

I once observed in a recently born infant an eruption resembling acute pemphigus, in which the cuticle was raised in blebs, and large surfaces of the body seemed as if scalded with boiling water; the fluid which was secreted soon became sero-purulent and offensive smelling, and the blisters on breaking left a red discharging surface.

The child, which was premature, was attacked shortly after birth with acute conjunctivitis of both eyes; it died in a few days; probably the disease was of syphilitic origin, but it was impossible to ascertain the fact with certainty, as neither the mother or father manifested any secondary symptoms whatever; the mother suffered from severe leucorrhæal discharge, and was afterwards treated for ulceration of the womb.

An ointment of quinine ss to an ounce of cerate, or a powder in which it is mixed with starch, is sometimes applied in chronic eczema, and after the crusts are removed by poultices will rapidly dry up the surface. It appears to act as a mild stimulant, and has no superiority over less expensive modes of treatment.

CHAPTER VI.

COD LIVER OIL given in lupus. Description of the superficial form of lupus. Lupus exedens. Their supposed connexion with struma. Internal and topical treatment of lupoid affections. Cod liver oil employed in favus and several chronic eruptions. Ichthyosis, its leading symptoms and mode of treatment. Eczema and impetigo in children, attacking the head and face, treatment of. Modes of using cod liver oil.

LUPUS stands foremost in the list of those affections for which cod liver oil is prescribed; this serious and obstinate disease appears too commonly amongst our poorer classes, and assumes at least two well marked and distinct types. The superficial and more prevalent condition is liable to occur over every part of the body, and seldom attracts much attention in its earlier stages when small tubercles or indurations are being formed in the cutis; they slowly change to dull red or livid, after remaining quiescent for weeks or months, and then soften, dis-

charging a little ichorous and curdy pus, which dries into a hard adherent scale; and when at last it becomes detached, the ulcerative action is observed gradually extending; during this time the deep purplish or livid hue spreads more widely round the neighbouring parts; upon the cheek the disease assumes a superficial form; on the body or limbs the ulcers are in general numerous and of irregular outline, or serpiginous, they extend more deeply into or through the skin, and, by means of wide spreading sinusses, extensively undermine the surrounding tissues; the sero-purulent fluid which is secreted soon concretes into thick, rough brownish colored incrustations that must be removed by poultices before the entire extent of the sores can be seen. This form of lupus is seldom difficult to heal for a time, but is prone to frequent relapses. In rare instances I have known the bones of the ribs and sternum laid bare, producing either necrosis or superficial caries; and in one case, where lupus occurred in a strong athletic man, apparently in perfect health, it burrowed so deeply in the cervical muscles beneath the occipital bone as to excite fatal inflammation of the spinal meninges. After cicatrization the marks which

are left are conspicuous, large, and purple, the scars finally become white, and remain for life unchanged.

The second variety, or *lupus exedens*, is most destructive, and specially attacks the nose. It likewise originates in one or more small sized tubercles, situated either upon the *alæ* or septum, which slowly inflame, become dark colored, and form small scabs or adherent desquamations of thickened cuticle, in time destroying the tip or sides of the nose by spreading ulceration. In other cases they occur deeply within upon the septum or turbinated bones, and then hard adherent scabs fill the nostrils; after some weeks an offensive discharge will take place, and portions of the bones decay and fall away; at last, in the course of months or even years, the cartilages and bony walls are destroyed, the palate eaten through, and perhaps the upper part of the throat becomes diseased, and the *vertebræ* eroded; in some of these instances *lupus* is rendered still more intractible and destructive by the existence of constitutional syphilis, though it is also met in patients who are untainted by its presence. Fortunately the cases are of extreme rarity in which it has been known to assume an acute character,

accomplishing within a few weeks ravages of such wide extent as are seldom witnessed after years in ordinary attacks. Both the eroding and more superficial lupus will heal from time to time in a deceptive manner, so far as to appear likely to cease altogether, and then resume their ulcerative course, often without any apparent cause to which the change can be ascribed.

These forms of lupus are alleged to have a close connexion with scrofulous disease, particularly the superficial variety, which has been termed cutaneous scrofula; but it is undoubted that pulmonary tubercular affections are not so common in lupoid patients as might be supposed from this statement: the idea has led to the employment of cod liver oil, from its anti-strumous influence; and excessive quantities, even upwards of a pint in the day, have sometimes been given; moderate doses are preferable, as a table-spoonful or less, they are not so liable to excite loathing and to disagree with the stomach. Many of the more powerful alteratives are also used—as Donovan's and Fowler's solutions, red iodide of mercury, or small doses of the chloride, and several of the preparations of iron. Whatever be selected, local treatment is of primary importance; the scabs

are to be removed by alkaline poultices, and caustics applied to arrest the eroding ulceration, after which granulations readily spring up; in superficial lupus cicatrization is promoted by mild stimulants, and strapping with soap plaster where the affected part admits of it. The disfiguration caused by lupus exedens is difficult to remedy; if extensive it will require some well considered plastic operation, and I have repeatedly seen excellent noses formed by Dr. Hamilton in the wards of the Richmond Hospital in this manner.

Favus is developed most often in neglected and ill fed children, and so far as cod liver oil improves their health, and is a digestible article of diet, it is of service, but exerts no special influence in curing the eruption.

Several chronic skin diseases are recorded as having been relieved or altogether healed under the use of this oil, especially acne, lichen, and eczema: it is best suited for delicate persons or those predisposed to tubercular attacks, and ought to be combined with nutritious and liberal diet: for children the free use of milk is always beneficial. The chief eruption, however, requiring special mention is ichthyosis, in which the surface of the skin becomes changed, more or less

extensively, into a permanent horny growth of dark color, chapped and furrowed by transverse fissures, like shagreen or the dried skin of some flat fish. This roughness may occupy a limited surface, and when more widely spread is usually thicker and better marked on the outer side of the limbs, and over the knees and elbows, where it assumes a symmetrical appearance, corresponding on both sides, like many cutaneous diseases which are considered to have a constitutional origin; in a few instances the entire surface of the body is coated over, with trifling exceptions, by the cuticular or warty growths of ichthyosis, and though the skin feels dry, the individuals appear to enjoy average health, and find their scaly covering by no means inconvenient. Professor Banks considers that an intimate connexion exists between constitutional struma and ichthyosis, and succeeded in curing some well marked cases which had lasted for years, by the free use of cod liver oil, administered internally, and applied with friction as a liniment after the patient has come out of a vapour bath; he is directed to wear a long flannel dress whilst rubbing in the oil, which soon becomes so saturated and greasy as to keep the surface constantly

lubricated, and the treatment must be persevered in for weeks to secure a successful issue. There is a condition apparently allied to ichthyosis which is occasionally met in young children; the entire body feels harsh and dry; they seldom perspire, and the skin is rough from adhering branny scales like universal pityriasis; I have used bran baths, and given syrup of iodide of iron in these cases: they require prolonged attention to effect any permanent good: it is possible that cod liver oil would be of service.

When eczema attacks delicate and strumous children, it is necessary to improve the health to prevent frequent relapses; and along with change of air, cod liver oil and mild preparations of iron, as the saccharated carbonate or syrup of the iodide, are of use in such circumstances, as also for impetigo of the scalp or of the face: in this disease soft pustules of considerable size rapidly appear, either separate or aggregated into groups, and pour out a quantity of viscid yellow matter, which binds the hairs together by concreting into thick greenish or brown colored moist scabs, or covers the face with large coarse crusts, not unlike confluent small pox as it is drying up, occurring in small circumscribed patches or over surfaces

so extensive as to conceal much of the features; these scabs are at times so itchy, that children are unable to resist tearing themselves with their nails; and in other cases, apparently equally severe and universal, they cause little annoyance: as the scabs become detached, an excoriated bleeding surface is exposed, which soon pours out fresh ichor, and is again scabbed over. When this eruption appears in unhealthy and improperly fed children, of leucophlegmatic habit, or is neglected, it is tedious and obstinate; it excites chronic swellings in the glands about the ear, or along the neck, which may run into rapid suppuration; or small abscesses are not unfrequent on the nape. Should the disease attack the eyelids, they become swollen and sore, and the aspect is particularly unpleasant, as strumous conjunctivitis and corneitis are liable to occur; or the affection of the eyes will alternate with the eruption, manifesting itself so soon as the pustules begin to dry up, and again suddenly improving when a fresh outbreak of the rash takes place. In commencing our treatment the diet must be attended to, that it is sufficient but not irritating, —milk answering best for very young children. Mild purgatives with soda, and mercury with

chalk, are useful, and cod liver oil, given in moderate doses, which succeeds better still after an alterative course of the oxymuriate of mercury and tincture of bark. The hair requires to be closely clipped or shaved, the scabs removed by poultices, and the parts frequently washed with yolk of egg and tepid water, or yellow soap, if not too irritating: for local treatment, weak lotions of subacetate of lead and glycerine are of service, and afterwards very dilute citrine ointment, or the ointment of calomel.

When cod liver oil is prescribed, it ought to be of good quality and fresh, having a mild fishy taste, and free from rancidity. It is seldom necessary to employ any but moderate doses—such as a dessert or table-spoonful, given thrice daily, for the adult, and a tea-spoonful or two with children, so as to avoid exciting disgust or overloading the stomach; when taken for some time it becomes positively looked for with relish: it is best to use it plain floating on warm milk or some aromatic infusion; a little lemon or common salt removes its flavor from the mouth.

CHAPTER VII.

SULPHUR, its uses in medicine; proof of its absorption; explanation of its action as an aperient; modes of prescribing. Scabies; alleged presence of the acarus in this eruption, and its connexion with the disease; frequent relapses; rapid and successful treatment by sulphuret of calcium. Use of sulphurous lotions and of the hyposulphites in skin diseases attended with cryptogamic vegetations. Question of constitutional predisposition to those eruptions. The mycetoma or fungus foot of India. *Porrigo favosa*, its history and treatment. *Porrigo decalvans*, symptoms and mode of cure. Sycosis, its prominent characters and remedies. *Pityriasis versicolor*; diseases it is liable to be mistaken for and treatment. *Pityriasis* of the scalp in infants and adults.

SULPHUR, once highly esteemed and much employed in medicine, is rapidly falling into almost complete disuse, and is seldom prescribed; nor has it maintained its reputation, as a "sweetener of the blood," in domestic practice; and yet, less than fifty years since, the younger branches of most families were obliged to undergo an

annual course of spring treatment with it—more as a preservative from future possible disease than as a means of cure. This change can be partly accounted for by the spread of better information, the altered habits of life, and more abundant use of fresh animal food and vegetables in our diet; but to some extent it is an evidence of those mutations of fashion which are constantly occurring in therapeutics; and there is reason to believe at present sulphur is rather undervalued, so difficult is it to avoid extremes in these matters.

That sulphur becomes absorbed into the system when it is taken internally, and is again exhaled through the skin, is well understood from its effects in blackening silver coin in the pockets of those who are under its influence. Sulphur also enters into the composition of the animal tissues as an essential constituent; and in one instance, during protracted convalescence from a gouty attack, it was similarly discharged during the course of many months from the cutaneous surfaces, where it must have been derived from some obscure metamorphosis taking place in the solids of the body, as the individual was not using sulphur or any of its preparations at the time. When administered in medical doses, I am led to

believe that it has a direct influence in increasing both the biliary and intestinal glandular secretions, which would explain its effects as an aperient. The most convenient mode of prescribing sulphur is in the form of the old-fashioned electuary, with treacle, which disguises its taste, or given suspended in new milk, to which a little nutmeg powder and calcined magnesia are sometimes added.

For treating scabies, sulphur still sustains the reputation it has long enjoyed, being the best and most certain mode of cure, though unwillingly made use of, as the slight odour and the yellow color of the ointment are alleged to be objectionable; a few grains of vermillion and some essential oil, as lavender, will alter these properties: it is more difficult to succeed in having it applied in private with sufficient freedom to ensure its full effects; hence various additions have been recommended, forming compound sulphur ointments, of these the best is some white hellebore or veratrine.

From a protracted series of investigations upon the subject of scabies, I am disposed to doubt that the *acarus* which so generally accompanies it is the real cause of the eruption; these acari

are a numerous family, and abound on cheese, flour, raw sugar, and several other vegetable and animal substances; and as it seems reasonable to conclude that there must be some common cause for their presence in every case, I feel convinced it will be found in their instincts leading them to settle upon the most appropriate feeding-grounds; they require nitrogenous elements for their support, for they never occur in pure sugar or other non-nitrogenous substances; and hence, in the cheese, the flour, and the scabby skin alike, they may well abound and multiply, for all offer suitable habitations for them, and ample means of living. That itch acari can communicate the eruption is no more than might be expected; living upon the morbid secretion, their rough bodies and wrinkled limbs are well suited to transfer it to a fresh victim: yet it is certain that all persons are not equally susceptible of the contagion of scabies, which it appears to me must follow if these acari are admitted to be its only exciting cause; and then itch would become as universal in its diffusion as other insect plagues, and possibly much worse, from the microscopic minuteness of the insect. There is another interesting fact in the history of itch, that the parasite is not

always the same: in Norway a different creature of the family of mites has been discovered, though both there and in this country the eruption is found to present an identically similar appearance. I have further ascertained that the majority at least of those persons who have never been infected with itch are intensely susceptible of acquiring it; whilst they who have passed through the unpleasant stages of an attack, and been thoroughly cured, show a comparative, it might almost be said an absolute, immunity from future infection. In making researches in this matter, it is always necessary to discriminate between other pruriginous affections and that which is pre-eminently entitled to the term of itch, as there are no such limits to the re-appearance of the former. The strange tendency which this disease shows to relapses, when insufficiently treated, and its indefinite duration if neglected, are both true; we cannot offer explanations of those circumstances, or of its rare occurrence on the face, another problem of interest as yet unexplained; thus it will recur again and again from using clothes soiled by the patient himself; and, as an instance of this self re-infection, I have seen severe pustular itch return more than once in a young child, until a

pair of boots were destroyed to which the virus was persistently adhering.

Dr. Belcher, in a paper published in the Dublin Quarterly Medical Journal, states, that he found the solution of lime and sulphur now in use in the military hospitals, remove psora by a single application, and it has been equally successful in the cases in which I have tried it. It is prepared by boiling one part of quick lime, two of sulphur, and ten of water, constantly stirring the mixture with a piece of wood until the two former unite, then decanting the liquid, and preserving it in a stoppered bottle. By boiling caustic lime with excess of sulphur a pentasulphide of calcium is obtained, mixed with hyposulphite of lime, $(3 \text{ Ca O} + 12 \text{ S}) = (2 \text{ Ca S}_5 + \text{Ca O S}_2 \text{ O}_2)$.

In employing this solution a warm bath is first given, then the fluid is well rubbed into all the affected parts with a sponge, for half an hour, depositing as it evaporates a yellow sulphurous layer, a second bath removes the stain and leaves the patient quite cured.

When eczema is acute, and the pain that attends it complained of as burning, like that of scalding water, greasy ointments and preparations of

sulphur do more harm than good; still, as it becomes less hot and painful, and more itchy, a powder of starch, mixed with one fourth of flour of sulphur, is a useful application, dusted over the diseased parts, after removing the scabs by poultices, some glycerine or thin gruel being used to damp the surface, and allow the powder to adhere. Dr. Burgess reports favourably of employing sulphur fumigations in some of those cases.

It is difficult to determine the value of lotions of sulphurous acid, and of the alkaline hypsulphites in treating diseases of the skin, attended with parasitic vegetative growths. We know that these sulphur compounds do exercise a decided power in destroying the vitality of low forms of vegetable life, and that certain eruptions are accompanied by, and possibly consist essentially of cryptogamic formations; of this fact none can entertain a doubt who study their history attentively, and have even a moderate familiarity with microscopic investigations; the distance, however, to which they will penetrate underneath the surface of the skin, or into the hair follicles, render the superficial use of any lotion a doubtful measure for permanent cure. Stress is laid by several

writers upon the peculiar state of the constitution, scrofulous habits being said to exercise a predisposing influence, at least, over the development of these affections; and it is argued, that certain soils are necessary for the growth of special forms of vegetation, so the skins of certain susceptible individuals can alone sustain those parasites; this is by no means a fair statement; low forms of vegetable life appear to require little aid from mere modification of soil; other external conditions, as temperature, light, and moisture, are of far greater importance in promoting their development; and it is only recently that we are beginning to learn how protean in form these humble organisms are, often existing in many distinct states of growth, under different circumstances; thus, the common blue mould assumes various aspects, besides its ordinary well-known condition it exists in the thick felt-like hairs of the vinegar plant, and is rapidly destructive to fruits as a spreading mycelium. As yet we possess no information whatever as to the life history of these cryptogams which infest ourselves, and it is quite possible that in some other condition they may be of common occurrence around us, retaining its ordinary appearance favus does occur in

the lower animals, and I have once met the parasite of pityriasis in the parrot.

The interest attending those plant diseases has of late been greatly increased by the description given by Dr. H. V. Carter, of Grant's College, Bombay, of a plague, which far surpasses in destructive powers all our previously known parasites. The mycetoma or fungus foot of India, is a fearful disease, happily altogether unknown in temperate lands. In its victims numerous cavities, varying in size from a pea to that of a pistol bullet, perforate the bony structures of the hands, or of the feet and ancles, and are filled by dark-coloured fungus masses, which are compared to truffles, and by their growth excavate those cavities; the inflammation which they excite causes a constant flow of foetid pus, mixed with small fragments of the plant, through many sinusses, and the affected limb becomes greatly swollen, infiltrated with a gelatinous secretion, and in time completely useless. In one of the localities in which it occurs, this "Madura" foot is described as becoming enormously enlarged, the small bones at last being nearly destroyed; and the purulent fluid which escapes carries with it black granular masses, the bulk of pins' heads,

which are portions of the parasite; sometimes they resemble poppy-seeds, being small, white cheesy-looking particles, or again, more rarely, are not unlike grains of red pepper, which are found to be the enlarged multiplying cells of the fungus; all this destruction and these varied states are produced by a single vegetative growth, not very remote in its relations to ordinary moulds, or, perhaps, to the rapid spreading species of oidium, which have attacked of late years the potato plant and the grape with epidemic disease.

As no sufficient reason appears to exist for maintaining a constitutional origin for these local vegetative growths, far less can we suppose that internal treatment will so modify the skin upon which they live as to remove them; at least I have not been fortunate enough to observe such results in any instance, nor do they appear very accessible to local applications either; for, as already stated, they infest the crypts of the hair, or, in the case of true favus, gradually burrow into the depths of the cutis, rendering it so carious that it is most difficult to reach them with superficial remedies; it is also impossible to overrate their wonderful reproductive powers; budding at every cell,

multiplying by various modes, and instinct with vitality to an extent far beyond the higher forms of life, each spore or fragment that is left will germinate afresh, so that complete removal is a task of considerable difficulty.

This class of affections is already extensive, it includes,

1. *Porrigio favosa* or true favus.
2. *Porrigio decalvans*.
3. *Sycosis* or *mentagra*.
4. *Pityriasis versicolor*, and possibly *Herpes circinatus*.

Favus is pre-eminently entitled to the appellation of "scald head," though other parts of the body are occasionally attacked; where it has once been developed it is most persistent, for I can recal no instance of its total spontaneous disappearance; a few isolated spots alone will, after lasting many years, sometimes cicatrize and form conspicuous scars. Its odour is peculiar, unpleasant, and mice-like; and, in connexion with this, it is worth remarking, that it does occur upon the bodies of mice. I have seen at least four or five examples of its presence on these creatures, the parasite presenting the same dry mortar-like incrustation as in man, disposed in cup-shaped growths

of pale yellow color. Whenever it has been possible to trace its history, there is evidence of contagion, though it is often difficult to ascertain its source; in one instance where a genuine spot of favus occurred on the thigh of a young lady, after close investigation, it was found that the disease was conveyed to her in her linen; the washerwoman's son being affected by the parasite in a severe form; as this lady's case was suited for observation, the favus crust was removed entire by superficially incising the cuticle, when it became detached, leaving a red mucous-looking depression, from which serum oozed out, and in it the microscope revealed the presence of favus cells: caustic potash was therefore lightly applied so as to produce a superficial slough, and after its separation the disease was perfectly cured. Glacial acetic acid, or any other caustic, would, possibly, answer equally well in destroying the matrix. As few eruptions disappear for a time with greater ease than favus under the use of poultices and ointments, it is constantly supposed to be cured by them; unless, however, the surface from whence each parasitic mass rises has been cauterized in the manner described, it will recur within a few weeks after our treatment is discon-

tinued, and become as bad as ever. When the health is impaired from poverty or neglect, which often happens, for it is essentially a disease of the poor, an opportunity ought to be taken to improve the system by all suitable means whilst treating the eruption locally.

An extensive series of observations upon the cause of favus, provisionally termed *achorion Schœnleini* are greatly required to determine its natural history; as yet I have failed in endeavouring to grow its cells upon moist rice starch, though I have succeeded in developing the curious *sarcina* of the stomach into a form allied to *mucor*, and it is more than probable that favus can be got in some simple, and perhaps better known condition of vegetative growth.

Dr. Jenner proposes treating these cryptogamic affections with a strong solution of sulphurous acid, or of hyposulphite of soda, to which a little muriatic acid may be added: lotions of this kind are supposed to act in the same manner that sulphur and its compounds do in destroying the vitality of low forms of vegetation; for this purpose the sulphuret of potash, if of good quality, ought to form an equally efficient solution. In ointment all manner of substances in turn have

been advised, and several of them with so much temporary relief, that for a time they have been considered almost in the light of a specific. Most writers agree that the diseased hairs should be removed; pulling them out is a painful process, but is, at least, an effectual way of getting at the bottom of the follicles. To detach the crusts a linseed poultice answers as well as anything else.

Trichosis, tinea, or porrigo decalvans, seldom comes under observation in its earlier stages. When fully developed one or more round bald spots are found situated on the scalp, varying in size from an inch to three or four inches in diameter; on examining the surface fine branny scales can be rubbed off, and the hairs are noticed still within their follicles, but so brittle that they readily break across, and never rise much above the dull white level of the skin; after the disease has lasted for a longer period, the surface is often shining and looks completely bald: if one of the hairs is extracted and examined microscopically, it is found to be infested with a minute parasitic growth, the *achorion Grubii*; hence the difficulty of treatment, for our remedies do not easily penetrate these lurking places of the plant; recovery

is therefore protracted and tedious, though some cases do get well within a reasonable time. When the hairs begin to reappear, which is the first sign of improvement, they are fine, like down, and colorless, regaining their color and strength as they grow older. Ointments are of little use in this disease unless strongly irritant—repeated vesications with glacial acetic acid or vesicating collodion answers better, and strong iodine paint may be applied in the intervals over the affected parts: sulphurous washes are advised; but all lotions are objected to by adults, at least during the day-time, and are difficult to use with children. Dr. Burgess recommends a solution of one or two grains of cyanide of mercury in an ounce of water to be painted over the part with a hair pencil; and he finds even more effectual, fumigations of cinnabar or of sulphur applied directly to the affected surfaces.

Sycosis or mentagra is essentially a chronic eruption, lasting for months, and perhaps years, when not properly attended to: it is characterized by the appearance of successive crops of indurated pustules, occupying those portions of the face and neck that are covered with hair, and occurs most frequently in persons of adult age, and less

often in those who are advanced in life. Sensations of smarting heat and pain about the face may precede the pustules; they are of smaller size when few and disseminated; but are not unfrequently clustered into dense groups, which are liable to excite so much local inflammation that the tissues become altered and thickened, constituting rough pink tubercles, in which numerous suppurating points are visible, and the hairs become loosened by the abscesses round their roots, so that they are easily plucked out: the thick crusts of discharge which collect add to the unsightly appearance of the patient, whose features are much deformed by the disease when it spreads extensively. The pustules constituting mentagra are developed in succession at uncertain intervals; in some instances they are very local, being restricted, perhaps, to a portion of the chin or the upper lip alone. I have seen a few such cases, which resisted all treatment, and healed only when the beard was permitted to grow; in other instances a peculiar parasitic cryptogam, the *microsporon mentagraphytes* can be detected infesting the hair follicles and sebaceous glands, the destruction of which is essential for recovery, and to its presence the spread of sycosis from con-

tagion by the occasional use of dirty razors is to be attributed. When the eruption is recent and acute, attended with much tumefaction, local heat and pain, anodyne stupes and emollient applications, as hot poultices of boiled rice, are of service; temperance is to be insisted on, as free living increases the irritation of the skin; lancing the tubercles is also advisable, and afterwards the bleeding should be promoted with hot water stupes, not only in the acute attacks but where it is more chronic, from the relief which local depletion causes, and the free escape of the pus afterwards. The hairs, when they are loose, ought to be removed with a pair of forceps or tweezers, and the beard is not to be shaven, but clipped close with a scissors, and all purulent incrustations removed by weak alkaline solutions or moist poultices; lotions of the hyposulphite of soda or of sulphurous acid are afterwards applied, or the sulphuret of potash, sixty grains, dissolved in a pint of water; some glycerine is a good adjunct to all these lotions, which are used on a moistened layer of lint, covered over with oiled silk or thin gutta percha paper, to prevent evaporation. A dilute ointment of the iodide of sulphur is sometimes of service, in chronic cases,

or calomel ointment, applied with friction over the tubercular indurations, to promote their absorption. Patients will expect internal treatment; and the eruption is always most obstinate in those who are delicate or advanced in years, for whom any suitable means of improving the state of the health may be directed, as tonics, cod liver oil, or chalybeates, though they exercise little direct influence over the course of the eruption.

Pityriasis versicolor, the chloasma of Rayer, appears in slightly elevated rough patches, of brassy yellow color, which sometimes spread to a considerable extent over the trunk and extremities. This affection is distinguished from all allied eruptions by the branny scales of desquamating cuticle that cover the affected parts; and after it is cured, visible smooth yellow stains may remain for a long time disfiguring the skin. It must not be confounded with the remarkable cutaneous pigmentary deposit termed bronze skin, associated with diseased supra-renal bodies, in which the cutaneous surface retains its perfect smoothness, nor with the pale brown partial discolorations, often very extensive, upon the hands, scrotum or abdomen, also recognised as chloasma, which will, in the course of years, disappear,

leaving white sharply defined surfaces, like mottled patches, more obvious from the darker discoloration around. The parasitic nature of pityriasis versicolor was determined by Eichstedt; and it would seem that it is not confined to man, as in a parrot affected with a similar scaly disease, but of which the skin was purely white in color, a cryptogam was observed, apparently identical in every respect with the microsporon furfur of pityriasis. A few sulphur baths, or sulphuret of potash lotion, will often remove this affection after it has resisted internal treatment for months; several other mild irritants, as lotions of sulphate of zinc or tincture of white hellebore, are also advised, but it is seldom necessary to use them.

In the simpler forms of pityriasis of the scalp, occurring in children, termed dandriff, there appears to be merely an over active desquamation going on; and anything that irritates the surface increases it, such as hard brushing and the use of fine combs: for infants, weak alkaline washes or yolk of egg, with tepid water, are preferable to soaps, and a lotion of dilute acetic acid and spirit of rosemary afterwards gently rubbed over the head, will detach the scales and render the scalp healthier. When adults are similarly affected,

the hair should be kept closely cut, soft brushes employed, and the following lotion checks the pityriasis and renews the growth of the hair:— Aromatic vinegar ʒj, tincture of lytta ʒvj, rose water and rum or whiskey of each ʒvj, a little of this solution is applied once or twice daily to the scalp: an infusion of garden box in rum is likewise of service.

Herpes circinatus, distinguished by its comparatively chronic course, occurs in isolated circular pink patches, paler and healing in the centre, with an annular, rough, slightly elevated border of adhering branny scales, seldom affording recognisable vesicles; it appears to prefer the upper parts of the body, the neck, face and arms being oftenest attacked; when on the scalp the hairs become twisted and brittle, ultimately breaking and causing a bald spot. Its contagious character is less marked than that of admitted parasitic diseases, and requires still to be investigated: local irritants arrest its progress; writing ink is a popular remedy, and a weak cerate of red iodide of mercury always removes it; on the scalp, where it is more difficult to eradicate, an ointment of the iodides of sulphur and mercury will usually prove effectual.

CHAPTER VIII.

TEREBINTHINATES.—The oil of turpentine much used in cases of purpura. State of the blood in this disease. Symptoms which accompany simple and hæmorrhagic purpura; complications of the latter. Predisposing causes of senile purpura. Different modes of giving oil of turpentine; in small repeated quantities; as a purgative; unpleasant symptoms it is liable to cause. Free use of lemon juice a preferable mode of treatment. Pitch given internally in cases of eczema. Tar ointment useful in psoriasis and pruritus. Kreosote and carbolic or phenic acid: their remedial properties: employed in ointment to promote granulations, and as caustics for lupoid ulcers; also to vesicate in porrigo decalvans and herpes tonsurans. Huile de Cade, its alleged advantages; diseases it is used in; solubility of carbolic acid.

OIL of turpentine can be fairly accepted as the representative of this class of remedies, as it is the chief of the terebinthinales; besides its action as a rubifacient, the numerous medical properties which it possesses render it one of the most useful and reliable agents we have in treating disease, and it would be far more fre-

quently employed were it not for its disagreeable taste and odour, the latter appears to be developed as the result of slow oxidation, and as the rectified oil is procured almost completely free from smell, by careful distilling, it ought to be substituted for common crude turpentine in every instance where it is used internally; unless for purpura for which it has long borne a high reputation, oil of turpentine is seldom required in the treatment of cutaneous affections.

The appearance of the petechiæ is that which first attracts our attention, and may be considered the distinctive feature of purpura; they are so remarkable and obvious as to have caused the disease to be ranked in our classifications with eruptions of the skin, but the numerous scattered extravasations of blood over the surface of the body are liable to extreme variation in their size, character, and intensity of color in different instances, and though sufficiently characteristic for diagnosis, cannot be considered as partaking in strictness of the nature of an eruption; they originate in simple hæmorrhage of the cutaneous capillaries, perhaps produced by some primary alteration in the composition of the blood, which becomes more liquid than usual, being in what is

commonly termed a dissolved state, yielding an imperfect soft clot when drawn from the veins, in which the serum is retained, or slowly separates in a partial manner. This explanation is not considered invariably correct, for the blood does not always manifest an evident deficiency in the amount of its fibrin or its coagulating power, and, in those instances when there is no decided change to be recognized in the nature of the circulating fluid, it is possible that the alteration is in the capillaries themselves, which have given way; their walls being impaired by previous long continued defective nutrition. Whichever solution is accepted as most probable, the primary cause must be admitted to operate deeply, for we find in cases which have terminated fatally, that in addition to the external extravasations similar hæmorrhagic effusions are detected on internal organs as well, the brain, heart or lungs, or the mucous membrane of the stomach and intestines, though less extensive in such situations than on the surface of the skin itself.

The petechial spots would seem to constitute the entire disease in the milder forms of purpura, for throughout its course they may be the only apparent symptom of consequence; when

closely questioned, the patient will sometimes complain of want of appetite, or slight debility and an unusual degree of languor are observed to have preceded the outburst of an attack or to accompany it. Should the affection assume a graver type, intercurrent hæmorrhages are to be expected; they are most liable to originate from the different mucous canals, any of which, or several at the same time, or in succession, will pour out a continuous oozing of blood, or the discharge after subsiding recurs at uncertain intervals, or, again, unexpected gushes are seen to burst forth suddenly to such an alarming extent as possibly to endanger life itself; in some exceptional instances the cerebral vessels have given way, the sanguineous effusion producing a highly dangerous apoplectic seizure, from which recovery is so rarely witnessed that it is fortunate the complication is seldom met; it is more common for the blood to escape from the capillaries of the lung; when rapidly discharged in this direction there is risk of their delicate vesicular structure becoming broken down, and if the injury is extensive it will lead to a fatal termination by the serious interference which ensues with the patient's respiration, or there is risk of immediate suffocation from

the sudden rush of blood into the bronchi. In the vast majority of cases, however, the hæmorrhage springs from the lining membrane of the mouth or nose, the course of the intestinal canal, or the urinary organs and uterus.

When in simple purpura the blood-spots are recent, of bright scarlet color, small and few in number, there is a possibility of confounding them, on a superficial glance, with flea-bites, which they closely resemble in appearance; but these are easily distinguishable by having a middle paler part, and by the obvious point in their centre, caused by the puncture of the insect. This slight form of purpura is unattended with danger, and will subside after lasting for a few days, unless successive crops of petechiæ occur to protract its duration; the spots themselves become darker in color before being absorbed, and gradually disappear, so perfectly that no traces remain visible after recovery. In the serious and more important disease, hæmorrhagic purpura, the blood-marks are observed to reach a larger average size, and will frequently be so numerous as to cover the entire cutaneous surface almost as thickly as the rash does in measles: they are of deep red or purple color from the commencement,

or, if at first bright arterial red, soon assume a darker hue. The petechiæ are thrown out in most cases in repeated eruptions, at short intervals, for an indefinite period, and as the older extravasations in their turn become slowly absorbed, the patient's body acquires a strangely mottled look, from the different tints which are thus produced. In more dangerous cases still, where the hæmorrhagic tendency is extreme, numerous bullæ are not uncommon; they are noticed to rise suddenly on different parts of the body, filled with dark liquid blood; and slight pressure upon any prominent point, or a superficial bruise, are liable to be followed by extensive ecchymosed markings: it is in those aggravated forms of purpura that there is the greatest peril to be apprehended of internal hæmorrhages as well.

The discovery of the petechiæ will usually be made through accident by the patient himself, on rising from bed—no antecedent symptoms of illness or derangement of health having been of sufficient importance to attract his notice. Yet we likewise observe purpura manifesting itself in persons who are insufficiently fed, as amongst inmates of gaols and asylums, where adequate precautions have not been taken to supply their

ordinary diet with enough of vegetable food, or in those who are suffering from long-continued depressing influences, as anxiety or poverty, and unable to procure proper and abundant nourishment; individuals so circumstanced will often complain of feeling heavy and depressed for some days before being attacked, or that they are easily tired and have lost all relish for their food; their aspect frequently becomes sallow and unhealthy looking, and so soon as any considerable loss of blood has taken place, this anæmic and pallid appearance is still more decided and unmistakeable. When the attack proves severe, the appetite will, in the majority of cases, be found defective, or at least capricious; some degree of nausea is not unusual, and vomiting, abdominal tenderness and diarrhœa may be present; in other instances the bowels continue so obstinately confined as to require to be unloaded by the frequent use of active cathartics. The character of the pulse is also liable to considerable variation; thus it will remain unaffected throughout the entire course of the disease, at times it is bounding and apparently full and hard, more often, after protracted hæmorrhage, it becomes weak, compressible and perhaps rapid; in a few instances sharp

febrile symptoms are observed to accompany the earlier stages as the eruption is beginning to appear, though seldom of long duration or requiring much active treatment or depletion beyond the exhibition of simple purgatives. There is an acute purpura described, in which the fever runs so high that bleeding from the arm is asserted to be indispensable to check its progress: this may have been the case formerly, but of late years we have not seen anything approaching to it or warranting the smallest abstraction of blood from the system.

A distinct modification of purpura is liable to attack persons who are somewhat advanced in life, which presents an essentially different aspect from the simple and hæmorrhagic conditions already briefly alluded to. One or more dark purple or almost inky colored blotches are noticed unexpectedly appearing on the limbs; they are of irregular outline, and in most cases continue to extend until they spread over a considerable distance, sometimes reaching from one to four or five inches in diameter, or, it may be, larger; the patient seldom complains of any deviation from his ordinary state of health, though alarm is excited by the occurrence of the discolored spot;

this livid discoloration, after continuing for two or three weeks, or more, slowly fades away in the manner of an ordinary bruise, or successive extravasations of similar character become developed, so that the affection is prolonged, extending over a lengthened period altogether. This form is distinguished as *purpura senilis*.

Oil of turpentine is employed internally in the treatment of all those modifications of *purpura* in moderate doses, as 10 to 30 drops taken every three or four hours, as a vital stimulant, and also directly to control the escape of the blood from its vessels, by its supposed effects as an astringent, when absorbed into the circulation: some consider it to have special hæmostatic properties; by others it is relied on more as an active purgative, and therefore given in larger doses, as two to four drachms, repeated every second or third day, alone or in combination with castor oil to increase its cathartic effects, or exhibited in enema when the stomach becomes too irritable to bear it in the form of draught; much greater quantities, as an ounce or upwards, are recommended by a few practitioners, but have never come into general use, and are rarely prescribed at present. It is necessary to be cautious in employing those ex-

cessive quantities, as they intoxicate; and though it is alleged that they are not liable to produce urinary irritation, the statement cannot be fully relied on, I have known more than one instance where strangury and severe pain were excited by oil of turpentine given after this manner for worms. There can be no doubt of its value in controlling atonic hæmorrhages from the urinary organs when exhibited in small and repeated doses, so as to become absorbed and secreted directly through the affected parts.

I have seldom found it requisite to exhibit this remedy in any of the forms of purpura, unless in exceptional instances, and rely much more upon the free use of fresh lemon juice and of green vegetables for ordinary treatment; believing that an intimate connexion always exists between purpura and those states of system which accompany land and sea scurvy, now admitted to be the same disease, though broad lines of distinction are still laid down, describing the differences between them, and deducing separate rules for their treatment, for the changes which occur in the composition of the blood appear to be very similar, and they are certainly curable by the same class of remedies in all those cases which

have come under my care; thus, for example, in an unusually severe and unpromising attack of purpura hæmorrhagica which occurred in a young girl, who used to bleed to excess from slight wounds, a loose tooth was extracted on the morning when the eruption of petechiæ began to appear, and the lacerated gum continued bleeding freely, forming large loose clots which filled the mouth; in the course of the next few days blood was also discharged from different parts of the inside of the cheek and gums, there was smart hæmorrhage from the lungs and kidneys, and purpuric spots, of dark purple color, thickly covered the entire body. She was not visited until some hours after the tooth had been drawn, and it was necessary to check the constant oozing from its socket by a compress of lint soaked in a strong infusion of matico, and retained in its place by a bandage round the head, until the treatment with lemon juice had time to affect the system, after which all the symptoms gradually decreased, and the result was most satisfactory.

The sliced fruit of the lemon, or its recent expressed juice, is the only reliable mode of using it; they are administered ad libitum, mixed with sugar, and when lemons cannot be obtained, any

succulent fresh fruit or green uncooked vegetables, such as lettuce, are employed in its stead. Citric acid is no substitute for fresh lemon juice, and is of little value in treatment. It is well to insist that a liberal supply of such antiscorbutic articles subsequently enters into the patient's dietary, as there is a marked tendency for attacks of purpura to recur after some months, when this is not attended to, which is greatly controlled by such precautions. During the progress of acute attacks the patient's strength must be sustained, the defective state of the blood improved by suitable nourishment, broths, &c., and the liberal use of wine is occasionally indispensable.

Pitch is exhibited internally, made into pills, in the scaly eruptions, and also in some attacks of chronic eczema, for which it is considered peculiarly useful when there is an irritable state of the intestinal mucous membrane present, producing repeated intercurrent diarrhœa; it is given in doses of 10 to 20 grains, mixed with liquorice powder, and is thought to act as a tonic and mild stimulant; but its use is gradually becoming obsolete.

Tar ointment is best prepared from wood tar when it can be procured; it was formerly recom-

mended for all varieties of eruption occurring on the scalp, though seldom employed at present, unless for herpetic affections; it still maintains some reputation in the treatment of psoriasis, which will disappear under its continued use, when the disease is recent and not of too acute a character; if its effects are likely to prove over stimulant, it should be diluted with cerate or weak citrine ointment; and it is a useful rule in ordering any external applications, to commence with those that are weaker and less liable to excite injurious irritation of the diseased part, which would retard recovery, afterwards proceeding to employ stronger measures, if they are required. Tar ointment is much relied on in some cases of pruritus of the anus, to relieve the distressing sensations that attend this disease; it is applied on soft chamois leather to the prolapsed bowel as frequently as possible, and always after each evacuation; when the patient suffers from symptoms of hepatic or uterine disease, or there are evidences of visceral congestion, appropriate treatment must be had recourse to; and should ascari-
des exist in the rectum, it is necessary to remove them by enemas and purgatives, as their presence is capable of causing severe prurigo, and

in young children they sometimes reach the vagina, exciting local irritation and painful sensations, with symptoms almost amounting to convulsions.

Kreosote, and recently carbolic or phenic acid, have to a large extent taken the place of tar in the preparation of local remedies; there appears to be no essential difference in their action; when properly diluted with cerate, as from 15 drops to half a drachm of carbolic acid or kreosote in the ounce of spermaceti ointment, either will promote healthy granulations in deep atonic ulcers and bed sores, and are sometimes of service in the latter stages of cutaneous lupus. A lotion of carbolic acid, 10 to 15 grains dissolved in a pint of water, to which glycerine and spirits of wine may be added, has been recommended for treating psoriasis; it is so difficult to apply lotions with any success when the eruption is extensive, that a solution is preferable of ten to twenty drops of carbolic acid, in two ounces of glycerine, lightly painted over the affected part with a small brush, at night, or night and morning. In an undiluted state, kreosote and carbolic acid will operate as rather powerful caustics; and as they destroy the tissues superficially, they are useful in arresting the extension of lupoid ulcers, applied,

to the edges and diseased surfaces of the sore; some consider their tar like odour objectionable, though they exert a decided influence in arresting putrefactive changes. If freely rubbed to the surface of the scalp they blister it, and are used for porrigo decalvans and the eruption of herpes tonsurans, after shaving off the hair; they penetrate the hair follicles to a certain extent, and are asserted to kill the parasitic vegetation which is supposed to be present. It is quite possible that a vegetative growth does exist in this form of herpes, though the investigations are not satisfactory on the subject: there can be no doubt of its existence in porrigo decalvans. When carbolic acid is too strong, its action is moderated by diluting with good glycerine to any required extent: weak solutions form a cleanly and efficient substitute for tar ointment.

The "huile de cade" is an empyreumatic product of dark color, obtained from the juniperus oxycedrus by a rough process of distillation; it resembles tar, and was long used in France in veterinary medicine. When first introduced into practice it was alleged to be a specific of unfailing power, and strongly recommended by M. Serres of Alais for obstinate squamous diseases, and in

eczema and impetigo when they become chronic. It is used in the form of weak ointment, or the oil is gently rubbed over the affected surface with a little lint or cotton wool, and after a few minutes removed, so as to leave merely a thin layer behind; the friction excites a moderate degree of heat and redness, which soon subsides, and ought to be repeated at intervals of two or three days. Beyond its comparative novelty, it has little advantage over other active terebinthines; its effects resemble those of carbolic acid when used undiluted; and, being a definite chemical product, the acid is much to be preferred.

Carbolic acid, when pure, crystallizes in white prisms; it will dissolve freely in alcohol, ether or glycerine, is partially soluble in glacial acetic acid, and requires a large portion of water for solution—100 parts taking up only three of carbolic acid, which is quite sufficient for all local uses as a lotion; when more concentrated solutions are required, its best solvent is glycerine.

CHAPTER IX.

ANODYNES, their value in treating affections of the skin. Opiates occasionally necessary during the acute eruptive fevers: given in small pox to relieve gastric disturbance, vomiting and lumbar pain; also in severe and confluent attacks, as the pustules fill and secondary fever is established. Treatment required at the same time. Purgatives in small pox. Opiates less useful with children: diarrhœa arising in the course of the acute exanthemata. Delirium occurring during the febrile eruptions and in erysipelas, and requiring to be treated with full anodynes. Irritative cough continuing after the decline of measles and scarlatina. Chronic eruptions:—Prurigo, its essentially neuralgic character; symptoms; different local and constitutional remedies recommended. Pruriginous affection resembling prickly heat. Lichen urticatus, its causes and treatment. Pruritus caused by pediculi, history of this affection. Comparative strength of opium and the morphia salts. Chlorodyne. Chloroform. The solanaceous anodynes.

THE medical preparations that are included under the class of anodynes afford us less assistance in treating cutaneous diseases than might be supposed. Opiates are employed to some extent in

the acute eruptive fevers, in which they are occasionally exhibited with decided beneficial results in relieving accidental or intercurrent symptoms; and to be prepared to use them in those affections to the best advantage, it is desirable to ascertain how far they are to be relied on, and the leading principles that regulate their administration and render it safe. Of the febrile exanthemata, anodynes are most often required in the course of small pox, from the dangerous height to which sympathetic constitutional disturbance and nervous irritation are liable to rise at any time during its progress, whenever the attack is accompanied by severe pyrexia, or assumes a confluent type; such cases can seldom be considered free from danger when occurring in persons who are unprotected by previous vaccination. In addition to the ordinary symptoms of fever that are to be expected, the patient, in the incipient stages of variola, will often suffer from continued and excessive nausea, or be exhausted by frequent distressing attacks of vomiting; this derangement of the stomach, which is obstinate and troublesome, can be relieved in many instances by sinapisms applied to the epigastrium, and small doses of morphia or laudanum, given at

short intervals with a little iced water or in a saline effervescing mixture; and should they fail, an anodyne enema will generally succeed in arresting it. The violent aching pains felt across the loins which are complained of during the first few days, and are most severe in aggravated forms of the disease, and in asthenic cases, are amongst the earlier distinctive symptoms of the malady: they appear to be seated in the nerves supplying the lumbar region, and when acute are a source of much restlessness, preventing the patient from sleeping. They cannot be considered at all inflammatory, and require no active depletory measures; on the contrary, they are best treated by using opiates, combined with diaphoretics, at bed-time, as Dover's powder, &c. and the rest which is procured in this manner has the advantage of promoting the favourable progress of the eruption. After the appearance of the rash, milder cases require little treatment beyond occasional gentle laxatives, the free use of cooling drinks, and light unirritating diet, composed chiefly of farinaceous articles, and of ripe fruits in the summer months, so long as there are much evidences of fever present; with the addition of animal broths, when the symptoms subside

and the eruption advances to maturity, or the patient's strength is found to demand more liberal support, when, perhaps, stimulants may become indispensable. The clothing should always be light, avoiding the risk of danger from chills or cold, and a plentiful supply of fresh air and free ventilation will contribute to promote a favorable recovery, in all acute febrile eruptions.

In attending severe modifications of small pox opiates become of essential service: we owe their introduction to Sydenham, who also has the merit of employing a cooling plan of treatment in this disease. He was in the habit of giving anodynes every night, to the "great advantage" of his patients, as he states, from the first appearance of the pustules until they commenced to decline and dry up; and the practice is still followed to a large extent, with equally favorable results; they are particularly useful where the patient complains of excessive irritation or of unpleasant heat and tension of the skin, or is suffering from nervous excitement, restlessness, and inability to sleep, provided that there are no evident symptoms of cerebral congestion or pulmonary disease discoverable to contra-indicate their employment.

The usual premonitory febrile symptoms which precede the appearance of the eruption are observed, in the majority of cases, to subside, either partially or to a considerable extent, so soon as the rash is thrown out, and after the pustules begin to fill, the fever returns with increased vigor; it is at this period there is most danger to be apprehended of serious internal inflammations of different organs; and opiates are almost always prescribed during this stage and through the remainder of the disease with decided benefit, as they relieve the constant annoyance caused by the suppurating process, from which the system suffers as if from the effects of an extensive and severe burn; the nervous excitement and fever sometimes induce a condition of excessive irritability and watchfulness, passing when neglected into delirium, and requiring the use of full anodynes for their relief, at the same time that stimulants and ample nourishment are given, as the strength must be supported so long as the suppuration continues. When using repeated opiates it becomes necessary, in most instances, to administer occasional brisk purgatives, to prevent the excessive constipation that may result; and they have the additional advantage, when

judiciously exhibited, of relieving the feverish symptoms. It is well understood in practice that opium is less required in treating the young than with adults and the aged, as they are not so liable to suffer from loss of sleep or from symptoms of nervous origin. The diarrhœa which frequently supervenes during the progress of all the acute exanthemata must be looked upon as beneficial, when within moderate limits, and requires no special treatment, unless it continues too long or exhausts the patient.

At any period in the course of the contagious eruptive fevers a description of delirium may become established, which is not of common occurrence, and presents several interesting points of resemblance with delirium tremens, though the previous habits of the patient have usually been strictly temperate: this is sometimes preceded by disturbed rest or complete inability to sleep for a few nights; he is noticed to be more excitable than usual, and disposed to talk continually, gradually a state of perfect delirium ensues, in which he fancies himself busily engaged, and is subject to delusions of different kinds, or he is attacked with violent mania, in which constant watching is necessary to prevent him

from doing mischief to himself or others, for no description of bodily restraint should be used under such circumstances, as it exerts an injurious influence upon the prospects of his recovery, and for the time increases the severity of the attack. Instances also occur of this delirium becoming suddenly developed without previous symptoms or warning, of which the following case affords a striking example.—A young gentleman, who was habitually most temperate, was attacked with severe scarlatina, in which he was progressing favorably, the eruption being well advanced, and near its termination; in the middle of the night he left his bed, declaring that persons were pursuing him for some imaginary crime, and that he could hear their voices outside the door and underneath the bed: he spoke in a nervous, excited manner, and his aspect was wild and frightened, yet his head felt cool, the pulse was quiet and free from hardness, the symptoms of sore throat subsiding, and there being no evidences of cerebral or other complication, it was decided to give him a full anodyne: after falling into a sound sleep he woke free from his delusions, and was soon convalescent. Delirium of similar character will occur in the course of

severe erysipelas of the head; this is an attack which might be mistaken for phrenitis, and the results of such an error would be serious; it presents none of the distinctive characters of true inflammation of the brain; and the nervous irritation or exhaustion in which the delirium originates is cured by a full opiate: it is necessary to prescribe such a dose as will secure a good night's rest, and in some instances it is better to repeat the treatment for a few nights in succession, to ensure complete recovery.

Towards the termination of an attack of measles, as the eruption is declining, the cough which accompanies it, in certain cases, instead of disappearing, becomes more severe, recurring in repeated and harrassing paroxysms; when this is ascertained not to depend on bronchitis or local pulmonary congestions, the loud distressing explosions of coughing are to be ascribed to irritation, and will be relieved by combining hyoscyamus, minute doses of chloric ether, or morphia with the usual expectorants, of which senega is the best; or temporary ease will follow the inhalation of a few drops of chloroform. In scarlatina the throat and tonsils may continue swollen for a considerable time after the rash disappears, provoking a

similar irritating cough in children, which subsides slowly as the local swelling decreases; this loud barking cough, by its severity and frequency, often excites unnecessary alarm; it is seldom accompanied by febrile symptoms, and the absence of all evident causes for it within the chest enables us to form a correct opinion of its nature: a combination of expectorants and anodynes will best relieve it, like the last described affection.

After thus briefly noticing some of the principal uses of anodynes in the acute eruptive diseases, the chronic eruptions follow, of which by far the most painful is prurigo: the numerous local affections described under this term, and possibly many of the cases of lichen as well, which are all classed with cutaneous affections, have much closer relations with the true neuroses, any occasional eruption that appears on the body being rather of accidental occurrence than constituting an invariable and essential feature in their history. The distressing sensations, described by the sufferers as amounting to positive agony, the loss of rest and mental annoyance which is endured, would seem particularly to indicate the use of anodynes as a mode of treatment; still, similar to other diseases of neuralgic origin, in practice they

offer little permanent advantage, affording at best a temporary and deceptive relief from pain; and the necessity there is with opiates of rapidly increasing their dose is another important objection to employing them. The following example of an aggravated case of prurigo is described, as it is an instructive instance of its assuming a purely neuralgic character, uncomplicated throughout its course by eruption or evidence of cutaneous disease. It occurred in a female of about 50 years of age; the attack was of unusual severity and became suddenly established: she attributed it to some anxiety of mind that led her to indulge in an unwonted bout of intoxication, and from that time the irritation of the pudenda was extreme, continuing day and night, whenever she was awake, she declared herself totally unable to resist the constant itching, which forced her to cry bitterly with pain; yet, repeated and careful examinations failed to detect any eruption or adequate cause to account for the irritation upon the external genitals or the mucous surface of the vagina, and there was no visible uterine disease. The remedies which were employed failed to give her more than temporary relief, though various anodynes were tried, and nitrate of silver applied

with unsparing freedom: at last, despairing of recovery, she committed suicide by throwing herself down a steep area, which caused fatal cerebral concussion and fracture of the pelvis. When the uterus was examined, a portion of its cavity was found obliterated by old and firm adhesions, and the fallopian tubes were closed in different parts by similar bands, the result of long standing changes; but the most searching examination could detect no trace of papulæ or lesion of the vaginal mucous membrane to which the irritation she had complained of could be ascribed.

In the treatment of these distressing cases local anodynes deserve a fair trial—such as lotions containing tincture of aconite, extract of belladonna or opiates, laurel water, prussic acid or cyanide of potassium; the latter must be used with caution, as every five grains of the pure salt are equivalent to a drachm of medicinal prussic acid; calomel ointment, and afterwards a dusting powder of camphor, with four or six parts of starch, is sometimes of service; cerates and lotions containing kreosote or carbolic acid, and every variety of tar in ointment, have been recommended, also solutions of lead or of the soluble mercurial salts; powerful local irritants are occasionally tried; I

have already mentioned the liberal use of a strong solution of nitrate of silver; it must be applied over all the affected parts to secure a favorable result, or the solid stick of lunar caustic used in its stead: compound tincture of iodine is employed in a similar manner; and Dr. Erasmus Wilson advises counter-irritation with a tincture of the seeds of croton tiglium, consisting of one ounce of the seeds macerated in four ounces of alcohol. The vapor of carbonic acid or of chloroform hold out some prospects at least of giving temporary relief; chloroform should seldom be applied in ointment, as it is burningly painful and would blister. It will be seen that innumerable applications of the most diverse character are recommended for prurigo, which may always be accepted as an evidence in medicine that the disease is rebellious to treatment, rather than a proof of the efficacy or certainty of the remedy, and possibly, also, that it depends on different and deep-seated constitutional causes difficult to reach by topical means. As there is so much reason for believing that pruritus is essentially a nervous affection, constitutional treatment should be fairly tried, such as small repeated doses of strychnia, or the alterative effects of Fowler's

or Donovan's solution; and the state of the digestive organs, liver, and uterus must always be attended to, as being of primary importance.

I have observed a few examples of an affection that resembles the descriptions which are given of the prickly heat of the tropics; it occurred in delicate children of nervous disposition, who suffered from intense itchiness of the back and limbs during the night, or when they became heated or warm in bed; minute irritable papulæ could be noticed at such times rising on the skin, which they tore with their nails until they were covered with numerous scars. Small doses of the chloride of mercury, dissolved in tincture of bark, were of service in improving the health, and promoted recovery; tepid bran baths were also tried, and the best local application appeared to be cold cream. In connection with this may be mentioned a troublesome irritation which is occasionally met in patients who are negligent of personal cleanliness, and persist in wearing woollens next the skin for lengthened periods: in most of those cases, likewise, an eruption of papulæ of small size will occur, which become lacerated by the patient's nails until they bleed, and the itching is complained of more when they are warm or in bed.

This form of lichen is seldom seen in the young, attacking the aged in preference, and those who are obliged to work at hot fires or in confined localities. A few hot baths, with soap, the substitution of linen, silk, or cotton next the skin, instead of flannel, and, should the health require it, the use of tonics, such as quinine with dilute mineral acids, will generally effect a cure : the itching is relieved by using a dilute citrine ointment, or aconite liniment.

Distressing and obstinate pruritus will originate from another distinct cause, namely, the disgusting and fortunately rare appearance of swarms of pediculi. These creatures are capable of multiplying with astonishing rapidity under peculiar circumstances, such as occasionally with elderly persons and patients suffering from advanced tabes or other chronic diseases ; and every one has heard repeated stories of individuals who have died victims of their supposed marvellous production from the cutis itself. The wide-spread delusion that exists on this subject is capable of an easy explanation, as the following case shews, where a gentleman of great practical experience had personally to superintend the toilet of an elderly female before he could discover the persistent

cause of their presence; her hair was closely shaved, she had taken frequent warm baths, and changed her clothes repeatedly, yet the insects continued to make their appearance in numbers; after having all the ordinary garments removed, an old rupture belt became visible, which had remained undisturbed on her as a fixture for years; its abstraction destroyed the head quarters of the swarming colonies, and resulted in their permanent disappearance, as might be expected. The vast numbers which are observed in such cases are sufficiently accounted for by their great fecundity, without our being called on to believe the absurdities of spontaneous generation. Weak mercurial lotions and ointments are an effectual means of destroying pediculi in cases that are less severe.

The topical uses to which anodynes can be applied for cutaneous affections are far from numerous; erysipelatous and acute eczematous rashes are sometimes relieved by frequent stuping with a warm decoction of poppies, or by hot water medicated with laudanum. Aconite, from its decided influence in assuaging nervous pain, deserves to be mentioned with other topical remedies. The liniment is an energetic preparation; it proves useful in eruptions attended with extreme

sensibility of the skin. Fleming speaks favorably of aconite tincture for relieving pruritus and the itching of chilblains; it must not be used when the skin is broken in the latter affection, in which case a lead lotion answers better, or if ulcers form, dressing with zinc ointment. In some painful superficial bed-sores, a watery solution of opium will be found one of our best means of giving relief.

When prescribing anodynes internally, the preparations of opium, as the wine or tincture, or the solution of morphia, are usually chosen; I do not think that the muriate or sulphate of morphia can be considered more than about four times as strong as good Turkey opium; hence, in practice, assuming one grain of opium, or its equivalent in solution, to be an average dose, then one-fourth of a grain of a morphia salt is its representative. Chlorodyne is a reliable anodyne in doses of ten to twenty-five drops, which rarely disagrees, but its secret character is objectionable. Chloroform requires to be prescribed in doses of 30 to 40 drops or upwards, to secure the full effects it is capable of producing; the spirit of chloroform, containing one part of chloroform dissolved in nineteen of spirit of wine, is too

dilute for this purpose, though of service as a diffusible stimulant. In liniments it is seldom employed, unless in a few cases of lichen urticatus and prurigo; the solution of the pharmacopæia in olive oil is a good formula for external use, which can be medicated by dissolving the active alkaloids, veratrine, atropine, or aconitine in the chloroform before adding it to the oil, affording energetic substitutes for ointments of any desired strength. The preparations of the solanaceous plants are little used; extract of belladonna is sometimes applied for relieving local pruritus; its asserted influence in preventing scarlatina is as groundless as other homœopathic statements. Hyoscyamus cannot always be depended on, it is, however, of service in some cases when opiates disagree, but full doses of its tincture, as ʒij , or upwards, must be given to obtain appreciable results. Dilute hydrocyanic acid is seldom required unless for lotions; it is recommended in the same diseases as aconite, and applied with advantage in rosy acne and sycosis, when the face feels smarting and painful; it can be prescribed in emulsion of bitter almonds, or solution of diacetate of lead; ʒij will suffice for an eight-ounce lotion.

CHAPTER X.

EMOLLIENTS. Glycerine, its valuable properties as an emollient, and its uses as a solvent for medical substances. Preparation of glycerine plasma, or glycerole, its uses and advantages. Tests for the purity of glycerine. Employment in lotions and external applications. Solubility of various substances in it; borax, iodine, and the iodides, red iodide of mercury, &c. Compounds of kreosote, carbolic acid and tar in glycerine or plasma, used in psoriasis and other eruptions. M. Demarquay's statement that glycerine diminishes purulent secretion. Use of glycerine in erysipelas, small-pox and herpetic eruptions; to soften purulent secretions. Oleaginous emollients, injurious in some instances; should be free from rancidity. Cold cream, its uses; cucumber and melon cream; zinc cream; camphor paste; uses of cerates and ointments.

GLYCERINE has become largely employed of late years as a domestic remedy to heal superficial burns, excoriations, and erythematous affections, and for applying to chapped and tender surfaces. It is used as a therapeutic agent with two distinct objects; primarily as an emollient, and still

more usefully as a solvent and vehicle for different active substances. Its bland and unirritating properties render it a decided favorite; it is used in several ways in treating cutaneous diseases; undiluted it is gently rubbed over the affected part, or kept in close apposition with it by means of pledgets of moistened lint, or added to poultices to prevent them from becoming too hard and dry; there is also a plasma or glycerole made resembling thick arrowroot jelly, by combining it with amylaceous substances, to prepare which a drachm or more of dry potato starch or arrowroot is blended with a little water, two ounces of glycerine added, and all triturated well together, and gently warmed until it becomes a soft translucent mass: this plasma is found to relieve the heat and itching of many eruptive affections, it adheres to the skin, keeps it always moistened, and preserves the surface clean and free from scabs or purulent incrustations; it can also be applied as an efficient and cleanly poultice to delicate parts. The special advantages which glycerine plasma appears to have over ointments are its freedom from unpleasant odour, its being readily miscible with water, and easy to wash off, producing none of those stains and discolorations of the linen which greasy

applications will do; but it is difficult to keep and liable to become mouldy.

The best glycerine is that prepared by Price's Patent Candle Company, which is always to be relied on: as it is indispensable that only a chemically pure preparation is employed in medicine, it is necessary to examine it when obtained from other sources, to ascertain its freedom from salts of lead or chlorides; rubbed on the hand, it ought to remain totally free from all unpleasant mouse like smell, which is caused by the occasional presence of fatty volatile acids. The extensive commercial demand for glycerine has led to serious adulterations. I have seen uncrystallized grape sugar sold instead of it—a substitution in no respect to be justified; it is perfectly worthless as a remedy.

As a vehicle for more active medical substances, glycerine becomes of special service in practice; and such are its remarkable solvent effects upon chemical and vegetable bodies, that it is difficult at present to assign limits to its possible applications. When added to washes and lotions it will prevent their rapid dessication; and though it exerts little direct influence beyond aiding in excluding the air and keeping the affected part con-

stantly moistened, this itself proves of advantage, and will often heal simple fissures of the lips and chapped and tender nipples; in the latter case, when more energetic local treatment is considered necessary, the glycerine is medicated by dissolving alum or tannin in it, or by the addition of an equal amount of brandy. The fixed oils or greasy unguents are not properly miscible with glycerine, which after a time gradually separates from them like drops of water; this is more than compensated for by its dissolving the metallic salts, much in the same manner, and nearly to the same extent, as distilled water is capable of doing; thus, for example, it freely takes up borax, and the solution, diluted to any requisite strength, is useful in those affections where alkaline lotions are of service, as for eczematous and impetiginous attacks, as an occasional wash, or applied constantly to the excoriated surface upon lint. Solutions containing iodine and iodide of potassium are prepared in every proportion, in glycerine similar to spirit of wine, and are preferable in many cases for external use, the absorption of the iodine being favored by the persistent moisture of the glycerine. The great solubility of red iodide of mercury in this fluid enables us to em-

ploy it of any desired degree of concentration; when dilute acting as a gentle local stimulant, or if strong as a powerful irritant and caustic. Glycerine is capable of taking up one fifth its weight of arsenious acid, or one half of chloride of zinc, forming energetic destructive compounds, likely to be of service in lupoid ulcers, &c. Preparations containing the salts of morphia, aconitine, and other alkaloids have already been employed with beneficial results in general practice, and are well suited for external use in treating cutaneous disease, as they can be prepared of definite strength, and are clean and manageable. Kreosote, carbolic acid, and tar are all soluble in glycerine, and mix thoroughly with the plasma of starch; they are recommended in cases of psoriasis and inveterate lichen in the same manner as tar ointment; this plasma also constitutes a convenient vehicle for almost all these numerous substances ordinarily added to our ointments. M. Demarquay claims for pure glycerine the property of diminishing the amount of purulent secretion from ulcers, and of modifying the unhealthy character of many secreting surfaces, which, if established, would prove of great value in therapeutics. A few alone of its principal applications in skin dis-

eases need be briefly mentioned; in erysipelas it is advised to allay the smarting pain and burning sensations which attend the eruption, and also during the eruptive stage of small pox, and whilst the pustules are becoming filled; for herpetic attacks, particularly herpes zoster and circinatus; to loosen the desquamations in the scaly affections, and relieve the distressing irritation of prurigo and lichen. For lupoid, strumous, rupic and similar ulcerations, where scabs and incrustations readily form, glycerine is recommended for softening and removing the purulent crusts, and after their removal keeps the surface moist and healthy, it is applied on pledgets of lint, after the manner of water dressing, and covered over with gutta percha paper or a layer of dry lint, to prevent it from soiling the dress, though the stains it causes are easily removed by washing.

The different oleaginous substances, fixed animal and vegetable oils, simple ointments and cerates, cold cream, cucumber cream, and similar preparations may be considered under one class; they are more prized as cosmetics for toilet use than in the treatment of cutaneous disease, though filling important places as vehicles for other substances: certain affections, as herpes and

acute eczema, will not tolerate greasy applications; and I have known boils decidedly aggravated by their use. When the pain of an eruption is scalding, like that of boiling water, they are seldom found to answer, whilst glycerine or watery applications will be borne, or some dry powder, as starch, or oxide of zinc. When greasy materials are selected, they must be used fresh and free from rancidity, as the contact of stale and rancid fats with ulcerated or abraded surfaces increases local irritation, and erysipelatous attacks are liable to follow. The tendency to change in fatty matters is greatly favored by the presence of water and by free exposure to air, whilst a little benzoin or benzoic acid will counteract it, and the addition is seldom objectionable.

Fresh and well made cold cream, the ceratum Galeni of old writers, is a grateful application to excoriated surfaces; its soft consistence and pleasing perfume make it a favorite where slight expense is not objected to; it allays the chapping and smarting caused by exposure to inclement weather or to the burning summer sun, and renders the desquamation of cuticle over the face and lips less painful; it is sometimes applied to the face in erysipelas and small pox, to relieve the

heat and tension, but its therapeutic effects are not greater than those of other oleaginous bodies, and it is liable to become rancid, if long kept, from the presence of the rose-water incorporated with it.

Cucumber cream, is a favorite American preparation, of the same nature as cold cream: it is easily prepared by melting almond oil with wax and spermaceti, to render it of proper consistence, and blending all intimately with the expressed juice of fresh cucumbers, after gently heating, to coagulate the albuminous and green coloring material which is to be removed. A melon cream is made in a similar manner: neither possess any advantage beyond that of good cold cream.

The zinc cream of the shops, if of good quality, is sometimes a most useful dressing for the eruptions of young children, in cases of impetigo and eczema. It is impossible to be too careful in avoiding all irritating applications in those instances where the skin is tender and disposed to develop erythematous rashes, when treated with damp poultices or ordinary cerates.

Camphor, dissolved in oleaginous substances, is a more efficient remedy for removing chaps from the hands, &c., and for preventing their

appearance in winter than cold cream, though less fashionable, and therefore less used.

All simple ointments and cerates should act as bland dressings, excluding the air from suppurating surfaces, and preventing the formation of scabs; they have no special therapeutic properties, and can only operate by permitting the process of suppuration to continue undisturbed; they are seldom necessary in treating eruptions, unless to repair ulceration or heal discharging sores. When ointments are rendered medicinal by the addition of active salts or vegetable extracts, their employment will depend altogether on the nature of their constituents, and is best considered in connexion with them.

CHAPTER XI.

DESICCANTS, their uses. Preparations of lead; safest modes of employing them. Oxide and carbonate of zinc. Dusting powders; violet powder. Soluble salts of zinc. Starch useful as an absorbent in erysipelas, small-pox, &c. Different forms of erythema; its exciting causes and symptoms; mode of treatment. Eczema solare. Ulcerations after erythema. Trisnitrate of bismuth, its properties. Varieties of herpes, their local treatment. Herpes labialis. H: circinatus and H: zoster. Prurigo. Use of camphor in powder. Application of dusting powders.

DESICCANTS are employed to absorb serous or purulent discharges, and for drying tender and excoriated surfaces; they chiefly consist of different farinaceous substances, and several of the salts of lead, zinc, and bismuth; of those the most powerful and direct astringents are preparations of lead, such as the oxide or litharge, the acetate of lead, the solution of the diacetate, and the carbonate or

white lead; all of which have enjoyed some popularity in treating the chafings and excoriations of the skin of infants and young children; none of the compounds of this metal are free from the danger of becoming absorbed, if carelessly used, which should exclude them from practice, unless in exceptional cases; and when the carbonate or acetate of lead are applied as dusting powders, it is better to mix them with a large quantity of starch or other amylaceous material, which diminishes the risk incurred by using them in a concentrated state to any suppurating or abraded part that is at all extensive, though I believe the danger is much less than is often supposed of really serious symptoms being thus produced.

The preparations of zinc are not open to this objection, and as desiccants require to be largely used by nurses, it is important that they should, if possible, be composed of harmless substances. The oxide of zinc is perfectly safe: for forming a dusting powder it is combined with two to eight parts of finely powdered starch, or of arrowroot, to which one part of Florentine iris powder may be added, for its agreeable odour; or, instead of these, the violet powder, sold in packets, is mixed

with it, which has a closely similar composition; pure white carbonate of zinc has the same absorbent effects as the oxide, for which it can be substituted; the impure carbonate or calamine is too much adulterated to be relied on, rarely containing any zinc whatever. The acetate and sulphate of zinc are likewise employed occasionally in weak solutions as local astringents, but less often than the dusting powders, which are found of the greatest service in the treatment of erythematous affections, superficial excoriations and eczematous rashes. When the affected surface is too dry for the powder to adhere, it is necessary to damp it with weak mucilage of tragacanth or thin gruel, or, better still, with a little glycerine; and in eczema, when there are adherent thick crusts or scabs, they require to be removed by poultices before covering the part with the powder.

Fine starch or violet powder constitutes the best local application in cases of erysipelas, small pox, herpes zoster, and similar eruptions where a bland unirritating absorbent is required. In severe attacks of confluent small pox, or of acute eczema, the sheets should be freely dredged with starch powder or flour to prevent them from

adhering to the patient and for drying up the morbid secretion as it becomes poured out.

The erythematous affections termed intertrigo are observed to occur at every period of life, though most common in the very young. They originate in many ways; the prolonged contact and friction of cutaneous surfaces, as the breasts, axilla, groins, or scrotum often produces it in persons who are fair and have delicate skins, or are overloaded with flesh; neglected and acrid discharges also, from mucous membranes, as the vagina, are liable to excite extensive excoriations of the inside of the thighs and abdomen. Erythema not unfrequently follows exposure of the face or hands to intense solar heat, in which case, if severe, the eruption may become vesicular, constituting the true *eczema solare*: it is also well known to be excited by the unaccustomed irritation of hard walking or riding, which will strip the skin, and produce painful chafings; and infants are liable to suffer from recurring excoriations during dentition, or whenever the stomach becomes deranged; the folds of the neck, the clefts of the limbs, and behind the ears becoming red and tender, sometimes forming superficial ulcerations, unless the surface of the body is kept

perfectly dry, and requiring scrupulous attention to cleanliness. The parts which are affected with erythema are at first of a vivid pink or red color, dispersed in irregular patches, they soon become moist and raw, or denuded of cuticle as if blistered with cantharides, and pour out an acrid serous fluid, or an offensive sour-smelling sero-purulent secretion; when the disease is severe and extensive it is attended with sensations of burning character, or of smarting and itching, which may or may not be accompanied by some slight febrile symptoms; should this occur in adults, rest and saline purgatives are necessary. The excoriated parts are best treated with frequent applications of weak alkaline lotions, as borax, or washed with equal quantities of milk and lime water; the surface is then dried without rubbing it, by a soft cloth, and thickly dusted over with the oxide of zinc and starch powder; and when more powerful astringents are required, weak tannin washes, or lotions of the acetate or sulphate of zinc, or a very dilute lead lotion, may be employed. In treating infants mild purgatives are often of service, and antacids, especially preparations of magnesia. Erythematous affections will sometimes degenerate into painful superficial ulcerations,

from want of proper care, or in individuals who have unusually tender skins; they heal with water dressing, or bread and water poultices; opiate lotions are also a good application, but are only suited for adults.

Trisnitrate of bismuth can be used in the same manner as oxide of zinc: it is more expensive and not more energetic in its effects. Recent attacks of labial herpes will often dry up rapidly if the vesicles are covered with the powder of kamela; if too advanced for this, glycerine or cold cream is the best application; it is liable to be accompanied by smart febrile symptoms, which subside soon after the eruption appears; and though generally a trivial affection, and requiring little or no treatment, it acquires importance when it arises during the course of pulmonary inflammation, in which it may either mark the decline of the internal disease, by appearing as the symptoms are improving, or becoming black, rapidly spreading, and ulcerating into an unhealthy sore, should the affection of the lungs assume an asthenic and dangerous character. For checking the progress of herpes circinatus, I prefer a weak ointment of red iodide of mercury rubbed over the spots of the eruption: common ink is a popu-

lar remedy for this complaint, and is often successful in removing it. In herpes zoster a warm solution of subacetate of lead greatly relieves the burning sensations of pain, when severe; if less acute, any dry absorbing powder answers for covering the rash, and a layer of soft cotton wool will protect it from friction.

In treating prurigo of the anus or pudenda, finely pulverized camphor is sometimes employed; it is mixed with six or eight parts of rice or potato starch, and requires to be used at least three or four times in the day; a small quantity of acetate or carbonate of lead increases its usefulness; and an ointment of calomel is recommended previous to applying the powder: this mode of treatment is so highly spoken of that it is worth a fair trial.

The best mode of distributing absorbent powders in a uniform manner is with an ordinary powder puff, which is preferable to dusting them out of a muslin bag; should it be necessary to apply them extensively, a small dredging box or finely pierced pepper castor will be found most convenient.

CHAPTER XII.

WATER, its action considered as a depurating agent; useful in explaining the benefits resulting from some celebrated springs. Mineral waters which possess additional therapeutic properties from their saline and gaseous constituents. Sulphurous waters, their uses and rules for employing them internally. Alkaline and chalybeate springs. Foreign Watering places. Habitual bathing, its influence considered in preventing diseases of the skin. Cold baths of little use in treatment. Tepid baths employed for lepra, acne, &c. Formulas for preparing medicated baths. Emollient and alkaline baths, their principal uses. Sulphuretted mineral waters and sulphur baths, their remedial properties and best modes of employing them: precautions to be observed. Sponging with cold water, its advantages in the exanthemata. Vapor and hot baths useful in relieving many intercurrent symptoms. Danger of repressing the eruption. Congestive visceral complications. Strophulus. Description of different forms of red and white gum; its symptoms and treatment. Herpes præputialis, its medical history.

IN a work of this nature it is unnecessary to enter upon any examination of the alleged merits of rival systems of baths, or to describe the special uses of innumerable mineral springs: so far as

they bear upon the treatment of cutaneous disease their effects may be briefly stated.

Pure water does possess certain important qualities as a depurating agent: when a few tumblerfuls are taken it becomes absorbed, and, passing off rapidly through the kidneys, carries with it a proportion of saline and animal matters in excess of the amount discharged by the ordinary secretion; and the repetition of this eliminating process is capable of producing a marked and beneficial result in the treatment of properly selected cases, by aiding the metamorphosis of tissue which is constantly going forward, and by subsequent removal of the altered materials from the blood, as they are set free. It is to the improvement in the assimilating and secreting functions, consequent upon this elimination, that a large part of the permanent benefit is to be ascribed that results from a well directed course of mineral waters; without undervaluing the advantages which are derived from the active exercise and temperate habits which it is customary to adopt at watering places, in addition to the total change of scene and air, and relaxation of the mind from harassing cares, all of which contribute their share to the the patient's recovery and well-being.

When celebrated mineral springs are ascertained to afford on analysis so small an amount of active chemical salts, that their distinctive character becomes based on the absolute purity of the water, their remedial action, if admitted to be real, must be due either to the purifying effects of the aqueous fluid itself, or those other agencies implied in a visit to a distant watering place or in a foreign tour, as it is impossible to ascribe any importance whatever to the presence of minute quantities of saline matter, less by far than we find in many drinking waters; in other instances, and these the greater number, constituents of known energy are invariably present, in sufficient abundance, to exert a decided influence upon the health, and materially enhance the effects of the pure water as a therapeutic agent: thus the mineral springs which are charged with sulphuretted hydrogen and purgative salts, as Harrowgate Bareges or Aix la Chapelle, are of service, because of their saline and sulphurous components, in removing obstinate impetiginous and squamous affections, which recur frequently or resist the use of ordinary remedies. The stronger sulphurous waters are too active and stimulant to be trifled with, and ought always to be taken under

medical advice, as their incautious employment internally is liable to induce dangerous hepatic derangements, or to increase the intensity of the skin disease: baths of such waters are highly recommended in chronic eruptions; their effects are identical with solutions containing sulphuret of potash, under which head their properties will be considered. Again the alkaline waters, such as Vichy and many of the Rhine springs, are indicated when there is a constitutional tendency to gout, or in those persons where it alternates with eruptions of different kinds, as occasionally in cases of prurigo, some of the scaly affections, and in chronic eczemas; and chalybeate waters for treating certain forms of acne, and generally whenever symptoms of chlorosis exist in connexion with morbid states of the skin. When it is considered advisable to make trial of the effects of foreign mineral springs, it is not difficult to form an idea of the locality that is most likely to suit, and of the class of waters we wish to employ, the decision of the special spring should, as far as possible be left in the hands of some of the local physicians of the larger continental towns where the patient may be first directed, as their practice

consists to a great extent in investigating the comparative merits of different spas, and regulating their application so as to produce the desired results in the best and shortest way. Of course, at all celebrated springs there are medical attendants to carry out the treatment.

It is often asked whether habitual bathing will prevent the occurrence of cutaneous affections; in replying to this question, apart from theory and in a practical point of view, it is impossible to assert that any such influence is perceptible; there are no means yet discovered which will secure immunity from those eruptions that spread by contagion; and the non-infectious forms are found to attack persons who bathe quite as frequently and severely as others. The advantages resulting from bathing are extreme on the side of personal cleanliness; but in the lower ranks of society when this is least attended to, their poverty and the deficiency of wholesome food are sufficient to account for the prevalence of such diseases, with the development of which they have far more to do than the neglect of ablutions; once they are established, careless and dirty habits are most efficient in aggravating them, and in pre-

venting the success of the best directed efforts for their removal.

Cold bathing is never recommended during acute attacks of eruptive maladies; for if the rash is suddenly suppressed, dangerous internal congestions may be expected to occur; nor in those affections that are essentially chronic, is it of great service; on the contrary, a residence in the vicinity of the sea, or frequent exposure to damp sea breezes are more likely to prove injurious than advantageous, retarding the progress of recovery, should the severity of the symptoms not become increased.

Tepid bathing is less objectionable, and has special uses in practice; thus it is employed to increase the cutaneous secretion when the skin feels harsh and dry, as in lepra or psoriasis of long duration, for where these scaly eruptions are of recent origin, warm baths augment the local irritation that often accompanies them, and intensify the diseased state. In simple acne appearing in young persons, the action of the sebaceous follicles is supposed to be stimulated by frequent tepid bathings; so far as cleansing the skin they do so more perfectly than ordinary lotions can accomplish; in the latter affection and in ichthy-

osis a prolonged use of the tepid bath for many hours daily, after the manner practised at some continental watering-places, must be preferable to the brief immersions for a quarter of an hour or less, which are customary with our bathers, but time is so valuable here that it is impossible to prevail on them to give the plan a fair trial. Where a bath is protracted, the temperature requires to be sustained by the addition of heated water at intervals, or the constant flowing of a tepid mineral spring.

Amongst the various descriptions of medicated baths that are constantly prescribed, the class which are emollient can be grouped together with advantage; they are prepared by adding to warm water, at a suitable heat, a quantity of fresh size, or, better still, dissolved gelatine or good glue, or different farinaceous materials are employed, as potato or rice starch, previously boiled to the consistence of thin gruel, or a sufficiency of fine bran or oatmeal flour. As an ordinary bath is assumed to contain from fifteen to twenty gallons of water, one pound of gelatine will suffice for that quantity, or from two to three pounds of any starch. Alkaline baths are formed by dissolving from four to eight ounces of carbonate of soda or two

pounds of yellow soap, in a similar manner, in water. Either of these remedies, or a combination of the emollient and alkaline formulas, are prescribed to relieve the local irritation and tenderness present in many sub-acute eruptions, as impetigo and eczema, when recent or occupying extensive surfaces, and also psoriasis; and the alkaline baths specially for lichen, prurigo, persistent attacks of urticaria and the squamous affections. By far the most useful of the medicated baths are those of sulphur, usually prepared by adding from half an ounce to an ounce of recently made sulphuret of potash to every five gallons of warm water: this substance, formerly known as liver of sulphur, must be of good quality, when it is hard and free from odour till moistened: in solution it evolves sulphuretted hydrogen in great abundance, precipitates a finely divided milky deposit of sulphur, and forms a weak alkaline solution of potash in the water; the combination of such agents constituting its claims as a medical remedy; when the bath is employed, it is better to begin with weaker strengths, and gradually increase them, should the surface of the body be extensively excoriated or sensitive: the patient should be guarded from respiring the gaseous

exhalations that escape, as they are most injurious; above all, his head must not be covered by blankets or clothes thrown over the top of the bath. Sulphur baths effectually remove the brass-colored stains of pityriasis versicolor, for which they may be given every second or third night: when the spots are limited in extent, lotions of sulphate of zinc are stated to be of service; I have never found it necessary to employ them. In applying sulphur or any of its preparations in ointments or baths, it may almost be taken as a rule that where there is pain of a burning or smarting character complained of they will usually disagree, and increase the local suffering, whilst they relieve pruriginous sensations and the lesions that accompany them. Glue or gelatine is sometimes added to the sulphurous bath, in imitation of a glutinous substance contained in the water of the Bareges spring; it seems to increase its efficacy little or nothing. It is hardly necessary to say that the effect of native sulphur springs, when used locally, are very similar to that of a solution of sulphuret of potash; both are mild topical stimulants, much employed in the treatment of psoriasis, and occasionally in chronic impetigo and eczema.

In scarlatina, when the eruption is fully out,

and less frequently in cases of measles, repeated spongings with cold water, or with vinegar and water, are applied over the entire surface, to allay the feeling of burning heat and to promote rest and comfort; cold affusion has been recommended, but simple sponging will suffice for most cases, and is less liable to cause chills: this treatment is best suited for young persons of good constitution; when the febrile symptoms run high, the skin is pungently hot, and there are no important complications to be dreaded; it is not advisable in malignant forms of scarlatina, or when there is angina, much ulceration of the throat, or swelling about the neck: the sensations of the patient afford a good indication for using it in doubtful cases, as it appears to be of service in proportion as its repetition is pleasant and refreshing. When sponging the body it is better to go over a portion rapidly, and dry this before another part is exposed, which lessens the danger of cold; and the operation can be repeated every hour or two with advantage. After the eruption of scarlatina has run its course, a few warm or vapour baths will promote the desquamation of the skin, prevent or relieve subsequent dropsical attacks, and ease the wandering rheumatic pains which are often

a source of considerable distress as the fever is subsiding: these, however, are subjects that do not require further consideration here, as they belong to the department of general medicine.

Hot baths are used at as high a temperature as it is possible to tolerate without inconvenience, for relieving accidental symptoms in the course of the exanthemata: thus they constitute an important part of the treatment of those convulsive seizures which sometimes usher in an attack of measles, &c. especially in the early periods of life; and also when the eruption of scarlatina or of measles is developed in an imperfect and partial manner, consisting of irregular scattered patches, resembling stains of dark red or livid color, or when it suddenly recedes from any cause, and at the same time serious congestive affections occur of the internal organs, as the brain or lungs; or, again, when the patient, from the commencement of his illness, lies sunk in a cold and drowsy state, the pulse rapid, and the system so depressed, by the intensity of the blood poisoning, as to be unable to throw out the rash; under all those circumstances one of the readiest means of promoting determination to the skin is by immersion for some minutes in very warm water, which may

be made more energetic by the addition of mustard. Wine, ammonia, and other diffusible stimulants are usually indispensable to secure proper reaction in those formidable attacks, and as the subsequent fever may be expected to rise high in proportion to the amount of the previous depression, some care is necessary not to increase its severity by too liberal a use of our remedies.

Strophulus, better known by its common name with nurses, of "red and white gum;" is distinguished by the papular elevations that suddenly make their appearance over the body; most conspicuous when they occupy the face or hands. It comes out in repeated crops at short intervals, or will remain permanent, lasting for weeks, with alternate exacerbations and subsidences of the rash. This is essentially a disease of infancy, and though often noticed during dentition, or when there is some accidental disturbance of the stomach and bowels, or general health, is also met occurring shortly after birth, and where there is no evident or obvious cause to which its presence can be ascribed. The characters of strophulus, as an eruption, vary within wide limits; thus the papulæ may be minute, slightly elevated, and consisting of indurated white spots; or they are large sized,

shining, and distinct, when they constitute the well marked subdivision "candidus:" at other times they assume a bright pink or red color, and are of small size, few in number, or thickly distributed, either separate, or dispersed in scattered groups, which may be accompanied by some degree of surrounding erythema. Some infants, to all appearance, suffer no annoyance from the presence of this affection, others are rendered restless, and seem distressed with constant heat and itching of the skin; in the latter case their clothing should be made as light and unirritating as possible, and all inner flannel garments at once removed; which, with occasional mild aperients and antacids, is sufficient for treating most of these attacks, with, perhaps, the aid of a tepid bath, to which some carbonate of soda, borax or bran is a good addition. When the disease is obstinate, and the child suffers in health, a total change of nursing will be requisite, and the food must in no case be unwholesome or too abundant in quantity.

Simple water dressing is useful in some forms of eczema that are free from heat and scalding, and have lasted sufficiently long to be at least sub-acute; extensive patches are occasionally removed by this means alone; it must be kept con-

stantly wet with three or four plies of moist lint, and a folded silk handkerchief over all: a little glycerine added to the water renders it less liable to dry up, and when the lint is changed it must be thoroughly damped to detach it from the sore.

For herpes præputialis the simplest applications answer best; it soon heals with water dressing; if kept continually moist; but all forms of medicated lotions are injurious, and ointments still worse. This eruption and its ulcerated sequelæ are often mistaken for primary syphilis, and as it frequently appears after suspicious intercourse, there is sometimes a difficulty in arriving at a diagnosis; but herpes will usually shew itself within twelve to thirty-six hours, and a specific sore seldom attracts attention sooner than a week: a few days treatment with cold water will clear up all doubts, whilst caustics and irritants of every kind are liable to convert herpes into a troublesome chronic ulcer, and perhaps cause such a degree of induration as materially increases the difficulty of forming a correct opinion when it is seen for the first time; and as in cases of this description there is nothing incompatible in the occurrence of herpes and syphilis together, a guarded prognosis must be given until there is no longer reason for alarm.

CHAPTER XIII.

POULTICES, their advantages : useful for applying moisture and heat ; to remove scabs and relieve irritation. Linseed meal will excite cutaneous eruptions unless fresh. Bread poultices ; boiled rice ; glycerine plasma ; water dressing ; their uses. Alkaline and opiate applications. Impetigo often aggravated by moisture. Ease with which favus disappears after poulticing. Acute eruptions ; herpes ; pemphigus, &c. require to be protected from pressure. Cotton wadding, its application ; used for dressing blisters.

THE different forms of poultices in use and their effects do not require any lengthened consideration ; they are intended to act as media for applying moisture, combined with moderate heat, and when of large size are to some extent similar to a local vapor bath ; for the comfort of the patient they should be made as light as possible, and often renewed, to maintain a sufficient degree of warmth : the chief uses for which they are employed is to soften and remove scabs

and incrustations, to relieve feelings of topical irritation and heat, and sometimes to promote granulations, as in lupoid sores.

Linseed meal forms an adhesive and easily prepared poultice; and, when the meal can be got fresh, is unobjectionable; but it is liable, if long kept, to become rancid, and will then excite painful erythematous and pustular inflammations of the skin that are most injurious in treating cutaneous eruptions. Properly made poultices of bread, prepared by soaking for a short time fragments of stale bread in boiling water, and expressing the excess of water, to form a soft mass that will not crumble, is an efficient and cleanly preparation, and always readily procured. Well boiled rice, also, though more difficult to obtain, has the advantage of making a clean and neat poultice, that is quite free from any tendency to irritate the tenderest skin. Well made glycerine plasma may be considered another form of poultice; it is useful for limited surfaces, and may be applied where an ordinary dressing is hard to retain in its place. For affections of the scalp, and occasionally in eczema, water-dressing is sometimes substituted for poulticing, with advantage; a layer or two of lint, saturated with water, is laid over the part, and

covered with dry lint or thin gutta percha paper, to prevent evaporation, which is better than oiled silk, as the latter retains the heat over much: the water may be medicated, if necessary, with a small quantity of carbonate of soda; and when the hairs become closely matted with serous or purulent secretion, as in impetigo, sycosis, and eczema, I have found a weak alkaline solution of borax, or of carbonate of soda, act as useful agents for preparing poultices to be applied over the face, or scalp: in sycosis the repeated use of poultices, as hot as they can be borne, is most grateful, and tend to the patient's recovery by promoting a free escape of the purulent discharge and of the loosened hairs.

When much pain or smarting is complained of, some laudanum, or a watery solution of opium, is usually sprinkled over poultices, or decoction of poppies mixed with them.

In the affections of the scalp in children the hair requires to be well clipped before poulticing; and in impetigo, if severe, the affected parts are far better treated if closely shaved; when the skin is irritable, moist dressings seem to add to the intensity of the disease, and mild cerates, as cold cream or well made zinc cream, answer

better for producing a healthier condition. In attacks of porrigo or true favus nothing is easier than to seem to cure the eruption by poultices, as the crusts will disappear and leave the head, to all external evidence, quite clean; it unfortunately returns invariably so soon as the treatment ceases, and the parasite has time to grow. In many eruptions that run a rapid course, as herpes, and pemphigus, all that is required is some simple preservative from friction and pressure during their progress, for which purpose a layer of fine cotton wool is most effectual; it also forms an admirable dressing for blisters, when it is not desirable to keep them raw and discharging; for this purpose the serous fluid may be allowed to escape, but it is well not to remove the raised cuticle; should the blistered surface suppurate, cerates or poultices are preferable, or if the part is painful and inflamed, a soft poultice of bread crumb.

CHAPTER XIV.

CAUSTICS AND IRRITANTS.—Nitrate of silver a mild caustic; its action explained; used to relieve the sore throat of scarlatina. Pitting in small pox; different applications recommended for sthenic and asthenic attacks. Erysipelas; measures advised to check the extension of the rash. Pemphigus, its topical treatment; occasionally observed to follow local attacks of paralysis in children, and injuries of the nerves. Sycosis and herpes; use of lunar caustic in these diseases.

Caustic potash, and potash with lime; effects of each, and their comparative advantages; useful in lupus. Other caustics preferred, as arsenical preparations, when lupus attacks the nose; its dangers. Favus treated with caustic potash locally.

Nitric acid applied in ecthyma and rupia. Vascular marks of the face; their treatment. Psoriasis palmaris, its history, and remedies used in. Baker's and grocer's itch. Washerwoman's itch, an eczema; modes of removing. Warts, different plans advised to destroy them; ligature, excision, caustics. Chromic acid. Chloride of zinc, a painful caustic; uses and modes of applying. Iodine solution used for sycosis.

Glacial acetic acid employed in porrigo decalvans and herpes tonsurans; sometimes useful in cases of favus. Blisters applied to disperse chronic lepra and in herpes. Vesicating collodion. Molluscum, its symptoms and treatment.

NITRATE OF SILVER is amongst the mildest of the class of caustics, causing no extensive destruction

of the tissues, or deep spreading sloughing, as its superficial eschar defends the parts underneath from the chemical effects of the salt; its action is that of an oxidizing agent, limited by the powerful affinity that its components bear for albumen, and the subsequent reduction of the silver, which occurs rapidly under sunlight, produces the black discoloration. In the sore throat of scarlatina the nitrate is applied to the inflamed tonsils and arches of the palate, and affords marked relief in many instances from the distressing pain and spasmodic difficulty of swallowing, which is excited by each attempt at deglutition: for this purpose the solid stick is rubbed lightly over the affected parts, or solutions of thirty to sixty grains of nitrate in an ounce of water are brushed on with a camel hair pencil, or with a lint pledget secured to a rod or to the finger of a glove. The improvement that ensues is rapid, almost instantaneous, and cannot be attributed to any sedative effect of the nitrate in arresting inflammation, so much as to the mechanical relief afforded by the layer of altered albumen, combined with silver, covering over the tender portions of the throat, and protecting them like a thick cuticle from contact

with the substances swallowed. This treatment answers best for the earlier stages of the disease in those who have been previously strong and healthy, and when firm lymphic exudations are about forming. Milder attacks will require only simple demulcent or stimulating gargles. When severe scarlatina occurs in feeble and delicate subjects, especially in young children, I feel convinced that the meddlesome and over free use of any caustic to the throat adds to the mischief it is intended to prevent, and concentrates there the destructive energies of the disease; it is also of little service in the worst class of cases with extensive diphtheritic patches, or a tendency to diffuse suppuration and swelling about the neck, or to gangrenous sore throat: in one instance extensive sloughing originated from its use externally, where it was applied to check the bleeding from a leech bite in a bad attack of scarlatina.

Small pox has been treated by cauterizing the pustules upon the face with the solid nitrate, to prevent subsequent pitting, for which purpose the apex of each pustule must be removed or opened; but the necessity of employing it in the earliest stages of the eruption to obtain any reasonable

hopes of success, the troublesomeness of the treatment itself, and also its admittedly doubtful results, combine to render it a practice more spoken of than used. It does not appear reasonable to suppose that any uniform plan will answer in all cases for preventing pitting in small pox, and in practice two different conditions or states at least, are observed to exist, which require opposite modes of treatment; thus, when there is high inflammatory action in and around the pustules, and the patient young and vigorous, emollient poultices and local demulcents are the most suitable applications; and again, when the inflammation is moderate, and the heat and tension less distressing, one of the numerous remedies by which air is excluded, and the surface of the face preserved in a moist state, are more useful, such as palm oil mixed with honey, cerates of different kinds, glycerine lotions, zinc pomades, or india rubber dissolved in chloroform; the latter is preferable to a solution of gutta percha, as it is less liable to peel off in flakes. It is difficult to restrain persons from picking at the scabs as they dry up, and this is another cause of subsequent marking not to be overlooked.

For erysipelas nitrate of silver is applied to prevent the extension of the rash; with this view

the solid caustic is wetted and rubbed once or twice firmly along the healthy skin at a little distance beyond the limits of the pink eruption; it excites a degree of local inflammation and often vesicates: though it occasionally proves successful, its results are so capricious that it has fallen into comparative disuse. Strong tincture of iodine and fly blisters in strips have also been recommended, they have never come into general favor.

The excoriated surface which remains after the bursting of the bullæ of pemphigus is improved by being brushed with a weak solution of nitrate of silver. When superficial sloughs result they are better treated with an ointment of elemi, copaiba, or other mild terebinthinate, or by poulticing; and should the ulcers become painful and irritating, a watery solution of opium is a useful local dressing. The bullæ of pemphigus are in some instances to be traced to serious lesions of the nerves, and are known occasionally to appear after severe injuries; thus, in a little lad about four years of age, every winter bullæ of considerable size occur on his left leg, in succession, so that there is rarely more than one perfect vesicle at a time; after some days this bursts and leaves an unhealthy ulcer, difficult to heal; the limb is

paralysed, atrophied, and arrested in its development ever since a severe attack of convulsions that occurred during teething: it is always sensibly lower in temperature than the sound limb, and assumes a dark congested color in cold weather: of course in such a case it is impossible to remove the cause on which the eruption depends. I have seen several instances of atrophic paralysis commencing in infancy, in which no manifest change in temperature or tendency to these bullæ were noticed; both symptoms seem to be associated in a close manner in this affection.

When the tubercles in sycosis are hard, indolent, and of large size, free cauterization with nitrate of silver will excite a healthier state of action, and promote their resolution: in lupus more powerful agents are usually required in the first instance to arrest the destructive extension of the ulcers, afterwards the solid nitrate assists the process of granulation, and cicatrizing.

Caustic potash, our lapis infernalis, as distinguished from the milder agent, nitrate of silver, which obtains that appellation in France, requires to be used judiciously, as it is a powerful escharotic, and capable of causing deep and extensive sloughing; its extreme deliquescence renders

it rather unmanageable, unless its properties are well understood; in these respects potash with lime, is safer, as it is less liable to attract moisture; both have similar effects, forming soapy compounds with the tissues; their over action is prevented by the free use of oil. Potash is one of the favorite caustics for destroying the diseased and eroding edges and surfaces of lupoid sores; and after their removal we arrive at the healthier parts beneath, from which granulations are thrown out when the sloughs separate; if lupus attacks prominent features, as the nose, it is essential that the treatment does not increase the subsequent disfiguration more than can be avoided; hence arsenical pastes are sometimes applied in preference to potash, being less destructive: in no instance must any preparation of this nature be used over extensive ulcerated surfaces, from the danger of its becoming absorbed, or near the mouth and lips, where it is liable to become mixed with the food, of which I have known a fatal illustration, afforded by the practice of a quack. In true favus the destruction of the superficial layer of tissue from which the vegetative growth arises, and that in time becomes permeated by the cells of the plant, is a most effective mode of

treatment, as already described, and either caustic potash or glacial acetic acid will answer for the purpose; if the former is selected, it should be applied with a light hand, to limit the extent of its action, and prevent conspicuous or disfiguring scars afterwards.

Strong nitric acid is employed for checking phagedenic ulcerations, and is therefore sometimes of service in the spreading sores of ecthyma and rupia, applied at intervals of every two or three days, until they begin to heal, previously removing all sloughs and scabs as far as possible: in the ecthyma of the young, dilute citrine ointment is usually a sufficient stimulant. The small vascular stellæ that appear on the face, produced by a spot of minute diverging vessels, and popularly termed strawberry marks, are effectually removed by applying a single drop of concentrated nitric acid for about a minute, and then drying it; this causes a superficial eschar, which soon falls away, and leaves no permanent trace of its action.

The painful and troublesome affection, psoriasis palmaris, in which deep chaps form, extending along the flexures of the palm and fingers, the cuticle becoming greatly thickened and desquamating on the edges of the fissures, and the hand so con-

tracted after a time, that it cannot be fully extended without causing much suffering, and perhaps tearing the skin until it bleeds, will be cured by a few applications of nitric acid along the direction of the leading fissures; but this is an heroic mode of treatment, which is to be used only when milder means have been unsuccessful, such as applications of glycerine, diluted tar and citrine ointment, or the iodide of sulphur. Constant handling of dry powders would appear to act as an exciting cause of this affection, some of its varieties being termed bakers' and grocers' itch, from its occurring in those classes, who ascribe it to flour and sugar lodging in the folds of the hands. The worst attack I ever saw was induced by exposure to wet and cold when working a fire engine in severe weather, and after lasting many months, was cured by the use of the acid. In some instances an affection closely allied to eczema receives a similar name: this is common with washerwomen, and is not confined to the palm, appearing on the wrists, fingers, and back of the hands; its vesicular character is seldom obvious; it becomes fissured as it gets chronic, and is often scaly on the surface: unirritating applications, as lotions of glycerine and liquor plumbi, weak solu-

tions of carbonate of soda, or lime water and olive oil, usually remove it—internal treatment being necessary in exceptional cases.

Warts are best got rid of by ligatures when their base is narrow; those of larger size can be destroyed with nitric acid, after being well pared; if numerous they should be cut off with a sharp scissors, and prevented from growing again by some caustic, as chloride of zinc or of antimony. The soft warty growths that occur on the external organs of generation, or about the anus, often originate after syphilitic diseases, although they are not of specific nature, and demand only local remedies; when they acquire an exuberant growth, it is easier to excise them and attack their base with a strong solution of chromic acid after the hæmorrhage is checked; as this agent is a powerful solvent of organic substances, it requires to be applied with some care.

The properties of the acid nitrate of mercury are already considered under “mercurials.” Chloride of zinc is a potent and painful caustic; it is made into a thick paste for use with three to six parts of flour and a little water, or applied in powder, mixed with similar quantities of dry plaster of Paris; occasionally it is formed into a

stick with plaster of Paris and some water, and filled into a mould to solidify; this is used much like potassa cum calce being rubbed to ulcerated parts to destroy them. The burning pain excited by this salt continues for hours; and after the slough falls off it is found to have acted deeply: its chief use in cutaneous disease is for lupus.

A mild caustic can be prepared from iodine by dissolving half a drachm with some iodide of potassium in an ounce of weak spirit, or of glycerine; it proves occasionally of service in acne, painted over the tubercles, and in tedious attacks of sycosis.

Glacial acetic acid vesicates the unbroken skin; this acid is rubbed over spots of porrigo decalvans and herpes tonsurans until they change to a dull white color, and repeated at intervals, so as to excite a healthy growth of hair; it has also been recommended to prevent the parasite from being reproduced in favus, for which purpose it is applied for a few minutes on a small portion of lint to the cup-shaped depression, from which the crust has been removed.

Blisters may be considered here as valuable local irritants, though not caustic: they are used in treating chronic affections when limited in extent

and of obstinate nature, to excite such a degree of topical inflammation as will change the character of the disease; thus they have succeeded in dispersing patches of lepra of long standing, and in promoting a healthy action in the ulcerations of lupus. Albespeyre's papers or the vesicating colodion are the best means of employing vesication to uneven surfaces.

The eruption of herpetic zona is usually preceded or followed by severe pain in the side, not unlike that of pleuritis; this is referred by Von Baren-sprung to a reflex irritation of the spinal nerves, and he attributes the eruption itself to an affection of their ganglia, and therefore recommends blisters near the spine, and the endermic use of morphia to relieve the pain; it rarely lasts long after the herpes disappears.

Numerous examples of cutaneous tumors, answering in every respect to the descriptions given of Molluscum, have come under my notice; some patients having few of them, and others comparatively thickly covered on the limbs and body; in one instance the nipple of the breast was the only part affected. These prominent soft excrescences vary from the size of small shot to that of a large pea, seldom acquiring any greater bulk;

they are of waxy lustre, and pale pink or flesh color, having a contracted base when fully developed ; in each is a defined centre space, filled with tough secretion, a mixture, apparently, of sebaceous epithelium, fatty globules, and albuminous matter, which is difficult to remove; they originate in disease of the sebaceous follicles, and are considered contagious. Such morbid growths when of small size, are readily got rid of by being bruised between the blades of a forceps, after which they soon wither ; they are devoid of sensation, and rather brittle, for in tying the larger tumors with a horse-hair or silk ligature they are torn off by slight force. There seems no necessity for internal treatment in this affection, when once thoroughly cured the tumors have not returned, though in some of these cases the disease had lasted for upwards of three years before being removed. The tumors are of slow growth and after reaching their average development seldom enlarge much beyond it, they appear unconnected with constitutional causes, occurring in healthy adults as well as delicate children.

FORMULARY.

MERCURIALS.

IODIDE OF MERCURY MIXTURE.—Red iodide of mercury $1\frac{1}{2}$ grains iodide of potassium 32 grains, tincture of orange \mathfrak{z} ij, infusion of cloves \mathfrak{z} viiij: a table-spoonful given thrice daily in strumous and strumo-syphilitic eruptions, for lupus, sycosis and lichen.

IODIDE OF MERCURY IN GLYCERINE.—Red iodide of mercury 6 to 10 grains, glycerine \mathfrak{z} ij: used for dressing lupoid sores.

IODIDE OF MERCURY AND SULPHUR OINTMENT.—Red iodide of mercury 10 grains, iodide of sulphur 15 grains, lard \mathfrak{z} j: used in herpes tonsurans and porrigo decalvans.

CHLORIDE OF MERCURY MIXTURE.—The chloride $1\frac{1}{2}$ grain, muriate of ammonia 4 grains, decoction of dulcamara or elm bark \mathfrak{z} viiij: a table-spoonful thrice daily, after meals, as an alterative in eczematous and impetiginous eruptions, and for ecthyma.

CHLORIDE OF MERCURY AND BARK.—Chloride of mercury 2 grains, tincture of bark \mathfrak{z} ij: a tea-spoonful taken after meals, thrice daily, useful in the chronic eruptions of children, impetigo of the scalp, &c.

GOWLAND'S LOTION.—Chloride of mercury 1 to 3 grains, emulsion of bitter almonds \mathfrak{z} viiij: recommended as a wash for freckles and simple acne.

CYANIDE OF MERCURY SOLUTION.—Of the salt 2 grains, glycerine \mathfrak{z} ss, water \mathfrak{z} ss, painted over the bald patches of porrigo decalvans and herpetic eruptions of the scalp; diluted with water \mathfrak{z} vij used as a lotion for prurigo.

CAMPHORATED CALOMEL OINTMENT.—Camphor powder ʒj, calomel ʒj, lard ʒiiss: for obstinate pityriasis and to disperse the tubercles of acne and sycosis.

WHITE PRECIPITATE CERATE.—White precipitate ʒj, oil of bitter almonds 15 drops, olive oil ʒj, simple cerate ʒj: used as a discutient in acne and sycosis.

ARSENICALS.

DE VALANGIN'S SOLUTION.—Arsenious acid 30 grains, hydrochloric acid ʒiiss, water Oj: eight to twelve drops taken thrice daily for psoriasis and chronic eruptions.

PEARSON'S SOLUTION.—Arsenite of soda 4 grains, water ʒiv: twenty to thirty drops, or more, for a dose: used for eczema and the scaly eruptions.

FOWLER'S SOLUTION.—Solution of arsenite of potash 80 drops, solution of potash ʒij, syrup of ginger ʒiv, infusion of cloves ʒviiss: a table-spoonful thrice daily, after meals.

FOWLER'S SOLUTION WITH CANTHARIDES.—Solution of arsenite of potash 80 drops, tincture of lytta ʒiiss, tincture of gentian ʒxiv: a teaspoonful taken thrice daily in water, with or after meals. Recommended by Biett in psoriasis and chronic eczematous eruptions.

DUPUYTREN'S POWDER.—Calomel 90 grains, arsenious acid 1 to 10 grains, mix: dusted over lupoid sores as an escharotic, or applied as a paste with mucilage.

ALKALIES.

BORAX LOTION.—Biborate of soda ʒiij, glycerine ʒij, elder-flower water ʒxviij: used as a wash for eczematous eruptions and excoriations, or applied on lint as a dressing to suppurating surfaces.

ALKALINE POULTICE.—Boiled rice or bread poultice, moistened with a weak solution of carbonate of soda or borax: used to detach scabs and incrustations, and relieve smarting pain.

SODA WASH.—Carbonate of soda $\mathfrak{z}\text{ij}$, cold water Oiss : applied on lint, after closely clipping the hair, to chronic eczema of the scalp.

ALKALINE BATH.—Carbonate of soda $\mathfrak{z}\text{iv}$ to viij , dissolved in hot water and added to the bath, consisting of 15 to 20 gallons of warm water: used in recent psoriasis, and to relieve cutaneous irritation.

SOAP BATH.—Yellow soap $\mathfrak{z}\text{viij}$. to xij , cut in thin shavings, dissolved in boiling water, and added to a bath of 15 to 20 gallons of tepid water: used for purposes of cleanliness, and for irritable conditions of the skin.

POTASH MIXTURE.—Solution of potash $\mathfrak{z}\text{ij}$, iodide of potassium 32 grains, decoction of dulcamara $\mathfrak{z}\text{viij}$: a tablespoonful taken thrice daily before meals. An alterative given in recent attacks of psoriasis, and for eczema occurring about the change of life.

CHLORIDE OF LIME LOTION.—Solution of chlorinated lime $\mathfrak{z}\text{ij}$, elder water $\mathfrak{z}\text{viiss}$: used to remove pityriasis versicolor, in dandriff, and as a stimulant in the scaly eruptions, when limited.

CHALYBEATES.

SULPHATE OF IRON OINTMENT.—The dried salt $\mathfrak{z}\text{j}$, lard $\mathfrak{z}\text{j}$: recommended by Velpeau for erysipelas.

QUININE.

QUININE MIXTURE, No. 1.—Sulphate of quinine 16 grains, dilute sulphuric acid $\mathfrak{z}\text{ij}$, syrup of orange $\mathfrak{z}\text{iiij}$, tincture of orange $\mathfrak{z}\text{iss}$, water $\mathfrak{z}\text{viiss}$: a tablespoonful taken every three or four hours: used in sudamina and excessive sweating.

QUININE MIXTURE No. 2.—Sulphate of quinine 32 grains, dilute nitric acid $\mathfrak{z}\text{iss}$, infusion of bark $\mathfrak{z}\text{iiiss}$, decoction of cetraria $\mathfrak{z}\text{iiiss}$, syrup of orange flower $\mathfrak{z}\text{ij}$, tincture of orange $\mathfrak{z}\text{j}$: a tablespoonful taken before meals, in obstinate urticaria, using antacids and bismuth afterwards; also prescribed when tonics are indicated.

SULPHUR.

SULPHUR POWDERS.—Precipitated sulphur \mathfrak{zj} , ponderous calcined magnesia \mathfrak{zss} , powdered nutmeg \mathfrak{zj} : a teaspoonful taken once or twice daily, in milk, for chronic impetigo and pruritus.

SULPHURET OF CALCIUM LOTION.—Sulphur \mathfrak{ziss} , quick lime \mathfrak{zj} . water \mathcal{Oj} ; boil for ten minutes, constantly stirring, and decant the clear fluid: used for rapidly curing scabies, rubbed to the affected parts after a warm bath.

SULPHUR DUSTING POWDER.—Starch \mathfrak{ziv} , sublimed sulphur \mathfrak{zj} , iris powder \mathfrak{zss} : advised in chronic eczema.

SULPHURET OF POTASH LOTION.—The sulphuret recently prepared \mathfrak{zj} , water $\mathfrak{zxxviiij}$, glycerine \mathfrak{zij} , employed in mentagra and pityriasis versicolor.

SULPHUROUS ACID LOTION.—Freshly prepared solution of sulphurous acid \mathfrak{zj} , water \mathfrak{zviij} : employed to destroy parasitic vegetative growths.

HYPOSULPHITE OF SODA LOTION.—Hyposulphite of soda \mathfrak{zij} , water \mathfrak{zviij} , dilute sulphuric acid \mathfrak{zj} : used like the last.

SULPHUR BATH.—Sulphuret of potash \mathfrak{zij} to \mathfrak{iv} , dissolve in tepid water, and add to the bath, usually consisting of 15 to 20 gallons of water.

OINTMENT OF IODIDE OF SULPHUR.—The Iodide 10 to 30 grains, lard \mathfrak{zj} : to disperse the indurations of acne, and occasionally applied in psoriasis and lepra when chronic.

COMPOUND SULPHUR OINTMENT.—Sulphur \mathfrak{zij} , white hellebore \mathfrak{zj} , oil of lavender, \mathfrak{zss} , vermilion ten grains, lard \mathfrak{zij} : used in scabies.

TEREBINTHINATES.

PITCH PILLS.—Pitch solidified with flour or liquorice, and divided into pills: four to six are taken thrice daily in squamous eruptions and some forms of chronic eczema.

CARBOLIC ACID AND GLYCERINE.—Carbolic acid 15 drops, glycerine \mathfrak{zij} : painted over limited spots of psoriasis, and for dressing lupoid ulcers.

TAR AND CITRINE OINTMENT.—Tar ointment ʒj, citrine ointment ʒss, simple cerate ʒvj: used in lepra and psoriasis: button scurvy and chronic eczema.

TAR AND CALOMEL OINTMENT.—Calomel ʒj, tar ointment ʒss, lard ʒj: recommended by Dr. A. T. Thompson in psoriasis.

CREOSOTE PLASMA.—Creosote 10 to 20 drops, glycerine plasma ʒj: used as a local stimulant in chronic eruptions.

ANODYNES.

HYDROCYANIC ACID LOTION.—Dilute hydrocyanic acid ʒij, laurel water ʒss, glycerine ʒij, elder water or almond emulsion ʒix: applied to pruriginous affections and to relieve the smarting in mentagra.

CHLOROFORM LOTION.—Spirit of chloroform ʒij, glycerine ʒij, water ʒxij: used in lichen and itchy eruptions.

CYANIDE OF POTASSIUM LOTION.—Cyanide of potassium 8 grains, glycerine ʒiv, aconite liniment ʒj, laurel water ʒj, distilled water ʒvj: employed in prurigo ani and aggravated lichen.

MORPHIA LOTION.—Sulphate of morphia 6 grains, borax ʒss, rose water ʒvj, advised by Dr. Meigs in vaginal pruritus.

EMOLLIENTS.

GLYCERINE PLASMA.—Dry potato starch or arrowroot ʒj or upwards, blend with a little water, add glycerine ʒij, triturate together and gently heat until it becomes a soft translucent mass: used locally as a cleanly poultice and a vehicle for medical substances.

COLD CREAM.—White wax ʒj, almond oil ʒiv, melt and add rose water ʒij, borax ʒss, dissolved and warmed; stir constantly until cool and add otto of roses ten drops: applied to chapped and tender surfaces, and as a dressing for suppurating superficial sores.

CUCUMBER CREAM is similarly made, substituting the juice of cucumbers for water, after gently heating it, to coagulate the albuminous and coloring matters which are rejected.

ZINC CREAM.—Made by adding oxide of zinc ʒss to the wax and oil

whilst cooling, in forming cold cream and subsequently incorporating it with borax, \mathfrak{zss} dissolved in warm rose water \mathfrak{zliiss} and perfuming: a useful dressing for excoriations, erythematous and blistered surfaces.

GLYCERINE WASH.—Glycerine \mathfrak{ziii} , emulsion of bitter almonds made with rose water \mathfrak{zix} : applied to chapped and excoriated parts.

GLUE BATH.—Gelatine or good glue lbj dissolve in boiling water and add it to a bath of 15 to 20 gallons of tepid water: used to relieve local irritation and the scalding heat of eczema.

FARINACEOUS BATH.—Rice or potato starch 1 to 2 pounds, blend with cold water, and boil into a thin paste, add this to the bath: used similarly to the last.

DESICCANTS.

VIOLET POWDER.—Rice or potato starch or arrowroot \mathfrak{ziv} , powdered iris root \mathfrak{zss} : used in intertrigo and slight excoriations.

STARCH POWDER WITH ZINC.—Violet powder \mathfrak{ziv} , oxide of zinc, \mathfrak{zj} : use for excoriations to dry discharging surfaces.

LEAD DUSTING POWDER.—Starch \mathfrak{zv} ; camphor powdered \mathfrak{zj} , acetate of lead \mathfrak{zss} , oil of bitter almonds 30 drops: used in pruritus vaginæ.

LEAD AND GLYCERINE LOTION.—Subacetate of lead solution, laurel water, of each \mathfrak{zj} , glycerine \mathfrak{zij} : employed to relieve the irritation of urticaria, erythema nodosum, and local pruritus.

TANNIN LOTION.—Tannin \mathfrak{zj} , glycerine \mathfrak{zij} , water \mathfrak{zvj} , used to dry up excoriations and impetiginous eruptions.

TANNIN OINTMENT.—Tannin \mathfrak{zss} , oil of lavender 15 drops, lard \mathfrak{zj} : applied for freckles.

CAUSTICS.

POTASH WITH LIME.—Caustic potash one part, fused and mixed with two parts of quick lime, and run into moulds: used to destroy diseased surfaces in lupus, being more manageable than caustic potash.

CHROMIC ACID.—Chromic acid 100 grains, water \mathfrak{zj} : a rapid solvent of organic matter; applied to warts and other morbid growths.

CHLORIDE OF ZINC.—The fused salt mixed with two to five parts of flour, and made into a paste with a few drops of water: applied in thin layers to produce a slough; it can also be used in the same proportions, mixed with sulphate of lime.

CORROSIVE OINTMENT OF IODIDE OF MERCURY.—The red iodide, lard, olive oil, of each equal parts: strongly advised by Cazenave to destroy the surface of lupoid sores, applied to small portions of the ulcerated surface, at intervals of six or eight days; it excites a high degree of inflammation.

CORROSIVE COLLODION.—Collodion ʒij, Corrosive sublimate 16 grs.: applied with a camel-hair pencil to small nævi and over limited surfaces, as in eroding lupus of the nose.

GLYCERINE WITH IODINE.—Iodine ʒss, iodide of potassium 20 grs., glycerine, ʒss: a mild escharotic, used to disperse the tubercles of sycosis, and for porrigo decalvans.

PROTECTIVE SOLUTIONS.

CAOUTCHOUC SOLUTION.—Caoutchouc, in thin pieces, dissolved in chloroform: painted over the surface in superficial excoriations, erysipelas and threatened bed-sores.

COLLODION.—Cotton wool, soaked for a few minutes in strong sulphuric acid, mixed with an equal part of nitric acid, sp. gr. 1420, then washed, dried, and dissolved in the proportion of ʒss in ether ʒxviiij, rectified spirit ʒvj.

Its contractility unfits it for use in skin diseases, unless mixed with other substances. M. Cap advises two parts of glycerine to 100; M. Guersant six of castor oil, and Mr. Startin a little lard dissolved in ether. Applied in erysipelas, herpetic eruptions, and small pox, to defend the surface from air.

GUTTA PERCHA SOLUTION.—Gutta percha, in thin slices, ʒvj, chloroform ʒij, dissolve, add carbonate of lead ʒj, mixed with chloroform ʒiiss, mix thoroughly and set aside for ten days, pour off the clear fluid for use: applied in similar cases to the last, also for forming an artificial cuticle over excoriations, fissures, and superficial burns.

The history of the world is a subject of great interest and importance. It is a subject which has attracted the attention of men of all ages and of all nations. The history of the world is a subject which has been the subject of many different theories and opinions. Some have thought of it as a series of events, while others have thought of it as a process. Some have thought of it as a story, while others have thought of it as a science. The history of the world is a subject which has been the subject of many different theories and opinions. Some have thought of it as a series of events, while others have thought of it as a process. Some have thought of it as a story, while others have thought of it as a science. The history of the world is a subject which has been the subject of many different theories and opinions. Some have thought of it as a series of events, while others have thought of it as a process. Some have thought of it as a story, while others have thought of it as a science.

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