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PSORIASIS IN CHILD UNDER FOUR YEARS OF AGE. *

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As is well known, the first attacks of psoriasis occur most frequently at or approaching the time of maturity. Down to the age of ten it is not uncommon, but below this period it becomes very infrequent. Its occurrence in a child of five or six years is extremely rare, and in children under four years but few cases have been reported.

The following case came under my care during the early part of last year, and, as the subject was a very young child, it is worth recording:

The child, a male, was in its fourth year (lacking three months of being four years old), was well nourished,

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robust, and of healthy parentage. So far as could be ascertained, there existed no hereditary tendency to psoriasis, although one of the parents had been the subject of an occasional attack of eczema during early life.

On the trunk, arms, and legs were numerous scaly papules about the size of a split pea. On the back were several patches of the diameter of a ten-cent piece. On the extensor surfaces of the elbows and knees the patches were confluent and the disease well marked. The eruption was but slightly inflammatory. The scales were abundant, and of the peculiar pearly color so characteristic of psoriasis. The eruption had first appeared on the extensor surface of the elbows about nine months prior to my seeing the case, the child being then just three years old. Subsequently the knees were likewise attacked, where, as on the elbows, the patches at a later stage became more or less confluent. Afterwards other regions of the body were affected. The larger patches seemed more inflammatory. With the exception of the patches on the elbows and knees and the few on the back, the eruption was typical of the variety known as psoriasis guttata. Mere removal of the scales from some of the larger patches would cause slight bleeding at points; on others, however, this was not so easily produced. Itching had been troublesome at first, but had apparently ceased to be of much annoyance. The case had already been once under treatment at one of

the dispensaries, but without much benefit—doubtless due to the negligence of the mother.

The child was ordered small doses of Fowler's solution three times daily. The case was under observation, at intervals, for three months, and then disappeared from notice. During this time treatment was but spasmodically carried out, and, necessarily, with but little, if any, improvement.

