

TREATMENT OF PIGMENT SPOTS OF THE SKIN.

According to Unna, borax and the bichloride of mercury are the medicaments most generally employed for the removal of pigment spots; the first is slow and mild in its action, rarely occasioning eczema; the second acts more energetically and rapidly.

If we desire to have the speediest possible effect, it is necessary to have recourse to mercury, not in the form prescribed by Hebra, which is inconvenient, but a solution of the sublimate in collodion (one half to one part). The danger will thus be avoided of provoking redness, desquamation, and sometimes even a bullous eruption.

These energetic treatments have one inconvenience; we cannot exactly measure the effect. On this account, it is preferable to employ the mercury and bismuth ointment proposed by Hebra. A piece of muslin coated with the ointment will enable us to obtain a more prompt effect than with feeble solutions, besides being much more convenient of application.

Small pieces of muslin, about the dimensions of the groups of freckles of chloasmic spots, should be smeared with the ointment, and after first removing the greasy matter from the surface with cologne or alcohol, they should be applied to the affected parts. The application should be made upon the patient's retiring at night, and washed off the next morning. Bandaging or collodion is unnecessary.

The author prescribes for use during the day a bismuth ointment, which has the advantage of masking the brown spots.

The following is the formula of the ointment:

℞ Oxide of bismuth,
Kaolin..... aa 5 grams
Vaseline 20-40 "

M.

The ointment should be applied only to the pigmented spots, allowed to dry and not be removed for some time.

He also employs the following formula:

℞ Oxide of Bismuth,
Rice powder..... aa 2 grams
Ung. Glycerine..... 10 "
Eau de rose..... 20 gutt.

M.

By alternating the mercurial and bismuth applications, the pigment patches rapidly disappear without redness or desquamation, if the pigment be not so deeply situated in the derma that the remedies cannot reach it without destroying the papillary layer, as is the case in certain chronic chloasmas.

The following is Hebra's formula:

℞ Subnitrate of bismuth,
White precipitate..... aa 2 gr. 50
Lard..... 50 grams.

M.

To be spread upon a piece of lint, and applied during the night to the pigmented patch.

Kaposi employs the following ointment in the same manner:

℞ Salicylic acid..... 2 grams
Emolient ointment..... 40 grams

M.

Or,

℞ Boracic acid,
White wax..... aa 5 gram
Paraffin 10 " s
Oil of almonds..... 30 "

M.

Frictions with the ordinary mercurial ointments sometimes succeed well.—*Jour. de Med. de Paris*, No. XV., 1886, *Jour. Cutan. and Vener. Dis.*, July, 1886.

MEMORIZING DOSES.

Dr. G. A. Wiggins, of Philadelphia (*Med. World*, August, 1886), gives some general rules with their exceptions, which are thoroughly reliable:

1. The dose of all infusions is 1 to 2 ozs., except infusion of digitalis, which is 2 to 4 drs.

2. Dose of all poisonous tinctures is 5 to 20 minims, except tincture of aconite, which is 1 to 5.

3. Dose of all wines is from ½ to 1 fl. dr., except wine of opium, which is 5 to 15 minims.

Of all poisonous solid extracts you can give ½ gr., except extracts of calabar bean, which is ⅓ gr.

5. Dose of all dilute acids is from 5 to 20 minims, except dilute hydrocyanic acid, which is 2 to 8 minims.

6. Dose of all aquæ is from 1 to 2 ozs., except aqua lauro-cerasus and aqua ammonia, which are 10 to 30 minims.

7. Of all syrups you can give 1 drachm.

8. Dose of all mixtures is from ½ to 1 fl. oz.

9. Dose of all spirits is from ½ to 1 fl. dr.

10. Dose of all essential oils is from 1 to 5 minims.

EFFICIENT SEDATIVE COUGH MIXTURE.

When Dr. H. C. Wood recommends anything, it is a guarantee of its merit. Hence we take the following from the *Therapeutic Gazette*:

℞ Potassi citratis, 3 j.
Sucal limonis, 3 ij.
Syr. ipecac, ʒ ss.
Syr. simplicis, q. s. ad. ʒ vj.

M. Sig.—A tablespoonful from four to six times a day.

When there is much cough or irritability of the bowels, paregoric may be added.