

# THE CANADA MEDICAL RECORD.

VOL. XI.

MONTREAL, MARCH, 1883.

No. 6

## CONTENTS.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.	SOCIETY PROCEEDINGS.	EDITORIAL.
Dr. Foley on the Treatment of the Commoner Forms of Skin Diseases ..... 121 Dr. Steeves on Insanity..... 124	Medico-Chirurgical Society of Montreal, Meetings, 131, 133, 139	Obituary, 143.—Personal, 143. Reviews, 144.—Deaths..... 14

### *Original Communications.*

#### ON THE TREATMENT

OF THE

#### COMMONER FORMS OF SKIN DISEASES.

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cian to the Montreal Dispensary.

To arrive at a correct diagnosis in a case of skin disease is sometimes a difficult object to attain; to effect a cure is even more puzzling and annoying. Who has not had his professional vanity sadly tried by an obstinate case of tinea tonsurans, acne, or eczema, after running through the whole armamentarium of the Pharmacopœia only to find that it still persists. Having had ample opportunity of sitting at the feet of such Gamaliels and lions on skin as Jonathan Hutchison, Living, Malcom Morris, Sangster and Stephen Mackenzie, and carefully noted their line of treatment, I have ventured to throw together in simple outline some remarks as to the best method of combating the more common forms of these diseases. And, first, eczema: In acute eczema the best local application is lotio plumbi applied on lint, the lint being kept continually moist. Dusting powders, such as oxide of zinc and starch, will also be found useful, and a lotion of carbolic acid (1 in 40) will relieve the itching.

*Chronic Eczema.*—Carbolic acid here, as in the acute stage, is one of the most useful remedies. It may be applied in the form of either a lotion or ointment x to xv gr. ad. ʒi of the ointment. Thymol, highly recommended by Dr. Crocker of London, in the strength of v to xx gr. ad. ʒi, might be tried. Similar in effect to carbolic acid are the preparations of tar, which are the most serviceable of all external remedies. To obtain good results they should be handled with care; unless used at the proper time, and of suitable strength, they serve only to irritate, and when this occurs they should be abandoned at once. Tar is of most benefit when the disease has reached the chronic stage. It should never be used in the acute. If there be much swelling and inflammation it likewise should be withheld. Ointments of varying strengths are the most suitable means of applying tar, for in addition to the stimulating effect of the remedy an emollient effect is obtained. The ointment should not be too strong—from i to ii ʒ ad. ʒi is usually sufficient. The two forms of tar commonly used are the *pix liquida* and *oleum cadinum*.

℞ Olei Cadini..... ʒ iss.  
Cerati Simplicii..... i.  
Olei Amygdalæ Amar..... ggt vi.  
M. Ft. ungt.

This makes one of the most elegant tarry preparations. But there is another preparation of tar which, although known to the profession in this country, is not so well known as it deserves to be—