

He was then passing his usual quantity of urine, the albumen much diminished in quantity; he sat up daily by the fire, and there remained but a little swelling of the abdomen and legs. I continued the injection till the remaining dropsy had subsided. The improvement was maintained, and under a diet of plenty of milk and the administration of iron and convallaria majalis, he was able to go out of doors and enjoy life with comfort.—*Lancet*.

A NEW TREATMENT FOR CHRONIC RINGWORM OF THE SCALP.

Only those who have attempted to cure a group of cases of chronic ringworm of the scalp can appreciate the disheartening obstinacy of the affection. Ringworm of the body is easily cured by a few applications of tincture of iodine, and so usually is ringworm of the scalp, when treatment is begun soon after infection has occurred. But when the fungus has once penetrated into the interior of the hair follicles it is sometimes almost impossible to eradicate it and the longer the affection has lasted in any case, the more rebellious to treatment does it become. The fungus, so far as we know, does not cease to be susceptible to parasiticides, but the reason why the latter are so slow in acting is that they cannot be brought into contact with the fungus, situated as it is deeply beneath the surface of the scalp. One of the most useful suggestions that has hitherto been made, with the view of obviating this difficulty, is that of Mr. A. J. Harrison, of Bristol, England. The results obtained in Philadelphia by the application of Mr. Harrison's method were communicated to the *Reporter*, June 23, 1887, in an article by Dr. Herman B. Allyn. Without rehearsing Mr. Harrison's method, suffice it to say, that he employed a solution of caustic potash to soften the hairs and scalp tissues, and when this end was reached, the parasiticide was applied. Two solutions were thus used.

In a communication published in the *British Medical Journal*, March 2, 1889, Mr. Harrison gives what he believes, after considerable experiment, and an experience with one hundred cases in two years, is an improvement upon that which has itself produced most excellent results. The author combines the remedies in an ointment composed of: caustic potash, nine grains; carbolic acid, twenty-four grains; lanolin and cocoanut oil, of each one-half an ounce. This ointment may be scented with some suitable oil, and a small portion of it should be rubbed into the affected parts night and morning. The caustic potash contained in it acts upon and softens the hair-matter, and in this way allow the carbolic acid to have free access to the fungus and its hosts of spores. The author thinks there is a decided advantage in

leaving, when it can be done, as much as a quarter of an inch of hair; the ointment seems to have better play, and is kept on the part affected.

Those who have tried Mr. Harrison's former plan of treatment will receive his latest suggestion on the subject with great confidence, and will also be glad to learn that shaving of the head and still more, epilation, which is painful to the little patient and extremely trying to the perseverance of the physician, are both unnecessary and even unadvisable. Carbolic acid is, of course, the parasiticide, and as it is not really an acid, there is, of course, no impropriety in combining it with an alkali.

Ringworm of the scalp is such a dreadful scourge that it may be worth while to mention in this connection the means employed by Mr. Harrison to prevent infection. He applies to the heads of children liable to be infected, an ointment composed of boracic acid and oil of eucalyptus, of each two ounces; oil of cloves, one-half a fluid drachm; and oil of cocoa-nut, sufficient to make six ounces. This makes an elegant prophylactic pomade.—*Med. and Surg. Reporter*.

USEFUL FORMULÆ IN SKIN DISEASES.

Dr. M. Epstein gives the following formulæ as in use in the service of Dr. W. A. Hardy, at the skin clinic of the St. Louis Post-Graduate School of Medicine:—

R. Unguenti vaselini plumbici, ℥iv.

Sig.—Spread on cotton cloth.

One of the most universally applicable and valuable ointments in eczema is the diachylon ointment of Hebra; but owing to the difficulty of preparing it after the original formula, it is now generally made by melting together equal parts of vaseline and lead plaster. It should be neatly and evenly spread on strips of cotton cloth, and fastened to the parts with a roller bandage.

R. Ung. picis liquidæ,	℥ss	
Ung. aquæ rosæ,	℥iss	
Zinci oxidi,	℥j.	M.

Sig.—Spread on lint.

This is of special value in the eczema (chronic?) of children.

R. Ol. rusci,	℥j-ij	
Ung. aquæ rosæ,	℥j.	M.

Sig.—Rub in thoroughly.

Useful in squamous eczema and also sometimes in psoriasis.

R. Hydrargyri ammoniati,	℥ss	
Liq. picis alkalini,	℥j	
Ung. aq. rosæ,	℥j	M.

Sig.—Local use.