

organs are not so concerned—to leave behind if possible a portion of the glandular structure.

Of the results obtained in the treatment of myxedema and cretinism with thyroid preparations it is scarcely necessary to speak, so uniformly successful have these results been. To insure their permanence, however, the treatment must be persisted in, though occasional intermissions are attended with good effects rather than otherwise. By organotherapy there is supplied to the body a substance or substances essential to metabolic equilibrium, but wanting through glandular deficiency. The effect ceases with the withdrawal of the agent with whose aid that equilibrium is artificially re-established. It must at the same time not be forgotten that the glandular preparations thus used are capable of harm when employed in excess, and appropriate precautions should in all instances be observed to prevent deleterious effects.

In view of the pronounced effects of thyroid therapy upon the cutaneous and subcutaneous and allied structures, as observed in the treatment of myxedema and cretinism, it was an easy step to the employment of the same measure in the treatment of other diseases in which the skin is affected. The results secured in the treatment of obesity with thyroid preparations have been scarcely less successful than those in myxedema and cretinism and do not require extended consideration.

In 1893 Bramwell reported before the British Medical Association cases of psoriasis treated with thyroid extract, with results "at once surprising and gratifying." Others have had a similar experience. A successful result has also been reported in a case of syphilitic psoriasis in which other measures had already been employed without relief.

Believing that the special susceptibility to tuberculosis manifested by cases of myxedema might be due to the absence of thyroid function, Bramwell was led to employ thyroid extract in the treatment of lupus, and the results were so favorable as to suggest the applicability of the same method in the treatment of other forms of tuberculosis. Thyroid extract has further been used in the treatment of eczema, dermatitis exfoliativa, rosacea, universal alopecia, pityriasis rubra, ichthyosis, scleroderma and xeroderma, with varying, though in general not disappointing, results. It has also been suggested that the remedy might prove successful in the treatment of leprosy, erysipelas and carcinoma. In the case of a young woman presenting an hypertrophied scar of the face White observed reduction in the size of the disfiguring cicatrix in the sequence of thyroid therapy in conjunction with topical applications of collodion, after other measures had failed.

Bramwell has reported excellent results from the employment of thyroid extract in the treatment of tetany, and from the association of this disorder in infants with rickets and laryngismus stridulus he has suggested the possible efficacy of similar treatment also in these latter conditions. Perhaps, too, the same procedure might be effective in other spasmodic and convulsive disorders. Cases of tetany successfully treated with thyroid extract have also been reported by other observers.

The improvement in the mental state noted in cases of myxedema and cretinism subjected to thyroid therapy naturally led to the employment of thyroid preparations in the treatment of insanity. According to Bruce the remedy is especially useful in cases of insanity at the adolescent, climacteric and puerperal periods; when recovery is slow; and in cases of long standing with a tendency to dementia. It is counterindicated in cases of mania attended with acute excitement, rapid loss of weight and danger of exhaustion from malassimilation of food.

Reports of the results secured in the treatment of exophthalmic goitre with preparations of thyroid gland have been varied and con-