

Acidum Picricum.

In a comprehensive monograph on picric acid and its therapeutic application, as hitherto practised in diseases of the skin and sexual organs, O. Meyer reports on the experience which has resulted from the application of the acid at the Strassburg Skin Hospital in acute, chronic, weeping, seborrhoic, and impetiginous eczema. It was employed for the treatment of eczema of the hands in the form of hot local baths containing 0.5—1% of picric acid, also as a 0.5—1% addition to ordinary zinc starch paste or to a mixture of zinc stearate and paraffinum liquidum, in exceptional cases also in conjunction with vaseline-lanoline ointments. Whilst Meyer admits that before instituting the picric acid treatment it is necessary to make sure that the digestion is sound and the kidneys intact, he does not, like some other writers, regard the picric acid ointments as liable to give rise to general symptoms of intoxication, since he was unable to instance a single case to support this view. On the other hand, the acid is in an eminent degree endowed with the power of stimulating the formation of epidermis, which has proved beneficial both in burns and in various forms of eczema. Higher expectations should, however, not be fostered in connection with the latter, since the acid fails when once a dry epidermised surface has formed. In this case it is necessary to have recourse to another treatment, say that involving the use of tar, etc. Picric acid was at its best in seborrhoic eczema and that of the hand, but met with the most obstinate resistance when applied to eczema of the leg, where picric acid paste, after inducing an improvement at first, gave rise to a follicular inflammation, which as a matter of fact may also occur after the use of other pastes and ointments containing no picric acid. Similar symptoms of irritation occurring in seborrhoic patients may in Meyer's opinion be traceable to a form of idiosyncrasy.

Picric acid has proved valuable in fresh cavities resulting from radical operations where the torpidity of the tissue was the cause of a very slow formation of epidermis. Bondy dabbed in these cases the granulating surface at intervals of two or three days with a 1:10 ethereal solution of picric acid without using a tampon and ensured a rapid growth of epidermis, excepting in those cases where suppurating tubes resisted the process of healing.—*Merck's Annual Reports.*

Stypticin.

Stypticin shines among the best modern remedies as one which is practically exempt from accusations relative to unpleasant secondary properties and which does not even in excessive doses