

belladonna and the tincture of aconite, and sometimes the use of the tincture of gelsemium. Of the other remedies which have been administered internally in pruritus he mentions hamamelis, digitalis, ergotin, and even quinine and pilocarpine. Opium and chloral are not to be forgotten in severe cases. The external treatment consists in the use of baths at home or at natural springs, particularly the use of those waters which are mildly alkaline, and the application of cold douches or very hot douches prolonged through a sufficient period and making distinct influence upon the peripheral nervous system. In other instances a wash of dilute alcohol or vinegar or the application of hot compresses to the itching part will be of value, the hot compress being covered with rubber dam to maintain heat and moisture. In senile pruritus the following prescription may be used :

R Bromide of potassium, 2 drachms ;
Iodide of sodium, 1 drachm ;
Salicylate of sodium, 2 drachms ;
Acetate of sodium, 1 drachm ;
Infusion of gentian, 4 ounces.

Two teaspoonfuls in water after each meal.

At night hot lotions may be applied to the body in the form of a 1 : 2000 solution of corrosive sublimate, carbolic acid in the strength of 1 : 20, or the salicylate of bismuth with ten to twenty per cent of powdered starch ; or the following ointments may be advised :

R Menthol, 5 grains ;
Cuaiacol, $1\frac{1}{2}$ drachms ;
Salicylic acid, 30 grains ;
Lanolin, 1 ounce.

Or,

R Carbolic acid, 1 drachm ;
Hyposulphite of sodium, 1 ounce ;
Glycerin, $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce ;
Distilled water, 10 ounces.

Or,

R Vinegar water, 1 drachm ;
Ichthyol, 1 drachm ;
Glycerin (with or without menthol), 1 drachm.

In some cases a two per cent. solution of permanganate of potassium is useful, followed by an application of oxide of zinc. Where the pruritus is limited to a small area we may use menthol 30 grains, alcohol 6 drachms, and ether 6 drachms, or menthol may be used in chloroform to the point of saturation. In other cases we may give :