

soap be used, it should be a superfatted one; it should not be the ordinary yellow soap. The scaly material should be treated with the greatest possible gentleness, and should only be removed by degrees.

Next, should the child's head be kept covered? I think infants' heads are kept far too much covered; and if there is the slightest tendency to any inflammatory condition of the scalp it is better that the child should not wear any form of cap, especially in the house, and when taken out should not be too warmly clad about the head. Friction tends to increase the blood-supply and to cause irritation. If the patch of eczema does not disappear it will go on to a more acute condition and will spread in the form of circular patches, not only on the scalp but also on the face. Thence it will come down the front of the chest, and it may pass down behind the ears and so down the neck, and in that way there may be a complete collar formed around the neck. Then patches may appear upon the abdomen and the back, and subsequently on the limbs. These patches may be red, slightly raised and scaly, and to a slight extent irritable. But after a time the disease will suddenly assume an acute character, and will pass from the first dry red stage into an exudative stage, and there will be discharge. In parts there may be acute vesication or pustulation. It is in a young child that eczema tends more especially to become pustular. In a certain number of days—or it may be hours—the discharge will dry and form crusts, and then the typical condition of eczema of the infant will be met with, with thick crusts all over the scalp and face, and scattered about the body. In the later stages there is a considerable amount of irritation. In the case of the adult it is often explained that the eczema spreads by means of scratching, but this cannot be so in a small infant, which has hardly strength enough to scratch; therefore there must be some other explanation why these patches spread. Many mothers are often in the habit of tying infants' hands or of enveloping them in bags so as to prevent them scratching themselves. I think it is a wrong and cruel thing to do. If I had an eczema I should not like to have my hands tied or enclosed in bags, and I do not see why the defenceless infant or young child should be so treated. It must be our endeavor so to modify the process that we can give the child relief without putting it to that extra torture.

As regards the treatment of this form of eczema in the first stage, when it is only in circular scaly patches, it is to my mind purely a local condition, and requires no constitutional treatment at all. The local treatment should be of the very simplest and