

as much of the lupoid surface as can be done without much pain being caused. At night some mild ointment, like spermaceti or zinc thinned down with liquor plumbi and sweet almond oil, may be applied, the part being covered with Irish linen to prevent the ointment from being rubbed off and the sheets from being greased. When ointments are objected to, the part can be bathed with hot undiluted liquor plumbi. As far as practical all discharge should be removed before applying the acid, and sometimes nothing, not even the most sedulous bathing, effects this so thoroughly as a hot turnip poultice, which offers a convenient medium for keeping heat and moisture a long time in contact with the part without much trouble to the patient. Besides, it is possible that the turnip possesses some slight degree of healing power, because patients frequently remark that the part feels much soothed by the use of the poultice, and the disagreeable smell often noticed in children suffering from clipping ringworm or eczema of the head is at once removed by this remedy, while in them the irritation of the scalp is often visibly removed. The poulticing is repeated every day until the crusts and discharge are completely got rid of.

But when the hands of the medical attendant are not tied, the permanganate of potass should be turned to as offering greater advantages. The solution I employ is one of a drachm to the ounce, and the diseased surface is mopped with this daily till a dark, glossy, hard, adherent film has formed, when it may be discontinued until the lupoid surface is again laid bare by the peeling of the scale. The operation of this remedy is often excellent, especially in the erythematous variety. Any tendency in old papules to rise and enlarge suddenly should at once be checked by rubbing with the solid nitrate of silver, the surface being merely damped; when it proves too painful, iodized glycerine may be substituted. Sometimes, when all appears to be doing well, a small painful sore will form quite suddenly in one of the nostrils, or a few papillæ will all at once break down, and an ulcer take their place with such rapidity as to remind one of sloughing. In such emergencies I think pure chian turpentine is by far the best dressing, the discharge being carefully removed and the powder well dusted on the place. Treated in this way I have seen not only such a lesion close up, but the cicatricial tissue which formed over it take on a much healthier look than other healed parts. The application of calamine lotion to protect the surface from the air is often a source of comfort which patients appreciate highly; it offers also the advantage that it hides much of the disfigurement, especially that caused by erythematous lupus. The rabid irritation sometimes seen in sycosiform lupus, particularly when seated below the chin, is often materially alleviated by scalding with hot water, which, indeed, can be beneficially

resorted to in all forms of the disease, followed up by the free use of Duhring's sulphide of potass lotion, or solution of carbolic acid, in rectified spirit, three or four grains to the ounce.

Beyond these I know of no local remedies likely to be of service in lupus. I have not tried many, but those which I have tried completely failed in my hands. Nitric acid, acid nitrate of mercury, chloride of zinc, caustic soda, and caustic potass, have been exceptionally recommended. I used them, as I thought, with all needful care, and did little but mischief with them, causing severe pain to far less purpose than might have been attained to by milder means, and not unfrequently with acids injuring the surrounding sound tissue. Nor do I see how it is possible that anything useful in this direction could be extracted from those authors who have touched upon the subject, inasmuch as it would require many years of unremitting labor to select the local application for trial. The reader may think this exaggeration; if so, he has only to observe for himself. Of the caustics alone twenty-three have been recommended, and I need hardly point out that an almost endless series of experiments and researches would be required to determine which was the best of any half-dozen submitted to examination. Indeed, if I had said that half a lifetime would be needed to decide, with scientific precision, such a point with regard to the whole number, I should hardly have overshot the mark.

Besides, there is one very serious objection to the use of caustics which has not met with the attention it deserves, and that is, that if the remedy fail to overpower the disease, it sometimes rapidly and seriously aggravates it. This was particularly the case with a girl admitted into St. John's Hospital suffering under lupus of the nose, cheeks, and back of left jaw. She had, after nearly seven years' attendance at different institutions, been thoroughly cauterized under chloroform in a provincial hospital. Shortly after this the disease began to spread, whereupon the surgeon, apparently thinking he had not done enough, again took her into the hospital and cauterized the places most severely with chloride of zinc. But the operation only had the effect of increasing the extent and rapidity of the destructive process, and when, sometime afterwards, she put herself under my care, there was evidently no attempt at repair. Moreover, the fact that any kind of operation is so dreaded by many timid persons as to make cauterizing prohibitory in their cases should always be kept in view. So far, then, as concerns treatment generally, but there are certain hindrances and complications which demand special attention, and which I now proceed to take up.

Thus close, thundery weather often brings on a relapse almost as unpleasant for the medical attendant as for the patient. Papules, which had