

substances as resorcin, corrosive sublimate, salol, etc., which are efficacious in limiting the extent and severity of the disease.

*Mechanical Measures.*—The following mechanical remedies can be employed for their systemic or local actions, or both, or as an assistant to topical medication.

*Massage.*—As a general remedy, massage has been long and favorably known, but has been seldom employed as a method of treating disease of the skin. In certain morbid states of the integument, it is, when properly used, most beneficial and often results in restoring the surface to its natural condition.

The functions of the skin are roused into full activity. The volume and rapidity of the cutaneous circulation are increased. The secretions of the skin are augmented and cutaneous respiration is promoted. From the sensory and tactile end-organs, a beneficial effect is produced upon the central nervous system.

Massage is a most important and valuable adjuvant in promoting and increasing oxidation in psoriasis and scrofuloderma. In these and similar pathological conditions the skin is rendered more active by its use, the effete products are removed and the red corpuscles of the blood are increased. It is especially advantageous in neuralgia in perverted sensibility, and trophic disturbance of the skin. In these neuroses, it relieves the pain and has also a tonic action upon the nervous system.

In chronic cases of eczema, where the integument is deeply infiltrated, rough, hard and dry, the application of massage breaks up the exudation, stimulates the absorbents, and removes the inflammatory products from the parts and restores them to their natural condition.

*Electricity.*—In the treatment of diseases of the skin electricity has an extensive and interesting field of application, and also, all the usual forms in which this agent is employed in general medicine and surgery have been utilized, to a greater or less extent in dermatology. The faradic or induced currents are more frequently employed than the currents of high potential from the static apparatus, but the most useful of all forms is the galvanic or voltaic current, which is of comparatively low potential, but of large volume. The moist structures of the human body are as a rule good conductors of electricity, but the dry skin, on the contrary, is a very poor conductor.

It is customary, therefore, to moisten the part to which electricity is to be applied and this is accomplished best by having the electrodes in the form of sponges set on handles, which may be then dipped in saline solution, as this forms a better conductor than pure water.

Electricity not only acts when properly applied, as a nerve stimulant, and to some extent as a vital energizer of growing cells, but also as an