

are most beneficial when the patient is much addicted to the use of stimulants, and when there is a tendency to acidity of the stomach, and to the deposits of lithates in the urine, or to gout or rheumatism.

Liquor Potassæ.—Twenty minims should be given largely diluted, three times a day.

Sesqui-carbonate of Ammonia.—This alkali is the one he is most in the habit of using. He gives it in gradually increasing doses from 10 up to 30, or even 40 grs., three times a day. Like the potash it should be given largely diluted with water, (in milk, &c.) and be gradually increased, until it disagrees, or the eruption begins to fade.

Local Treatment.—The first point to be attended to, when crusts have been formed, is to get them away, and to keep them constantly removed. This is a very easy matter, and every practitioner has his own favourite mode of procedure. Our author recommends a poultice composed of crumbs of bread and hot almond oil, to be applied to the eruption at night, and fresh almond oil, if necessary, in the morning. (We usually direct a warm linseed poultice, with a sprinkling of carbonate of soda on its surface.—Ed.)

When the eruption has just made its appearance, and the surface is acutely inflamed; when it is studded with numerous vesicles, or pustules; but particularly when burning heat is experienced in place of itching; local sedatives must be employed. A potato-starch poultice, with a small quantity of a powder containing camphor, sprinkled over its surface, is one of the best means of relieving the burning heat.

The Powder.—Camphor 30 grs.; Alcohol, q. s.; Oxide Zinc, and Starch, of each 3 drachms. Make a paste of the Camphor, by means of a few drops of the Alcohol, then make a mixture with the other ingredients, by triturating them well together in a mortar.

A little to be sprinkled over the parts, or upon the poultice, occasionally, when required to relieve the pain.

Or emollient ointments may be employed, as the benzoated zinc ointment, which is made as follows:

One drachm of Benzoin is exhausted in 6 oz. of Lard, left liquid for twenty-four hours in a close vessel, and stirred occasionally. After which it is strained, and 1 oz. of the Oxide of Zinc added to it.

Or the simple oxide of zinc ointment, or cold cream, or cucumber ointment, may be employed. The following is also an excellent preparation, and is much more agreeable than any mentioned, for cooling the parts, and allaying the burning heat.

Camphor 2 scr.; Ox. Zinc. ½ oz.; Glycerine 2 oz.; Carniline 2 grs.; Otto Rose 3 drops.

Triturate the camphor into a thick paste with a few drops of alcohol; rub in the carniline, then the oxide of zinc, and afterwards the other ingredients.

3. Stir the mixture, and smear a thin layer over the inflamed part twice or three times a day.

When a cheaper preparation is required, oil may be substituted for the glycerine, and the perfume and colouring be omitted.

When the disease becomes chronic, and the burning heat is replaced by itching, the local applications require to be very different. If the infiltration is slight; or the rash extensive; common soft soap (*sapo molle*), or a solution of it of one part to two of boiling water, with a little perfume to conceal the odour, may be used: a piece of flannel dipped in this should be rubbed as firmly as possible over the affected parts night and morning, and the solution be allowed to dry upon them, washing it off before each re-application; or a flannel wrung out of the solution may be applied to the part, and left in contact with it all night if the patient can bear it.

A more elegant preparation is the liquor potassæ of the pharmacopœias, employing it in its full strength; it may be painted over the eruption night and morning with a large brush, its irritant properties being neutralized by means of cold water when the smarting becomes excessive.

Solutions of potassa fusa may also be used in the proportions of 5, 10, 20, or even 30 grains to the ounce of water, according to the severity of the case; the stronger being washed off immediately after their application; and be used but once a-day. Hebra sometimes employs a drachm solution, and even the soliu caustic itself, washing it off immediately afterwards.

When the skin has a tendency to be dry, and to crack, cod liver oil or glycerine may be applied to the parts at night.

Chloride of zinc, 20 grs. to the ounce of water, is likewise a very useful application, and often acts speedily in removing the infiltration and itching.

When any of these irritants are made use of, they cause smarting; and if strong, considerable pain; but patients generally prefer these to the itching.

When some parts are more infiltrated than others, solutions of different strength must be employed, and as the infiltration of the skin is subsiding, the strength of the solution must be reduced. And when applied to infants or delicate or aged females, they should be weaker, and less frequently used.

Whilst employing these alkaline preparations the parts must be kept cool by bathing repeatedly with cold water, which may also be allowed to fall upon them from a height; and cold wet cloths be kept to them during the intervals.

Scratching always aggravates the disease, the patient should therefore be exhorted to refrain from it as much as possible. When the itching becomes insupportable, let the following lotica be applied: Hydrocyanic acid (Scheele's) 3m.; Glycerine or Water 1 oz.

It may be increased in strength to half a drachm of the acid, but this must not be used over an extensive surface, and the patient should be warned of its poisonous nature. This solution may be added to that of the potash employed.

Cyanide of potassium may be added to cold cream, or the benzoated oxide of zinc ointment, in the proportion of from 5 to 10 grains to the ounce, and the parts be rubbed firmly with it when itchy; care must however be taken not to allow any of this strong ointment to remain undissolved upon the skin.

Common tar is an excellent application in eczema; it should be rubbed firmly over the eruption, by means of a piece of flannel, twice a-day, and be allowed to dry upon it, and washed off as well as possible before each fresh application, with soft soap. Our author commonly combines the tar with the potash solutions, and does not cease to employ the latter whilst the infiltration is considerable. The oil of cade is a nicer preparation than tar, but is much more expensive.

Mercurial Ointments.—Citron ointment; that of red or white precipitate; or the green iodide of mercury (1 drachm to the ounce); may be rubbed into the parts three times a-day, either of full strength or reduced with lard; and, if required, a few grains of the cyanide of potassium may be added to each ounce to allay the itching.

A solution of the bichloride of mercury, 4 grs. to the ounce of rose water, with a few drops of hydrocyanic acid when required, may be employed if a liquid be preferred.