

long duration, and in situations where movements affect them, large, deep cracks occur, which are very painful. There is a form of Psoriasis which is syphilitic, and the diagnosis between it and ordinary Psoriasis, depends on the fact that in the former the scales are small and of a dirty grey color, and below the skin is coppery in color and of a sombre hue.

The cause of the disease is obscure, but heredity influences it. Some authors say it is due to a specific poison. One thing is certain, it is met with, as a rule, in healthy, vigorous subjects, and does not cause much annoyance, unless very extensive. It has been known to disappear from a healthy subject when, from sickness or any other cause, nutrition decreased. The disease is usually relapsing in its character. It is seldom cured permanently. We can, however, completely remove all the morbid changes in the skin, even although the disease be most extensive. The period of relapse varies—in some only a few months, in others two or three years, and again it has been known to be entirely absent for ten years.

*Treatment.*—This is divided into internal and external, and includes a very great many medicines. I will only speak of a few of the most important, and therefore the most generally employed. First on the list of remedies for internal use stands arsenic, which is often able, without the aid of local means, to cure the disease. Fowler's solution of arsenic, which is the ordinary liquor arsenicalis, should be given in doses of three to five drops, after meals, combined with a few drops of spirits of chloroform, some bitter tonic and peppermint water. If the remedy is well tolerated the arsenic may be increased one drop every few days, up to twelve drops. If the disease seems inveterate, increase still further till twenty, or even thirty, drops are taken. This latter increase must also be by single, and not more than once in seven or eight days. As the patches commence to disappear, gradu-

ally return to the original dose. If the larger dose should induce conjunctivitis, dryness in the throat, or gastric disturbance and pain, at once diminish the dose. During the administration of the arsenic, acids, spiced articles of diet, and those which are laxative; also beer must be avoided. The remedy is contra-indicated in chronic diarrhoea and dyspeptic symptoms. Arsenious acid is recommended by a great skin authority, viz., Helion, to be given in pill form. It is best combined with opium. A good formula is one grain of arsenious acid, four grains of opium made with soap into sixteen pills, of which two should be taken night and morning. Arseniate of soda and arseniate of iron are both recommended. Donovan's solution—a combination of arsenious acid, iodine and mercury—is sometimes used, but I do not think it so generally useful as the simple arsenious acid in solution. The ordinary liq. arsenicalis, cod liver oil, combined with iron and quinine, according to Tilbury Fox, has given excellent results.

*Local Remedies.*—Tar is used in the shape of the unguentum picis, the scales having previously been removed by protracted baths. Sometimes, however, tar disagrees. This is indicated by marked irritation, or the development of tar acne. Pyrogallie acid in the form of ointment is a useful application. It leaves behind considerable staining of the skin, which can be removed by benzin. It must be used with caution in extensive Psoriasis, as by absorption it may give rise to grave symptoms. Good results, I have often seen follow, the use of the ordinary Dilute Citrine Ointment. Somewhat recently the therapeutics of this disease have received a valuable addition in chrysophanic acid, which is the active principle of Goa-powder, the Indian remedy for ring worm. It should be used in the form of ointment. It must not, however, be used on the scalp, as it discolors the hair. It sometimes induces great irritation—not so much in the patch as in the neighboring