

upon some other portion of the body. Another interesting fact was that in 164 out of the 207 cases the patients were between the ages of 20 and 40.*

The treatment of the uncomplicated disease is entirely local and, as a rule, satisfactory; especially is this so in regard to the body eruption. The malady at its primary seat—the scalp—is more resistant, and usually requires some perseverance in order to eradicate it; not only this, but as one attack leaves the skin of this part peculiarly liable to another, and the possible sources of infection being innumerable, a prophylactic should be used indefinitely.

The classic remedies for eczematous conditions are of little or no benefit, and in the treatment of the scalp the time-honored tonic and stimulant applications are worse than useless. Two drugs exert a special influence upon the disease, viz: Sulphur and resorcin, and they may be used singly or in combination. The mercurials, with the exception of the oleate, are of little value, and the latter gives its best results in cases of long standing and when the eczematous element predominates.

A brief outline of the routine treatment I have found most satisfactory may not be out of place, and is about as follows:

1st. Of the disease on non-hairy surfaces:—All scales and crusts are to be removed by washing with spirits of soft soap, or, if the part be tender, by the application of salicylated oil. Then any one of the following may be used: Sulphur ointment alone, or with 3% to 5% of resorcin added; Borophenyl ointment 10%, or thymol 4%. A more elegant way of applying these remedies is by means of Bassorin Varnish or Pick's Jelly, the formulæ for which are:

Bassorin 48.0, dextrin 25, glycerin 10, aq. ad 100.0. Sig.: Bassorin Varnish. Gum tragacanth 5.0, glycerin 2.0 aq. ad 100.0. Sig.: Pick's Jelly.

These, when spread upon the skin, dry quickly and leave a film that excludes the air, keeps the drug in close contact with the diseased surface, and is easily washed off.

2nd. Of the disease as met with on hairy surfaces: that of the scalp being taken as the type and acute conditions ignored. The head should be shampooed once or twice a week, not by a barber, but by the patient. Green soap is the best for this purpose, the disagreeable odor being disguised by dissolving it in Eau de Cologne or white spirits of lavender. Any of the ointments already mentioned may be used, or, an oleate of mercury cream, the strength of which may be from 2½% to 10%. In the majority of cases, however, lotions are preferable, and they are especially so in treating the scalps of women and those who wear long hair. One containing 3% to 10% of resorcin in equal parts of alcohol and water is of good general service. More elegant preparations that are prophylactic and curative can be made use of as toilet articles.

In using ointments or creams on the head the hair should be parted and the selected dressing rubbed into the scalp with the finger-tips, as it is the skin and not the hair that requires treatment. A good method of applying lotions to long-haired scalps is found in the use of the ordinary

* *New York Med. Jour.*, Feby. 4th, 1893.