

Chrysophanic Acid.—A writer in the *Chemist and Druggist* says: Chrysophanic acid ointment has been much vaunted as a remedy for psoriasis, but it is so very irritating that it requires great caution in its use. The first case in which we saw its effects was in hospital practice. A woman with psoriasis about the arm and shoulder was told to apply the ointment, but returned much disgusted, in a day or two, to say that her linen was spoiled, and it was found stained of a deep, dark purple color, and, in addition, there was severe erythema extending from the seat of disease up the arm. The ointment was discontinued, and the irritation soon subsided. In another case the ointment was applied to a patch over the knee; it caused erythema all around the part affected, and gave rise to conjunctivitis, which lasted two or three days, but in each case the local disease was removed. It is also said to turn the hair a peculiar purplish-brown tint and to stain the skin, but Dr. Balmanno Squire states that this may be removed by benzol.—*Medical and Surgical Reporter*.

Abnormal Lowness of Temperature and its Dangers.—Whilst increase of temperature occurring in various morbid conditions is always carefully noted, deviations in the opposite direction are seldom alluded to. In an inaugural dissertation published at Berne, Dr. Glaser points out that instances of this latter phenomenon are more common than is usually supposed, that a temperature between 34° and 35° C. may be frequently met with, and that a fall below 30° C. is not very rare. Low temperatures are not indicative of danger, to the extent commonly supposed; recovery has been known to take place after temperature of 24° to 26° C. The danger in any given case is to be estimated not only in the fall in temperature, but mainly by a reference to the causes to which it is due; and the variations in temperature, often great and occurring under normal conditions, must be taken into account. Dr. Glaser also points out that subnormal temperatures do not always accompany relapse, but that the two conditions may occur quite independently of each other—(*Med. Examiner*, Aug. 8. 1878.)—*The Practitioner*.