

without knowledge of the *rationale*, for instance, painting with iodine, or lunar caustic, or wearing a mask variously medicated.

Even red had been used in smallpox from early times. Thus, John of Gaddesden, who wrote the famous medical treatise, the earliest in the English language, "*Rosa Medicinæ*," and who died in 1361, treated the son of King Edward I. for smallpox by covering him with scarlet blankets and counterpane, placing scarlet hangings about his bed, gargling his throat with mulberry wine, and having him suck the juice of red pomegranates, the patient recovering without scarring. And in the time of Queen Elizabeth, red curtains, red coverlets, and red glass about the bed were highly vaunted in smallpox. Scarlet hangings and coverings were thus used early in the eighteenth century in France. Japan and Roumania have had similar notions for ages. In Tonkin the patient is placed in an alcove, and all light excluded by red hangings.

Finsen's plan involved as absolute protection from the chemical rays as the photographer accords his plates and paper. A candle was permitted while examining the patient, or while he was at his meals. Treatment should commence as soon as possible after the rash appeared—there was less hope after suppuration—and continue until all vesicles had dried up. It was not claimed that death would always be prevented, but that if taken in time and all rules observed, suppuration would rarely occur, and there would be no scars or very slight ones. In 1898, Finsen published an appendix to his paper on smallpox, showing the good results of many other observers.

Had Finsen accomplished nothing more, he would have merited the gratitude of the entire world and his name would ever have been honored, not alone for his actual achievement, but even more for the new avenues of research he had opened up. But a greater triumph yet was to reward his unassuming genius, for in 1895 he gave the world a paper which has been as a light in the darkness to many an afflicted, hopeless, despairing sufferer, a revelation of many a mystery in life's mystic volume, an interpretation of many a dream of the plodding, patient investigator, an inspiration and incentive to all co-workers in this most alluring field, the dawn of a brighter day. Hitherto he has dealt with light as an irritant, now he reveals to us "*Light as a Stimulant*."

In observing the development of the eggs of the frog, and of the salamander, Finsen noted that movements of the embryos were increased by direct sunlight, and on experimenting with various colored lights found that violet rays produced the greatest effects. With salamanders an hour old, and others a day and a night old, a beam of light reflected upon the dish containing them excited lively movements, which ceased when they reached a shady