

be readily distinguished from simple erythema, for the latter is merely simple redness without appreciable thickening of the skin, itching indeed, but ending in slight desquamation.

Erysipelas creeps over the skin, eczema is stationary; erysipelas runs its course in a week or two, is not dotted with red points, and has blisters on its surface.

Herpes has its vesicles in clusters, the vesicles are larger, remain longer, and are not replaced by fresh crops as in eczema.

Scabies has been taken by contagion; it frequents the parts between the fingers, and about the joints; if there be doubts, scrape the garments that have been worn next the eruption, and the microscope will show the eggs of the acari. (If eczema be upon the hands alone, it is not likely to be between the fingers, Ed.) When it cannot be decided, treat the case primarily for the itch.

*Prognosis.*—Our author remarks that this is seldom serious, for however great the irritation and disfigurement, it is almost invariably curable. A great deal of nonsense has been written, he says, about the danger of suddenly 'driving in' a severe or chronic eruption like eczema, and that he has treated hundreds of cases, many of which were nearly covered with eruption, and yet he has rarely witnessed even a temporary ill effect from its rapid subsidence, and never a permanent one, when proper precautions have been taken. Where untoward symptoms are to be feared, he orders a calomel purge to be occasionally administered.

Cases of eczema, he continues, would occasionally get well in a few weeks without the aid of remedies, others would probably last for months, or for years; and never entirely disappear, unless subjected to treatment.

Eczema is a very capricious disease, and relapses are liable to occur at any period, without regard to the treatment.

It is not usual, he observes, for eczema to leave any scars, or marks, nor any discoloration that does not fade and disappear with time.

But interesting as this portion of the work is to us, our limited space imperatively calls us away; we will therefore proceed at once with his excellent remarks on the treatment.

*The Treatment.*—The first attention should be to rectify deviations from the normal standard of health.

Purgatives are very useful in eczema, but should be selected according to the features of the case. When the tongue is loaded, the patient weak, the appetite bad, the liver torpid, and the bowels costive, he combines quinine with small doses of rhubarb, and mercury-with-chalk.

Rhubarb, 6 grs.: Mercury with Chalk, 3 grs.  
Quinine, 2 grs.: mix.

For a dose, to be given to an adult, and repeated morning and evening, if required as frequently, to produce a natural evacuation of the bowels daily.

If the liver be torpid, and the patient robust, he orders a brisk purgative of calomel and scammony weekly.

When living high and refusing to diet, a little tartar emetic may be added to his medicine, to reduce his desire for eating.

The scrofulous and the debilitated require cod liver oil, and tonics, especially iron; and the latter should be ordered nutritious food. He tells us that he has repeatedly cured the severest cases of eczema by the systematic administration of cod

liver oil, and the syrup of the iodide of iron, all other treatment of importance being omitted.

Children who are suckling over their time, should be weaned without delay: if suffering from diarrhoea, it will frequently prove to be the result of debility alone, and be found to disappear spontaneously by attention to the diet and general health.

In low states of the system, resort to spirituous liquors may occasionally be necessary, but as a general rule their employment should be ventured on with caution.

When the appetite is very deficient, quinine may be substituted for the iron for a time; if too weak for quinine, diluted sulphuric acid alone may be tried, as it is usually well borne.

When the patient is seemingly in perfect health, our author finds that the best means of producing an effect upon the system at large, is the occasional employment of purges of calomel and colocynth pills, especially when the eruption is any way extensive. Sulphur and cream of tartar is also a favourite and excellent laxative in such cases. The diet must be restricted to simple animal and vegetable food, and spirituous liquors suspended for a time.

The three internal remedies in which our author places most reliance in such cases, and, to a certain extent, in the scrofulous and weak, are arsenic, sulphur, and the alkalies.

*Fowler's Solution.*—This solution he commences in five minim doses, administered three times a day, after eating; and the following week, increases them a drop every second or third day, until the disease begins to yield, or the medicine disagrees with the system. He does not stop its employment for a slight irritation of the eyes, or a puffiness of the face, unless they are aggravated, and accompanied by pains in the stomach and head, loss of appetite and nausea; on which, he orders the dose to be diminished, or perhaps to be stopped for a few days, but never suspends it altogether. Arsenic, he says, is too often abandoned at the moment its curative powers are just coming into play.

Patients taking arsenic are easily affected by cold, and bronchitis is often developed for want of this knowledge. If the stomach be easily deranged by arsenic, a small quantity of morphine may be added to the solution. As the disease is yielding, the arsenic may be gradually diminished, but never suspended, till some time after the complete removal of the eruption.

In cases of infants at the breast, it is advisable to administer the remedy to the mother. To children of one or two years, a minim may be given twice daily, and the dose be gradually increased.

If Donovan's Solution be preferred, the commencing dose for an adult would be 10m. three times a day, likewise to be gradually increased.

If arsenic with iodine alone be desired, Nelligan's ioduretted solution of the iodide of potassium and arsenic will be found a very good preparation. It is one that is frequently employed in eczema, and is made as follows:

Fowler's Solution, 80 minims: Iodide Potassium, 16 grs.: Iodine, 4 grs.: Syrup of Orange Flowers, 2 oz.  
A teaspoonful in a wineglass full of water, three times a day, after meals.

Sulphur, internally, proves frequently serviceable in persons of lymphatic temperament, and whose eczema is on the decline.

Alkalies are not so generally employed as arsenic and sulphur in the treatment of eczema. They