

whilst constitutional treatment should be used for any systemic disturbance which may reflexly affect the parts.

The writer generally commences treatment of a case of acne by ordering a strong keratolytic ointment such as the following :

R	Resorcin.....	℥ i.
	Sulphur	℥ is.
	Acid salicylic	℥ ss.
	Vaseline.....	℥ i.

Sig.: Apply every night, after having thoroughly scoured the face with tincture of green soap and water.

In the morning the ointment should be washed off and cold cream or some dusting powder applied during the day.

The above ointment is best made by melting the resorcin in the vaseline, otherwise it is gritty and very irritating. When this has been applied for a few days the skin becomes more or less inflamed and scaly. If the inflammation becomes too intense the strength of the ointment should be reduced.

Strong preparations of resorcin have a two-fold action, one causing exfoliation, the other hastening cornification and producing a firmer and harder corneous layer. Salicylic acid hastens exfoliation but does not quicken cornification. Sulphur acts similarly to resorcin, but, in addition, appears to have a direct restorative effect upon the glands.

In some cases the ointment seems to have a better result if the salicylic acid is omitted. This preparation should be applied every night for a month or six weeks, according to the severity of the case. If at any time the parts should become highly inflamed, cold cream should be applied until the inflammation has subsided, when the regular treatment should be resumed.

The next indication in the treatment of this disease is the removal of comedones and the lancing of papules, nodules and pustules. I have always found the comedones much more easily expressed after the ointment has been applied for a week or fortnight than they were before treatment. This is no doubt due to the thinning of the skin, thus removing the constrictions at the mouths of the follicles. This part of the treatment should be performed by the physician himself as the results are much better than when it is left to the patient. Extreme care should be exercised in order that the comedones, both with and without black heads, should be removed as completely as possible and with little injury to the affected parts. At first this treatment is required twice a week; but soon once a week and then once a fortnight will be found sufficient.