

AN EPIDEMIC OF *TINEA TONSURANS* SUCCESSFULLY TREATED BY TURPENTINE AND IODINE.

BY

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In February, 1896, I was called upon to treat twenty cases of ring-worm of the scalp, which had occurred in a charitable institution of this city. The following plan was adopted.

A couple of large rooms were selected in a part of the building where the cases could be properly isolated and the children confined, except during meal-times and hours of exercise. A systematic inspection of all the children in the institution was then made, and all definite cases of the affection were immediately isolated, and suspected cases kept under careful observation until all doubt was removed. The children being all between the ages of six and ten years, there was no objection to having the hair closely cropped in either sex, and this was accordingly done by means of a pair of clip-pers such as barbers use. This proved a great aid in diagnosis as well as in treatment, for among the short hairs of uniform length a small area of scaliness, or any loss of elasticity of the hair itself, was easily detected. Each child was provided with an easily washed cap of white cotton, which was worn continuously in the house, and replaced by a lining of similar material in the hats or caps worn out-of-doors. The children had their meals in the common dining-room before the rest of the household, and were not allowed any communication at all with the latter. In this way, after the whole number had been inspected and infected cases separated, no new cases developed.

Owing to the length of time that many of the children had had the disease, the cases were more than ordinarily intractable. Thus, in six the whole scalp was infected, broken hairs and scales being found everywhere. In three, fully one-half the scalp, and in six, several good large patches required treatment; only five, or 25 per cent. of the whole number, had a small discrete spot or spots.

An attempt was made to determine the nature of the fungus, but it was only in part successful, owing to my not being able to make cultures on the proper medium. Where, however, the hair with its crop of spores could be obtained entire, it was not a difficult matter to determine whether the case was an endothrix or ectothrix, and the size