

Treatment of Erysipelas of the Face.

Z. Edwards Lewis, of New Rochelle, N.Y., treats erysipelas of the face with ichthyol. It may be used in any strength, but a 40 to 50 per cent. solution is his standard. The solution is painted carefully over every bit of the inflamed surface and over at least half an inch of all adjacent sound skin. According to the virulence of the attack and to the time that has elapsed from the onset, he regulates the frequency of reapplication—from six hours to three days. The face should not be washed for reapplication unless there is a material decrease of tumefaction. The fresh solution, as it is applied, revivifies all that remains.

The effect of the application is immediate, and in a very short time the patient gives expression to the relief felt. Tumefaction subsides—sometimes with astonishing rapidity—and generally there is uninterrupted recovery. Applications are repeated at increasing intervals till a thorough washing, after a three days' interval, shows no disease. The applications are to be made without friction, with a soft brush or pledget of cotton, preferably the former.

The conditions of general health and bodily functions are to be inquired into, and any needed regulations secured. Loaded primæ viæ and imperfect depuration are a serious bar to remedial progress.

The sole objection to the treatment is cosmetic. It looks almost as bad as a silver nitrate stain, but is not so permanent, most of it being removed by one washing. The feelings of the patient and of onlookers may be conserved by covering the face with a mask of soft white muslin or linen, carefully adjusted. If this sticks, a little gentle dabbing with wet cotton will loosen it. Obviously, not the slightest force is to be used in the removal.

In cases where the elevation of temperature is too great to be negligible, a good antipyretic of the coal-tar series is indicated; and the added effect of this in soothing irritability and pain is often a desideratum.—*N. Y. Med. Jour.*, July 22nd, 1905.

Professor Eberth, Director of the Pathological Institute in Halle and discoverer of the bacillus of typhoid fever, celebrated his seventieth birthday on September 21st. He was born in Würzburg, and received his medical education there. In 1865 he was appointed professor of pathological anatomy in Zurich, and was called to Halle in 1874.