

A USEFUL FORMULA IN SKIN DISEASE.

I have been so successful in treating certain cases of skin diseases, that I thought I would write a communication on the subject. One case, that of a printer, who was affected with a very bad eczema of a chronic nature, on both hands (dorsal aspect), presented himself. His hands were so sore and inflamed that he could not work at his trade for weeks at a stretch. Hypertrophy of the skin, large scabs with cracks between, from which issued pus and other discharges, were the conditions as near as I can describe. I prescribed the following mixture, with instructions for him to apply three times a day, very thoroughly at night, at the same time keeping the parts protected by cloth gloves:

R.—Ac. salicylic,	ʒ ij
Ac. boracic,	ʒ iss
Biborate soda,	ʒ ij
Alcohol,	
Glycerin,	āā q. s. ad ʒ iij
	—M. et ft. lotion.

There was immediate improvement, and by sticking to the above treatment for three months his hands are now comparatively well. I was myself affected with a very troublesome hyperidrosis, or hypertrophy of the sweat glands of the palms of both hands, and bromodrosis of both feet. I used the same remedy in a similar manner and I was surprised to see what good results followed. It is an excellent remedy in many skin affections, as acne, etc. It will pay any man who has an obstinate case of skin disease of a non-specific nature to give it a trial. I generally incorporate about 10 drops of ol. bergamot with the formula to give it an agreeable smell.—F. M. Scott, in the *Med. Age*.

TREATMENT OF HEADACHES.

Dr. E. Lloyd Jones (*London Practitioner*) has written an able paper on the diagnosis and treatment of headaches, accompanied by diminished or increased blood-pressure and he sums up the treatment as follows: First, with regard to low-pressure headache. In acute cases, *e. g.*, the toxic headaches from alcohol and tobacco, exercise and food are patent remedies. Relief is obtained from cardiac stimulants such as the following:

R. Spts. ammoniæ aromat.	ʒss
Spts. chloroformi,	ʒ. xx
Aquam ad,	ʒi

Antipyrin in small doses (gr. iii.) is also useful.

In more chronic (recurrent) cases prolonged treatment by drugs is often necessary. In anæmic persons, iron is generally useful as an adjunct, but it is well often to give tr. digitalis with it in doses of ʒi. to iii. which will not slow the pulse.

If the patient is pallid, but the ears and lips are red, iron is of little service. In these cases, the tr. of digitalis ʒi. to iii. is very efficacious, the bowels being kept open if necessary. These are the patients who have an excessive number of red cells, with an increased specific gravity of the blood; they are very prone to low-pressure headaches, and they are much relieved by rest and change.

In high-pressure headaches, the bowels must be kept open, but not purged. The nitrite of amyl, carefully administered in a very dilute state, is very useful. Nitro-glycerine is even more useful, as the dose can be more easily regulated, in recurrent as well as in acute cases. In anæmic girls, besides improving their blood condition, nitro-glycerine should be given in doses of one six-hundredth of a minim twice a day, and more than six doses should not be ordered. In recurrent high-pressure headaches alkalies are most beneficial. When these occur in anæmic young women, iron should be given with them. Iron alone would increase the headache.

THE USE OF BELLADONNA AND CANNABIS INDICA BY THE RECTUM IN GYNECOLOGICAL PRACTICE.

In the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* for May 23, 1889, Dr. J. W. Farlow calls attention to the value of employing the absorbing power of the rectum in different affections of the pelvic organs. The advantage of this method of treatment he finds to be especially dependent on the more perfect retention by the rectum of drugs than when they are introduced into the vagina. The remedies to which he especially refers as used in this manner are belladonna and cannabis indica. He states that belladonna has a sedative action on the uterus and pelvic contents, and relaxes rather than constipates the bowels. Its value in irritable conditions of the bladder and urethra is well known. This combination of qualities is called for in a very large number of women. Cannabis indica has somewhat similar properties, and especially for sensitive ovaries and in the various painful affections of those organs its use is often productive of much good. It has few equals in its power over nervous headaches such as women with pelvic trouble are subject to.

About the age of puberty there is frequent complaint of painful menstruation, with pelvic and general excitement, and often weakness from this after the flow has entirely ceased. Frequent micturition and headache are also very common at this time. If the excitement can be moderated, if the pelvic organs can be made less irritable, there will be less pain, less hemorrhage, less weakness, and consequently a much longer period of health between the catamenia. This Dr. Farlow believes may be accomplished