

In addition to the above advantages, I believe an important step is attained towards the patient's safety by so materially diminishing the intense inflammatory action about the head, and in such close proximity to the brain; and I am so strongly impressed with its utility in this respect that I shall apply it not only to the face, but all over the scalp, in all future cases.

Having every reason to be gratified with the result of treatment in the foregoing case, I mentioned the circumstance to my friend Capt. Reeve the commandant at Grosse Isle quarantine station, and strongly urged him to recommend a trial of the same plan in the quarantine hospital, when an opportunity should occur. He did so, and it was accordingly tested in four cases, during the following months of June and July, with the most satisfactory results.

These cases have been reported in the October number of the *Montreal Medical Chronicle*, by Dr. Von Iffland assistant physician at Grosse Isle, and I have received letters from that gentleman and from Capt Reeve and Dr. George Douglas, the medical superintendant of the station, acknowledging that it was from me they obtained the first idea, as to the utility of a strong solution of nitrate of silver in the ectrotic treatment of small pox. I am well aware that weak solutions of the same salt have been recommended, but from their weakness, they proved irritating and inefficient, and have consequently been abandoned. The solid stick of caustic has been applied to each punctured vesicle, but this process was found to be painful and tedious, and in confluent cases almost impracticable.

None of these objections apply to the strong solution of one drachm to the ounce of water. Its application is free from pain, it has been proved to be highly efficacious, and its employment can be entrusted to a common nurse, or attendant on the patient. Moreover, I would recommend its application to the mouth and fauces. I do not, however, recommend its application to the cornea when attacked with the small pox pustule, as that organ demands special and separate treatment from the surgeon.

I have ventured to publish the above case from a firm belief in the superior advantages of the remedy in preventing pitting, and likewise as an antiphlogistic agent of great potency, for I am fully convinced that its more general use will not only prevent much disfigurement, but tend materially to lessen the danger to the life of the patient, and I trust I shall also be pardoned for claiming to be considered the originator of the plan, a step which has, however, been rendered unnecessary by the frank admission of my friend Dr. Von Iffland.

Of course my readers are not to suppose that in the foregoing case, or in those reported by Dr. Von Iffland that constitutional treatment was neglected.