

been saturated with the oil, and over all placed a well-fitting cap or fez. The process is to be repeated until the crusts are soft enough to be wiped, combed or picked off.

Starch poultices are very useful for non-hairy parts, but require to be properly made. The method of doing this is to blend the starch thoroughly with tepid water, not using more of the latter than is just sufficient to make them blend, then pouring on boiling water till the substance assumes the proper consistency. After this place the containing vessel on the stove for a minute or two and add a teaspoonful of boric acid to each pint of the contents, stirring briskly. Gruel, with the addition of a teaspoonful of sodium bicarbonate to the pint, is also of use. Decoction of marshmallow (*althææ radix*), with the same amount of soda, is pleasant and serviceable.

When the surface is not tender, and the scales and crusts are dry and abundant, the free use of vaseline acts fairly well. The macerating qualities of this petroleum product that are so often injurious to other conditions are here of decided benefit. When the scales are harsh, tough and adherent, other measures than those already given will be necessary, and these will be mentioned when dealing with sub-acute and chronic eczematous conditions in the adult.

Local treatment for the relief and cure of eczema is, in the great majority of cases, the only satisfactory one. The fact that the skin is an organ with its own peculiar functions to perform, and just as subject as any other to structural disease and to functional disorder is often lost sight of. Every morbid condition may be present in the economy without eczema or *vice versa*. That any discoverable defect in the general health should be attended to, is not to be denied for a moment, neither is the oft-repeated plea for putting the patient into the best possible condition.

Eczema may be acute, sub-acute or chronic. These terms are often used with different meanings—either referring to the intensity of the process or its duration. In what I have to say to-night they will be used to define the actual condition present, and not the length of time it has existed.

*Infantile eczema, i.e.*, the disease as usually seen in those under five years of age, has a couple of marked peculiarities, viz., a great tendency to become pustular, and to be confined to the head and face. In over 80 per cent. of all cases the head and face are alone affected. In the acute variety, where there is free pustulation, the crusts are to be removed, and, if necessary, the hair cut short. Then one of the following may be applied continuously: Equal parts of almond oil and lime-water with 2 per cent. to 4 per cent. of ichthyol. White