

accumulated slowly and finally disappeared, seemed to me to show that the mercury had been of service. In this opinion I may have been wrong, and the improvement in the patient's condition may have been due, after repeated tappings, to the disuse of alcohol, together with tonic medicine and a nutritious diet. Whatever view may be taken of the use of mercury in alcoholic cirrhosis, the cure in this case must be considered as eminently satisfactory, inasmuch as three years have now elapsed since the treatment began, and there seems no prospect of a relapse.

SKIN ERUPTION PRODUCED BY THE BROMIDE OF POTASSIUM.*

BY J. E. GRAHAM, M.D.

The bromides are very commonly used drugs, and, on account of their efficacy in the treatment of some chronic nervous affections, are often administered for months together. It is therefore reasonable to suppose that the ordinary skin lesions produced by the medicine should be well known to the profession.

There occur, however, at times, some rare forms of eruption, which are often very puzzling to the physician, and, if not recognized, are exceedingly trying to the patient.

A short sketch of some cases illustrating the latter will form the main part of this paper.

Bromide skin lesions have been divided by Dr. Morrow in his work on drug eruptions, into the following classes: Erythematous, urticarial papular, papulo pustular, confluent acne-feruncular, and anthracoid forms, ulcerative, vesicular and bullous forms. Almost every variety of primary skin lesion may be produced by the drug.

The erythematous and urticarial forms are exceedingly rare.

The papular form is usually found in the first stage of ordinary bromide acne.

Dr. Dubring has described a case of maculo papular eruption the result of the administration of small doses of the drug.

The papulo pustular, or bromide acne, appears most frequently on the face, scalp, and on the anterior and posterior surface of the chest. It

may, however, occur on any portion of the body, differing in this respect from ordinary acne. It may also occur at any age. Like ordinary acne, it presents pustules situated on a red papular base. Sometimes the papules enlarge so as to form tubercular swellings, and the pustules formed on these latter may present an ecthymatous appearance. This eruption is so often observed that a further description is unnecessary.

Voisin describes a form of tumor produced by bromide closely related to acne. These tumors are oblong or roundish, of cherry red color, and appear on the lower extremities. Small yellow pustular points, resembling acne, appear on the surface of the tumors. They present a hard base, with an umbilicated surface. They are painful on movement, but have an anæsthetic centre. The pustules run together, forming large ulcers, which heal up, leaving cicatrices.

Cholinly described an eruption, first varicelliform, in which the vesicles, instead of drying up, became confluent, and the pustules thus formed enlarging and presenting suppurating points.

I have seen two cases of this varicelliform eruption, in one of which there was a tendency to confluence.

The first, a boy about nine years of age suffered from pneumonia. He was ordered potassium bromide as a sedative. An eruption appeared, principally on the trunk, which was at first papular, then pustular. It was preceded by febrile symptoms, which subsided after the outbreak. Many of the pustules became umbilicated, so that it was exceedingly difficult to exclude variola. In some places they ran together, but they were as a rule discrete in character. The evolution was much longer than either in variola or varicella. Scabs formed, which afterwards dried up, and fell off. Dr. Fox, of New York, saw the patient, and agreed with Dr. Sheard and myself that the case was one of bromide rash.

A second case of a nearly similar kind was sent to the Hospital last winter. There were at the time some cases of small-pox in the city, and this case was therefore one about which there existed some doubt. The pustular eruption in this case was very similar to that already described, except that it was not preceded by any febrile condition. Evolution took place in the

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