

When the spot is moist, a very minute pore is perceived, from which a small quantity of serous fluid distils, which, on drying, leaves a scab the size of a pin's head. Sometimes, also, layers of the cuticle, altered in their structure, and thickened from the dried fluid of the vesicles; are detached from the skin, and form the scabs, which increase in thickness and size as the eruption continues. It is at this stage that a fresh eruption of vesicles takes place, and from the head spreads over the temples, ears, and face. The swollen scalp, indeed, pours out a profusion of viscid fluid, which glues the hair into masses, and form, in drying, a yellowish-brown incrustation. It is in this stage of the disease, according to *Rayer*, that the child is tormented with irresistible itching, which cannot be expressed by words, and which gains so in intensity, that it rests its little head upon its shoulders, and if its hands are at liberty, scratches itself with the greatest imaginable eagerness, although the blood follows the nail.

When children who suffer from this disease are properly attended to, and judiciously treated, the disease will disappear within three or four weeks; but if left to itself, under the erroneous impression that it is wrong to interfere with the eruption, it becomes chronic, and the bulbs of the hair inflame and lose their functions. I cannot but admit, however, that it is a recognised fact that children who labour under this disease rarely or ever suffer from convulsions or diarrhœa while teething; but should the discharge cease suddenly, either naturally or in consequence of ill-timed medication, the child becomes restless, dejected, and evidently unwell, and diarrhœa or convulsions do follow; and it is from this, I presume, the disease has become to be looked upon as a salutary one, and not to be interfered with—for although the itching distresses the child very much, the mother is the principal sufferer, as her vanity is wounded by the hideous crusts which cover the face of her child.

The treatment which I have used with the greatest success for many years, is simply keeping the parts constantly bathed with a solution of the sulphuret of potass (3 ss. to ʒ ij. to ʒ viij, water), and giving internally a few drops according to the age of the child of liqr. potassæ, three times a day and I have not failed in a single case where the lotion has been properly applied, and the medicine regularly given. Of course the bowels must be properly regulated at the same time, and care taken that the child is not overfed. I have not seen any, or a single, bad consequence follow this mode of treating the disease, and invariably found my little patients, after cure, quite remarkable for the freshness of their colour and the excellence of their health.