

When speaking of the relations between the skin and kidney-functions, the alterations in the urine attending the use of baths were spoken of. This is a point too often neglected in Dermatological practice. We found that daily bathing augmented the total solid constituents of the urine, the urica and uric acid being increased, and frequent bathing, especially in baths slightly alkaline, and proper subsequent friction to the skin, will do much in removing cutaneous disease, both by accelerating the assimilative processes and keeping the pores of the skin in a condition to do their work. The benefits from visits to the mineral springs of Europe are largely due to this fact, Dr. Todd,* when speaking of acne, says, "in many diseases of the skin we have found the greatest benefit from sponging sound parts of the skin two or three times every morning, with a lotion consisting of two drachms of nitro-muriatic acid and two pints of water."

Finally, many medicines are of benefit in diseases of the skin by virtue of acting in a manner calculated to affect the urinary secretion. Dr. Easton† reports most satisfactory results from the use of acetate of potassa in eczema and psoriasis, given in half drachm doses three times a day, an experience which I have long verified, and he gives some interesting details of the urinary relations during its administrations. The smallest amount of urine voided by any of his cases when under its influence was 54 ounces daily, the largest 120 ounces, an increase of about 14 ounces as a minimum, and 80 ounces as a maximum over that in health. The total solid constituents were also increased to 1026 grains daily for a minimum, and 1320 for a maximum, or from 200 to 500 grains of solid matter daily above the average of health, and with this increase the skin affection rapidly improved. The same is shown in the case I have quoted of Dr. Mapother, where under the use of the citrates of lithia and potassa the total daily solids excreted by the urine, as estimated roughly by specific gravity, increased about 200 grains as a minimum and 400 as a maximum, above that observed in the same patient before

treatment. The use of alkalies in treating diseases of the skin is of old date and urged in strong terms by those with much experience in these affections. Dendy* thinks their efficacy, especially during the period of childhood, due to their "improving the quantity and quality of the renal secretions, which, in skin diseases, are often so unhealthy." Colchicum we have seen to have this effect in urticaria, and the mineral acids in proper cases do the same.

From what has preceded it will be seen that I cannot subscribe to the views entertained by some as to the local nature and treatment of the many affections of the skin. The German school, in which I was myself instructed, has done much to improve local cutaneous therapeutics, but it has also done much to discredit the dependence of skin lesions upon internal disorders, and thereby has, in my opinion, done much harm. It is true that a large measure of success may be obtained by the judicious employment of local remedies and that therein much of the skill of the specialist is often shown, but it is also quite as true, or even more certain that we can afford most permanent and satisfactory relief in certain skin diseases by a proper regulation of diet, exercise and medication tending to restore and keep the assimilative functions in perfect order.

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In conclusion, I may add that although as yet a sufficient number of accurate observations have not been made in the various diseases of the skin to enable us to state positively that such and such changes belong necessarily to one disease, and such others to another, still the indications of urinary derangement in these affections are such as to invite further study, and at the same time to furnish oftentimes very valuable assistance in the daily treatment of diseases of the skin.—*Archives of Dermatology.*

Sir. William Ferguson is dangerously ill. He is reported to be suffering from kidney disease and hypertrophy of the heart. Sir George Burrows and Dr. George Johnson are daily in attendance.

*Copland's Encyclopædia of Pract. Med., 1833, Vol. 1, p. 31.

†Monthly Med. Jour. 1850, p. 422. Braithwaite, vol. xxi, p. 246.

*Diseases of the skin during infancy and childhood. Phil. 1841, p. 20.