

me the head, especially in a scantily-covered child's head, we find the skin rough, harsh and papular.

We may discontinue our ointment, and begin to wash the head every other night with Hebra's spiritus saponis kalinus, made by mixing two parts of *sapo viridis* of the B. P. with one of *spir. vini rectificatus*, allowing the mixture to stand 24 hours, then filtering, and adding to the filtrate a little ol. *lavandulæ* or other scent. A little of this should be poured on a flannel previously dipped into warm water and the flannel rubbed on the head until a smart lather be caused, care being taken that the liquid does not run into the eyes. The lather should be allowed to remain on the head some ten minutes or so, and then played off with warm water. This should be done at bedtime and in the morning some hair oil should be used, and the case will soon be well. Should this not occur, use a stimulating ointment, such as ung. *picis* liquid in equal parts with ung. *zinci oleatis*. This has the disadvantage of blackening the part, and a more elegant formula for an equally efficacious liniment is *Saponis mollis*; *spt. vin. rectificat olei cadini aa* $\frac{3}{4}$ i.; *olei lavandulæ* $\frac{3}{4}$ iss. A little of this should be rubbed on the part night and morning, and washed off before each fresh application. Exclusion of air is not now so necessary as when crusts are being formed, so that we may use the above. Latterly I have been using, instead of the ung. *zinci oleatis*, an ointment of 20 grains *gynocardic acid*, to the ounce of *vaseline*. It is not better than the *zinci* ointment, but does relieve itching very markedly.

Before leaving the subject of head eczema I wish to refer to the well-known dependence of it upon the irritation caused by lice; they should always be sought for in a dirty subject, and will generally be found nearly always indeed where we get enlargement of the glands at the back of the neck, co-existing with a slight but very irritable eczema at the root of the hair behind. I know of no better means of destroying them than a head wash of equal parts of *petroleum* and *olive oils*. The nits will be best got rid of by washing with *vinegar* and the subsequent use of a tooth comb. Eczema of the non-hairy parts of the face must be treated on the general lines of eczema of the body, but is often tedious on account of the difficulty of applying remedies, either from peculiarities of shape or the objection of patients to anything unsightly.

When the hairy part of the face is affected, constituting the *sycosis* of many authors (I do not wish by this to insinuate there is no such disease as a *sycosis* caused by a parasite, though I am sure that such disease is rare), treatment is often very difficult; shaving is, I believe, inadmissible: for one reason it is painful, for another it keeps up daily a prejudicial irritation, and close cropping of the hair is equally effective for exposing the diseased spots, and permitting the application of remedies. Crop the hair then, and get to work by removing crusts; apply your ointment diligently.

I generally use in such cases an ointment of two parts of unguent. *hydrarg. nitratis* and six of *sapo-mollis*. The skin is often deeply infiltrated, and this ointment tends to the removal of infiltrated matter; but I prefer, where patients will allow me to do so, to cover the part with *Emplastrum Litharg. B. P.* I am not aware if this is a common mode of practice, but in my hands it has proved very successful after other means have failed. I apply the plaster myself, and direct it to be kept on until it becomes loose. It must be removed with gentleness, of course, and, if necessary, replaced by others; it acts, I believe, partly by pressure, causing absorption of the exudation resulting from chronic congestion, and partly by the exclusion of air, while the part is kept warm and bathed by natural moisture.

In chronic eczema of the body, associated with exudation and formation of scales, for pustulation is not so common as on the head, our treatment must again be first directed to removal of any impediment to the direct application of remedies. Should the scales be thick and the exudation extensive we can get rid of both in a great measure by means of *potassa fusa*. Use a solution of it, which need rarely be more than half a drachm to an ounce of water, and should generally be tried in a much weaker form. Pass a brush dipped in it over affected part, backward and forward, and then rub it in well with a flannel dipped in warm water, until a lather is caused; continue this, and you will see the scales melt away, while the proceeding becomes after a time more and more painful. Discontinue the rubbing, and cover the place with rags dipped in cold water or a very weak acetate or lead lotion; continue the soothing applications, and repeat the use of *potassa fusa* in a few days. This treatment I have found very useful in *gouty eczema* of fingers. Generally speaking, however, scales are not formed in excess, and the skin is merely thickened, and has lost its suppleness. Where, as in the case of hands or feet, it is possible, I recommend the patient to wear a vulcanized india-rubber glove, by means of which the hand is kept warm and bathed in sweat, scales and exudation absorbed, and a cure often effected. It is in such cases especially that the actual ointment does not so much matter, only let it be well made. The chief use of the ointment is to make the skin moist, and supply the deficient suppleness and sweat which are lost, owing to the pressure of the exudation into the skin. Keep the ointment constantly applied, and avoid washing as much as possible. The ung. *liquidi* is in these cases very useful by diminishing the itching, but may sometimes itself be very irritating, and I therefore, as a rule, give it in equal parts with the ung. *zinci oleatis*.

It would be impossible for me in the limits of a brief paper to consider either all ointments, all lotions, or the treatment of eczema in every situation. My object has been to formulate, if possible, system of treatment founded on a due