

"In psoriasis, we shall find antiphlogistic measures, particularly bleeding, of the greatest use."—*Elliotson's Principles and Practice of Medicine*, p. 436.

The treatment by arsenic has its enemies as well as its advocates, as will appear from the following opinions:

"One or other of the common arsenical solutions has also been strongly recommended in this obstinate form of disease. Arsenic of course requires great care in its exhibition; its effects must be closely watched, and it is advisable to give up its use for a few days every now and then. It is undeniable, that by means of these active medicines, several of the varieties of psoriasis, even the most inveterate, have been cured; but it is no less certain that the majority of the cures thus accomplished have been but temporary, relapses having occurred the following spring or autumn; that such relapses are most especially frequent among the labouring classes of the community; and lastly, that the greater number of cases of psoriasis *inveterata* treated by such means, have been in no wise amended, although the medicines were continued for five or six months. I am, therefore, of opinion, that it is in general inexpedient to put patients affected with psoriasis *inveterata* upon an arsenical course, in the faint hope of deriving a mere temporary improvement, with the fear before our eyes of inducing some obstinate derangement of the digestive organs, or of permanently injuring the general constitution."—*Rayer op. cit.* p. 641.

He says, in the same work, page 640:

"Among the aged attacked with psoriasis *inveterate*, whose skin is thickened and indurated in different parts of the body, the treatment must be limited to such palliative measures. The same plan also appears to me better than any other when the subject of the disease is a member of the labouring class of the community, who would certainly have a relapse as soon as he was thrown upon his old occupations and habits."

Dr. Robert Willis (whose opinions on this subject are almost the same as Rayer's), in his folio work already quoted, says, in giving the treatment of the disease in an old person, "The treatment in such cases should be merely palliative."

"It has not been without surprise, at least to those who have seen psoriasis cured by these means, that they have observed in a recent work (Rayer's), that the treatment of psoriasis *inveterata* should be confined to narcotics and emollients. As for us, who believe that so violent a disease requires something more than the use of palliatives, and who think it would be inhuman to leave an individual a prey to an affection which poisons his existence, and will abridge his life, when we have seen it yield to this kind of treatment more than a hundred times, we do not fear to state, that, by the aid of the arsenical preparations, permanent cures may be obtained, and