

Abstracts from Original Articles.

THYROID MEDICATION IN SKIN DISEASES.

DR. SCATCHARD, in *British Medical Journal*, March 30th, reports a case of pityriasis, treated by thyroid extract. The case was a chronic one and of long standing. The skin on the legs and forearms presented large patches of redness and thickening, over which were large, flat, translucent scales. When thyroid medication in this case began, the skin over the whole body was more or less affected. Previous to this the usual treatment of eucalyptus ointment, ichthyol, tolu, plumbi, and the internal remedies, potassium iodide, salicylates, mercury and arsenic had been tried. On October 5th, she was put on $2\frac{1}{2}$ grain thyroid extract daily, after dinner. The pulse at this time was 114, small and compressible. The dose was increased by 5 grains every two days, and on October 13th she was taking 20 grains daily.

Twelve days after this treatment improvement commenced, and on December 24th, the skin presented its normal appearance. The large dose of thyroid extract caused heart symptoms, which rapidly disappeared after ceasing this treatment.

Dr. Nobbs also reports a case of ichthyosis treated in the same way. This case was a male, aged 46. Hair on scalp wiry, sparse and dry; skin showing through it; scurf readily shed. Skin is universally dry, even on perineum and axilla; over the trunk it is desquamatory, in large flakes on elbows, wrists, knees, ankles, and on the dorsum of the metatarsal and metacarpal regions are numerous dingy, greenish squames as large as a five-cent piece, which are adherent and leave a dry, white, scaly base when removed forcibly. At the commencement he received 10 grains thyroid extract daily. After one month's treatment improvement was marked, and after five months' treatment cure could have been said to be complete, save for a faint scaliness on the exposed surface of his joints. The skin of his hands was as soft as a

child's. This patient, on account of weakness, ataxic and palsy symptoms, was confined to bed during the entire treatment, and Dr. Nobbs adds, "his general condition greatly improved."

In the same journal, Dr. Pruce, of Birkenhead, reports a case of psoriasis, of long standing, treated by the thyroid extract, which was begun after the usual treatment had proved unsatisfactory. The tabloids at first used proved unsatisfactory. These were substituted by those made by B. W. & Co., and in a few weeks the eruption completely disappeared, also the irritation, and at time of writing the symptoms have not returned.

TREATMENT OF WOUNDS.

Sir George Humphrey, discussing the treatment of wounds, in the *British Medical Journal*, says: "There are two main points to be attended to; first, "to endeavor to reduce to a minimum the media upon which the organisms act; and, secondly, to reduce to a minimum the organisms themselves." By careful securing of vessels and careful pressure upon the region of the wound, we endeavor to prevent oozing and accumulation in the wound, thereby reducing to a minimum the media, and by antiseptic agencies we endeavor to prevent the accession of micro-organisms.

By a successful employment of these means the opposed surfaces are kept in contact, and nothing interfering with the natural process, healing takes place immediately. Among the advantages resulting from this better treatment of wounds are: Diminution of the risks of secondary hæmorrhage, which often results from the ulceration of the tied vessels, consequent upon the septic hemp ligatures, which danger is removed by the use of animal ligatures, which are readily absorbed and perfectly antiseptic; and the infrequency of septic