ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

Notes of Cases in Practical Medicine. By A. H. DAVID, M.D.,
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ECZEMA—Is a very common disease of children in this country, and
is generally looked upon as a sign of health, and therefore a disease that
should not be interfered with; but with the improved knowledge
we are daily acquiring, the sooner this idea is exploded the better; and
of late years I have been in the habit of advising parents of children
afflicted with this complaint that have occurred in my practice, to allow
me to try and arrest a disease, which is so very disfiguring; and by the
simple treatment I have adopted, have succeeded in curing every case.
I may premise that various names have been given to this disease;
Eczema, Datre, Tinea, and in this country, among the French Canadians,
with whom it is a very common complaint, it is called *La Rifle* or *Reefe;*
and it is especially among these people the absurd idea prevails that it is
wrong to attempt to stay its progress. It appears, or shows itself, in
children at the breast of three, five, or eight months of age, and again in
children of two or three years of age, and also at the period of cutting
the last double teeth.

I shall not in this paper attempt to enter into a description of the
varieties of this disease, as laid down by authors; but simply describe the
form as it has generally presented itself in the cases I have met with.
The first thing which attracts the attention of the mother is the child's
constantly putting its hands to its head, as if it were suffering from
pruritis or *itching;* soon after which an eruption of small vesicles
appear. These vesicles contain a small globule of limpid serum, and
usually correspond with the minute projections whence the hair issues:
when these small vesicles are burst, from the child's scratching, a drop of
serum escapes, and presents a yellowish scab, which, being soon thrown
off, leaves a little pink spot, alternately dry and moist, with a white circle
round it.