

R. Iodoformi, 3 ij;
 Unguent. cetacei, ʒi;
 Ext. conii, 3 iss;
 Acid. carbol., x gtt.—M.

This ointment is spread twice daily on soft linen, and applied over the inflamed surface, and then enveloped in oiled silk. No other dressing is necessary. The only objection to the use of this remedy is its peculiar odor. In those cases of burns attended with great dryness of surface from destruction of vitality and want of exhalation, the wound before being covered with the iodoform ointment, should be coated over with the common linimentum calcis. This affords a soft and moist dressing, which in no wise interferes with the action of the iodoform.—*Philadelphia Medical Times*.

THE USE OF ARSENIC IN THE TREATMENT OF DISEASES OF THE SKIN.

Dr. L. Duncan Bulkley, Physician to the Skin Department of Demilt Dispensary, New York, presents (*New York Medical Journal*, Aug., 1876) the following summary in regard to the rules to be observed in the use of arsenic therapeutically:—

1. Arsenic, when administered in medicinal doses, has quite another action from that manifested by poisonous doses; the average dose of the former is one twenty-fourth of a grain of arsenious acid, while the smallest toxic dose is stated at two grains.

2. Arsenic in medicinal doses does not produce any slow poisoning, but has been administered for months or years in quantities a small portion of whose aggregate amount would destroy life at once. Hebra has administered a total of more than half an ounce to a single patient. The accounts of the thetoxophagi of Styria are true, and arsenic is eaten by some for many years without apparent ill effect.

3. Arsenic given by a careful practitioner, in doses to be effective, need never produce any symptoms which should cause regret.

4. Arsenic is eliminated very rapidly, chiefly by the bowels and kidneys, so that the urine shows evidences of it in a few hours; no trace of it can be found on careful analysis of the body after death, two weeks after the last dose of arsenic.

5. Arsenic, therefore, does not accumulate in the system, and no fear of this need be entertained; but when it is administered in increasing doses absorption may be hindered, and, when the doses become very large, active absorption of the large dose may give rise to a suspicion of cumulative action.

6. The first symptom of a full dose of arsenic, in a very large share of cases, is a fulness about the face and eyes, and conjunctival irritation and tenderness. This need not be exceeded, but may often be kept up with advantage to a slight degree till the disease yields. Before any harm is done by the arsenic, either this or a slight nausea or diarrhoea manifests itself.

7. Arsenic should always be given with or just after meals; it is often best to give it alone, or with a small amount of bitter infusion.

8. The bowels should be first well purged, and

an occasional laxative will both assist the action of the drug and prevent or modify some of its unpleasant effects.

9. If the urine becomes loaded and the tongue coated, it is best to stop the medicine for a short time and give diuretics; some of these disturbances can be prevented by combining an alkali, as acetate of potassa, carbonate of soda or aromatic spirits of ammonia with the arsenic.

10. The most serviceable forms in which to use arsenic, named in the order of their value, are: solution of the chloride of arsenic, solution of the arseniate of potassa, that of the arseniate of soda, and the arseniate of ammonia, arsenious acid, iodide of arsenic, and the arseniaes of iron and quinia; of as yet untried efficacy, solution of the chloro-phosphide of arsenic and arseniate of antimony.

11. The dose of arsenic, small at first, is to be increased slowly until some of its physiological effects are manifested or the disease yields; it may then be somewhat diminished.

12. It is very important that arsenic be taken very regularly and persistently, and always under the supervision and frequent inspection of the physician.

13. Arsenic is valuable in chronic rheumatism, hence is useful in arthritic eruptions; it is serviceable in certain neuroses, as chorea and neuralgia, therefore in skin diseases with neurotic elements; and it possesses anti-malarial properties, and is consequently serviceable in diseases of the skin showing periodic symptoms, as intermittent urticaria, etc., likewise in patients with other skin diseases who have been exposed to miasmatic influences.

14. Arsenic is certainly valuable in psoriasis, eczema, pemphigus, acne, and lichen, in proper cases and when due regard is paid to the secretory organs, and to diet and other elements of general health; of less certain value in lupus, ichthyosis, sycosis, verruca and epitheliomatous and cancerous diseases; it is absolutely useless or harmful in the syphilodermata, the animal and vegetable parasitic diseases (except in rare cases), in elephantiasis Græcorum, and Arabum, in purpura, true prurigo, herpes zoster, seleroderma, molluscum contagiosum and fibrosum, keloid, vitiligo, nævus, etc.

15. The only local application of arsenic which is justifiable is either one where the strength is so weak, and the extent of its use so small, that there is no danger from absorption, which may occur when not expected, or, one of such a strength as to kill the adjoining tissue at once, and so prevent absorption, as is the case with Marsden's mucilage.

ON A POWDER FOR THE PREVENTION OF CICATRICES FROM VARIOLOUS PUSTULES.

La Salute in this paper (*Paris Médical*, June 1, 1876, from *La France Médicale*) says he has proved in many cases the good effects of a powder composed of four parts flowers of sulphur and one part of red precipitate. He has been able by the aid of this topical application to prevent the formation of evident cicatrices on the face of a variolous patient. He was led to the application of this mixture in