

inches of surface ; it was of a deep cherry-red colour, approaching purple, and covered with knobs of condensed tissue, an eighth of an inch high. This nævus could be seen as far off as the colour of the face. After two applications the spot has nearly disappeared, the skin generally having the hue of a surface blistered some days previously, and it is now nearly well. Some portions were absolutely like normal skin, and entirely colourless. Every knob was gone, and where stood one of the largest, and where the rays were longest condensed, was a perfectly healthy-looking cutis. I do not consider this man as absolutely well, but so much better than he would have been under any known agent, that I must confess my hopes have been considerably raised. As a deformity, or rather as a mark, this man can be considered practically cured, although there is at present the appearance stated, but which does not especially draw attention. I would add, that the rays were condensed with excellent success, even on the very edge of the lid. Mr. Barnes applies his caustic not only to discolorations, but to small tumours involving the surface of the skin, to lupus and ulcerations. He claims to have produced a true and healthy skin on the surface affected by ichthyosis.

How the light, as a caustic, operates differently from other agents, it may be difficult to say, but it has struck me that as the rays are possessed of powerful bleaching properties, it is possible this principle may be brought into play. If the pigment is destroyed, and the secreting power of the corpus mucosum changed, there may be an alteration in the colour without impairment of the cutis vera, which latter seems in all cases to have remained uninjured.

Nor is the pain as severe as we might apprehend, as it is confined at each instant to a very minute point, and therefore must be less perceptible than when diffused over a large surface. Patients at any rate submit very readily and without the use of anæsthetics. I would here suggest, that probably we may not find in this a remedy for the lead-coloured skin produced by light acting on nitrate of silver. It would be less likely to cure than when the discoloration was from some other cause, since it is the effect of light. There is this difference, moreover, that in the nitrate of silver stain the whole skin may be impregnated, while in nævi the discoloration is confined to some particular tissue or layer. I strongly suspect the skin of the negro might be changed to come closer more probably than in case of colouring with nit. silver.

As to the removal of lupus and small cancers, we may well entertain grave doubts. But as there is no proof that cancer in its incipency is not a local disease, it would be wrong to pronounce too hasty judgment. I intend making further experiments with this agent, and hope others of the profession will do the same, and give the results to the public.