

## THE TREATMENT OF CARBUNCLES.

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On Thursday afternoon Mr. L—— came to my office suffering with a carbuncle on his neck, which he said had been coming for three days and that he “waited for it to get ripe” before consulting me. Having suffered from this worst of all furunculous tumors, he was not a little anxious and somewhat depressed, as he had an important business trip arranged for the next week and he was especially anxious for a speedy recovery. On removing the dressings from his neck I found an induration about two inches in diameter covered with pus; on cleaning it off there were brought to view six pustules in a space about three-quarters of an inch in diameter; these pustules were oozing a thick pus, and I was satisfied that my patient was in for a siege with one or more carbuncles, as there were a number of other pustules on his neck which looked bad, to say the least.

Taking a knife I made a free incision across the top of the carbuncle; after evacuating as well as I could, I washed it out with a solution of carbolic acid about three to five per cent. After this with a pair of dressing forceps I removed all the broken-down tissue I could, a plan which I have found to be of great service in many cases of carbuncles, as thereby whole colonies of micro-organisms are taken out that otherwise would increase and multiply until thrown off by suppuration. Having cleansed the wound thoroughly, I packed it with dry protonuclein special; after which I applied a poultice of flaxseed meal, on which was a teaspoonful of fluid extract of eucalyptus globulus.

As a tonic I ordered:

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Elix. Ferri, Quiniæ, et Strych. Phosphat.,  $\bar{3}$  jv

Sig. A teaspoonful three times a day.

The local treatment was repeated for two days, when the poultice was left off and instead this ointment was used:

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Sebi ovis	} aa	..... $\bar{3}$ ij
Ol. oliv.		
Ceræ flava,		$\bar{3}$ ss
Zinc. oxid.,		$\bar{3}$ iij
Ext. eucalypt. glob.		$\bar{3}$ j
Acid carbolic		grs. c

M. Fiat. unguent. Sig. Grant's Comp. Zinc Ointment.

I continued to wash the wound with the dilute carbolic acid and pack it with the protonuclein; this dressing was renewed twice daily. So rapid was the recovery that on the following Monday evening the wound was healed, and the induration was almost entirely gone, and I dismissed the case with directions that he keep a dressing of the ointment on the seat of the carbuncle for several days to protect the tender skin.

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