

begin as early as at the age of forty years or even earlier. In those women who have had their ovaries removed all the phenomena of change of life are produced prematurely. I have recently seen a woman of only twenty-six years of age, who has had both ovaries removed, who has had all the phenomena of change of life just as if she were forty-eight or fifty years of age, and who is suffering from the skin troubles associated with that period. There is usually considerable flushing, sweating, and other nervous phenomena, headaches, and disturbances of the digestive tract—dyspepsia and constipation. A spare woman at that time of life suddenly begins to flush in the face, perhaps after taking a meal; later the disorder becomes a little more acute; she gets an acute eczema of the scalp and it spreads down all over her face. For that condition there is no drug or combination of drugs as far as I know which is of such service to relieve the symptoms, not only the eczema, but all the symptoms mentioned, as ichthyol. If it is used in the right way it is an invaluable drug, and this is one of the diseases in which it is of the greatest possible use. It is a nasty-smelling drug, therefore every attempt should be made to disguise the odor. If it is given in the form of Burroughs & Wellcome's tabloids, which are covered with sugar, there is no difficulty on that score. It can be given in tabloids covered with keratin, which does not dissolve until it gets into the intestine, the result being that the patient does not get eructations of the ichthyol. The doses should be two and a half grains to begin with after each meal. At the end of two or three days it should be increased to five grains, then to seven and a half grains, and then to ten grains. If the patient tastes it much the stomach has got more than it can digest. In that case the dose should be cut down a little. But the effect of the drug in clearing away the symptoms is very extraordinary.

With regard to local treatment, this form of eczema which occurs at the change of life requires rather more active treatment than is needed at any other time. Such cases usually bear fairly strong applications of sulphur and resorcin.

The other form at change of life is the very acute eczema which occurs about the vulva and anus.

ECZEMA IN OLD AGE.

There is a particular form of eczema in old people which is very serious. First of all, as the result of enfeebled vitality, old people get an atonic condition of the skin, and with this a form of chronic eczema with short acute exacerbations which does not disappear in the way in which it does in earlier life. In the aged