

reputation to the fact that they have been used just as the disease was abating naturally, and straightway they got credit for a miraculous cure. A trapper of my acquaintance assured me that a fresh poultice of jewelweed (*Impatiens fulva*) was a sovereign remedy, but a personal trial failed to prove his assertion. I have heard of an infusion of *Antennaria* (species not stated) having been used with success, and a ten per cent. solution of sodium hyposulphite is sometimes prescribed, but there is really no specific known for the disease, and the most effective remedy only shortens the period of the attack. My friend, Dr. Graham Harkness, of Vineland, Ont., who is himself very susceptible to the poison, and consequently has had a great deal of experience in its treatment, has kindly given me the following notes on the therapeutics of the subject:—

"If a susceptible person finds that he has exposed himself to poison ivy, he should, as soon as possible, wash thoroughly in warm water and castile soap, and then apply a dilute solution of ammonia. This will often prevent an attack.

An attack untreated will run its course in about 18 days. Properly treated it will subside in a week or 10 days.

For small patches scrub thoroughly with a stiff brush, or if on the face, run over them with a safety razor, and apply alcohol. This treatment is somewhat painful, but causes the spots to dry up and disappear in 4 or 5 days, and besides it absolutely relieves the itching.

For a more generalized attack nothing is better than the old-fashioned lead and opium lotion: one teaspoonful each of lead acetate and laudanum to 4 oz. of water.

The principle of all treatment is the same: apply astringents. The more effectively this can be done the quicker the cure.

For the unhealthy condition in which the skin is often left after an attack, nothing is so good as arsenic in the form of Fowler's Solution, 2-5 drops in water three times a day."

But here the proverbial ounce of prevention may well be quoted a good deal above par, and the moral is, even if you are quite sure that you are immune, have no unnecessary commerce with poison ivy.

BOOK NOTICES.

THE EVOLUTION OF THE VERTEBRATES AND THEIR KIN, by William Patten, Ph.D.: P. Blakiston's Son & Co.; Philadelphia; price \$4.50.

In this volume of nearly 500 pages, Dr. Patten has given us the result of a quarter of a century's effort towards the solution