

and which I find to possess great intensity. It is constructed of perforated zinc and copper gauze cut into square pieces soldered together, and the couples separated by pieces of woollen cloth. It is set in action by strong vinegar, a few seconds' contact of the poles (terminated by wet sponges) with the skin will cause vesication. Its use, therefore, requires caution. It cannot be applied to the face, or any part of the head and neck to which the fifth pair of nerves is distributed, without risk of causing great disturbance of vision and perhaps blindness from over-excitation of the retina."

SYCOSIS CURED BY SULPHATE OF SODA.

By J. Y. Dale, M.D., Agricultural College, Pa.

In August, 1865, I was consulted by T. W., aged 23, a returned soldier, who had *syccosis menti*, which extended over his chin and the left side of his face. Having read of the influence of sulphite of soda on diseases of cryptogamic origin, it occurred to me that this would be a very good case in which to try its effects. I therefore prescribed for him as a local application *sodæ sulphis gr. xl, aquæ 3 ij, glycerinæ 5 j, M.*, which was to be used frequently; and I directed him to keep his beard closely trimmed, but not to shave. In four days not a vestige of the eruption remained. The same remedy has proved equally effectual in three cases treated since then.

ON THE NATURE AND TREATMENT OF CHILBLAINS.

By HENRY SAMUEL PURDON, M.D., L.R.C.P.Ed., L.R.C.S.I., Physician to the Belfast Dispensary for Diseases of the Skin, Assistant Physician to the Belfast Charitable Infirmary, &c.

Chilblains are an inflammatory state of the cuticle arising from exposure to cold, *Dermatitis congelationis*, as Hebra calls it. Now the specific inflammation (if I may so term it) that causes chilblains extends to the deeper structures of the corium, frequently to the cellular tissue beneath it, and is not primarily subcutaneous. In chilblains, like other inflammations, we have increased vascular action, followed by subcutaneous infiltration.

This affection is ushered in by a feeling of heat and itchiness, combined with redness and swelling of the affected part; the sensation of itching is aggravated by warmth. In some cases vesicles make their appearance, accompanied by a weeping of serum, being a typical eczema of Willan; in other instances by numerous fissures, the eczema fissum of