

the carron oil without the lanoline a separation of the lime-water is obtained, which interferes very much with its efficacy. As regards its preparation, the best plan is to mix the olive oil and the lanoline together in a bath, and when it is melted add the lime-water, and then while it is still warm stir in the oxide of zinc. If that is done in rather a large way, and the ingredients are therefore thoroughly mixed, the blandest possible cream will be the result. We know how in the case of burns the carron oil relieves the smarting and the pain, and as we want to do that in this condition it is a particularly useful application for it. To that cream can be added drugs of an antiseptic character, and there is none that I know of that irritates less or answers better in drying up this condition and converting an acute into a subacute stage than ichthyol. A very small quantity should be used. In infants I would begin with half a drachm of ichthyol to three ounces of the cream. Then with regard to the way of applying it. Linen should be torn into narrow strips, and should be soaked in this cream and then applied very accurately. The whole of the affected skin surface should then be covered with a very thin gauze bandage to keep it in place. As soon as it begins to dry these strips should be removed and some more should be dipped into the cream and applied as before. As soon as the condition passes into the dried-up, scaly stage, an ointment is more suitable than the cream, because the cream is exceedingly drying in its effects. Then we come to the use of a simple ointment. I would here say that it is a very common thing to use simple boric acid ointment for it. That is about the most uncertain application I knew of. Sometimes it is of use, but sometimes it irritates badly and does an immense amount of harm. On the whole it is too uncertain to trust to in young children. At the next stage, therefore, I suggest weak ammonia-chloride of mercury ointment.

This form of eczema, like all others, is cyclical in its nature. It starts in the way I have described; it comes to its height and then subsides again; but the whole tendency of the condition is to commence again; and in spite of all our treatment, however well directed it may be so far as internal or local treatment is concerned, there are a certain number of cases that go on relapsing again and again, and I do not know of any method of treatment by which these particular cases can be certainly cured. Fortunately the proportion of these stubborn cases is exceedingly small. We know that some adults who are the victims of constant attacks of eczema will tell you that they have had it since they were infants. The disease may become altered in character to some extent when they get older, but still it is clear that if they have been told that they had it when very young it has persisted