

it contains relatively less potassa. In one case of eczema of the hands, in a mason aged thirty-three years, which had existed for ten or more years, it was used with excellent effect. He had been treated by me with other measures for six months with varying success, and when this method was commenced the skin on the back of both hands was very greatly thickened, even to three or four times the normal; the surface was hard and scaly in some places, moist and cracking in others. He was first given a strong potash solution (one drachm to one ounce), with which the surface was well rubbed once or twice, and covered with the diachylon ointment of the Germans. This caused great swelling, which subsided, leaving the parts somewhat less thickened. He was then directed to rub in the common soft soap, well, night and morning, and cover the hands as before; and after a short time the friction with which it was applied was increased, until he came to using an ordinary scrubbing-brush, such as is used for the floor. Dipping it in soft-soap, the back of each hand was scrubbed—the palm resting on a table, till the opposite arm and shoulder were tired. The result was that at each visit a marked diminution in the thickness was noticed, and in three weeks the skin was reduced to almost the normal thickness, and his hands were better than they had been for ten years. This is an exaggerated case, but is of value, showing how far the stimulating treatment may be pushed with advantage; whereas, on the contrary, ninety out of one hundred of the ordinary run of eczema cases would be greatly aggravated by such means.

"In one case of eczema of the scrotum I obtained very excellent results from the repeated application, by means of a camel's hair brush, of the compound tincture of benzoin. The man ceased attending before the thickening had entirely disappeared, and the ultimate result cannot be stated with certainty; but it is probable that the disease was cured, as the remedy was the first one tried by me, and the relief and satisfaction expressed by the patient was very great.

"Quite a large share of the cases of ordinary eczema of various parts was treated by the oxide-of-zinc ointment, very generally in conjunction with some internal medication, depending upon the state of the patient. Many of this class are the constant subjects of dyspepsia, and the rhubarb-and-soda mixture was very commonly used. I frequently add Fowler's solution to it, giving of the latter three or four drops with a teaspoonful of the former. Many of these patients require tonics, and the ammonio citrate of iron and compound tincture of cinchona were generally used. Acute lichenous eczema I frequently treated with Startin's mixture of sulphate of magnesia, sulphate of iron, aromatic sulphuric acid, and gentian. Acetate of potassa, alone or combined, was used somewhat, and in my hands has done much for eczema.

HAIR TONIC.

Dr. J. N. Nowlin, of Georgia, sends us the following prescription which he has used for years, and "has yet to meet the first instance of failure to arrest falling of the hair." He requests those who use it to report through this journal.

R. Borax, powdered,	two drachms
Cologne water,	eight ounces
Bay rum,	six ounces
Tinct. cantharides,	
Spir. ammo. aromat., aa	one ounce. M.

Sig. Apply to the scalp every morning, by thoroughly rubbing in.—*Philadelphia Medical Reporter.*

THE DISCOVERER OF THE ANÆSTHETIC PROPERTIES OF CHLOROFORM.*

An attempt to relieve the tedium of convalescence from a severe attack of influenza, at the close of last year, led Sir Robert Christison to take up the thread of some former inquiries on the subject of anæsthesia, the result being an interesting contribution to the history of the use of chloroform as an anæsthetic. Having heard vague reports that chloroform had been used in the practice of Sir William Lawrence and Mr. Holmes Coote in the summer of 1847, some months before Sir James Simpson's experiments, Sir Robert Christison, in 1870, applied to Mr. Holmes Coote for information. In reply, the latter gentleman confirmed the truth of the report, and stated that the substance was introduced to their notice under the name of "chloric ether," by a Mr. Furnell, who represented it to be a milder anæsthetic than sulphuric ether. It was tried in several cases successfully, and, whilst Sir William and he were endeavouring to reduce the amount of spirit and water so as to condense the preparation, Sir James Simpson made known his important discovery. Sir James Paget also testifies to the use of "chloric ether" at St. Bartholomew's.

Then for a time the inquiry dropped, partly through Mr. Furnell, who is now Surgeon-Major in the Madras Army, and was formerly a student in the School of Pharmacy, Bloomsbury Square, having been erroneously described by Mr. Coote as in the Bengal Army. Sir R. Christison has, however, succeeded in identifying and communicating with Mr. Furnell, who gives the following curious account of his first acquaintance with chloroform. In 1847 Mr. Furnell was a student in St. Bartholomew's and was also engaged in "putting in a vein of pharmacy" at John Bell & Co.'s, to enable him to pass at the College of Surgeons. Whilst at the establishment in Oxford street he appears to have developed so extraordinary a propensity for experimenting upon himself with sulphuric ether, which just then was creating a great sensation in London, that Mr. Jacob Bell became alarmed, and gave orders that no more ether should be supplied to him. This led Mr. Furnell to search the store-room to see whether he could

* Pharm. Jour. and Trans.