

by Dr. Unna, of Hamburg. It is called "*Basis seife*," and is carefully made so as to be as nearly neutral as compatible with the formation of suds in warm water. It is called "superfatted," but I think that is a misnomer.

If the eczematous condition requires local medication, a very mild astringent lotion acts better than other forms of treatment in most cases. The black wash of the Pharmacopœia, alone or with an equal quantity of lime-water, sopped on the skin or applied on soft rags in the folds of the skin from time to time, often acts surprisingly well. Powders are so apt to cake and crust that they must be employed with caution, and those containing starch should be avoided. Very finely-powdered talc, Fuller's earth, or, in some cases, the sub-nitrate of bismuth, are among the best.

When there are cracks and fissures, ointments may sometimes be used. The black wash, followed by an ointment of oxide of zinc and vaseline in equal parts, may be applied in small quantity. Now and then an ointment of sub-nitrate of bismuth, half a drachm to the ounce of vaseline, may be employed.

The same principle applies in the treatment of erythematous eczema about the neck, etc., only that no internal treatment of any kind is required in these cases.

I have said that the diagnosis of erythematous eczema in infants presents no difficulty. The only exception to this is met with occasionally in certain cases of eczema about the buttocks. Here, when there is a tendency to infiltration resembling rather papular erythema than eczema, a case will occasionally be encountered which resembles one of the erythematous forms of infantile syphilis.

The syphilitic eruption, however, is almost always accompanied by moist papules about the anus, and you will also be apt to find some other sign of syphilitic infection, notably that nasal catarrh commonly called "the snuffles." In suspicious cases a very close examination should be made to exclude the more serious constitutional disease.

Erythematous eczema is a disease of earlier infancy. After the first six months of extra-uterine life the commonest forms are eczema *vesiculosum* and eczema *rubrum*.

A little before the advent of the first teeth,

children sometimes begin to show a slight redness in the cheeks, with the formation of incomplete vesicles. Often this does not extend beyond a small patch, which may come and go in sympathy with stomachal or buccal irritation. At other times the disease spreads rapidly, the cheeks and forehead become covered with a bright red, dry, or moist eruption, with a greater or less amount of exudation and crusting.

If the infant is badly nourished, or sometimes even when the general health is not perceptibly impaired, this eruption may spread and cover the whole head, and patches may appear elsewhere on the body and on the limbs. These are usually accompanied by much itching and irritation; the child weeps, struggles, and attempts to scratch and rub the irritated skin with fury. It seems to sleep little and cries constantly, depriving its attendants of rest, and demanding all the skill and solicitude of the physician to give relief. I need not dwell upon the picture, as it is, unfortunately, not an uncommon one.

In most of these cases the infant has had more or less digestive trouble. The cases I meet most commonly occur in children who have been brought up by artificial feeding. Your first efforts thus far are to be directed toward allaying any irritation which may be present in the alimentary canal. This is often no easy task. I cannot at present, however, go into this branch of treatment, which also you must naturally be prepared to advise according to the circumstances of each case.

I will say, however, that when no particular indication for treatment presents itself, the administration of minute and frequently-repeated doses of calomel is often of the greatest service. The course should last for twenty-four or thirty-six hours, and should be repeated every five or seven days, or at the beginning of each recurrence.

When the eczema occurs a little later, about the end of the first year, the teeth are almost always at fault. A fresh recurrence of the eczema may be looked for just before the eruption of each tooth. The moment the teeth appear through the gum, the eczema tends to subside. You may aid nature by incisions over the pressing tooth, often with very great advantage.