

paration is now to be applied directly to the scalp, and to the hair as well, in order to counteract the effect of the alkaline wash, which tends to produce shrinkage of the skin. We shall order for our patient an oil composed of one part glycerine, one part ol. ricini, and two parts alcohol, to be worked into the scalp after each washing with the soap preparation.

There are cases of seborrhœa, however, where the products of disease have been allowed to accumulate to such an extent that they form quite a crust. In such cases a quantity of olive oil—say a teacupful—should be well worked into the scalp, and the head covered with a night-cap. If this is done at night, the crusts and scales will have become so far softened by the next morning that the wash above mentioned may be successfully used.

Finally, you should remember that in such cases as these of old standing, and where the disease has made much progress, many hairs will have become loosened from their sheaths, and will remain attached to the crusts only. Of course, the first time the patient's head is thoroughly cleansed all these detached hairs come away, and the effect at times is somewhat startling. It should always be ascertained if many hairs have become loosened or entirely separated before the cleansing process has been commenced, that the patient may be warned of the probable result.—*Philadelphia Medical Times*.

SULPHUR IN THE TREATMENT ACNE.

Dr. Sidney Ringer says (*The Lancet*, Feb. 21) : "The topical effects of sulphur ointment, or, of an iodide of the hypochlorite of sulphur, or, still better, of the iodide of sulphur of the Pharmacopœia, is most marked an *acne indurata* and *acne rosacea*, these effects being twofold, and even opposite, according to the stage of the eruption. If applied at the very commencement of the eruption, as soon as the little hard knot is felt under the skin, further development is arrested, and the hardness speedily disappears. For instance, if smeared over the hardness just before going to bed, in the morning scarcely any induration will be felt, though after a time, perhaps, from exercise or the irritation from washing, much of the hardness may return, to be again removed by a new application of the ointment, so that in two or three days a papule that threatened to become of considerable size may be completely dispersed.

When, however, the nodule has advanced further, and suppuration has set in, then the effects of the ointment are much like those of the sulphides, administered internally, on boils, hastening maturation, limiting the swelling and hardness, and thus considerably curtailing the duration of the eruption. Nay, further, if rubbed over the skin, it appears to check the formation of acne spots. If rubbed over the nose and neighboring parts of the face in *acne rosacea* its effects are often most striking. Not only does it act as an *acne indurata*, but the hardened, swollen tissues become softened and reduced to a more natural state. He has found the iodide of

sulphur likewise useful in bromic acne, reducing the eruption, or at least considerably reducing the size of each spot. In acne the ointment should be thinly spread over the eruption, night and morning.

ON SULPHIDE OF POTASSIUM, SULPHIDE OF SODIUM, SULPHIDE OF CALCIUM.

Dr. Sidney Ringer speaks enthusiastically of the influence of these remedies upon the suppurative processes, such as abscesses, boils, and scrofulous sores. When sulphide of calcium or potassium is administered, a thin, watery, unhealthy discharge becomes at first more abundant, afterwards diminishing, and throughout continues thicker and healthier, possessing, indeed, the characters of "laudable" pus. The condition of the sore improves correspondingly and its healing is promoted. The sulphides appear, often, to arrest suppuration; serving to reduce inflammation, and avert the formation of pus.

The effects of these remedies are equally conspicuous in mammary abscesses, although in rare instances they appear temporarily to increase the pain—a remark which seems, sometimes, to hold good with respects to boils. But, as a rule, the pain is speedily mitigated. Singular to say, he has found these remedies of much less use in forwarding the maturation and expulsion of pus in indolent tumors. For the relief of boils and carbuncles, the tenth of a grain of sulphide of calcium, given every two hours, generally prevents the formation of fresh boils, while it lessens the inflammation and reduces the area of existing boils, and quickly liquefies the "core," so that its separation is much more speedy than usual. In some cases of deep-seated boils and abscesses they are powerless.

A very beneficial effect appears to be exercised upon suppurating scrofulous glands in the neck. Here again they hasten the elimination of the pus, and subsequently the cheesy, scrofulous matter.

DIVISION OF THE SPINAL CHORD IN THE NECK.

Indian Medical Gazette, September 1, 1873.

N. B. Baillie records the case of a woman who lived for six hours after receiving a blow with a hatchet which cut through the third spinous process and the back part of the fourth cervical vertebra, dividing the spinal chord completely, and penetrating into the body of the vertebra in front of the spinal canal.—*Phil. Med. Times*.

INCONTINENCE OF URINE.

Dr. Thomas Kennard, of New York, uses the following ointment in the treatment of this disease:—Sulphate of atropia, ten grains; veratria, ten grains, hog's lard, twelve drachms. By rubbing the perineum three times daily with the ointment, in three cases of paralysis accompanied by incontinence of urine, Dr. Kennard obtained a complete recovery at the end of a few days.