

light clothing, dyed clothing, wet diapers, scratching, and the too frequent washing of the body and scalp with soap and water. The eruption is often aggravated by the use of quack preparations, or ointments recommended by obliging friends and neighbors.

Treatment.—The general principles upon which the successful treatment of infantile eczema must be based are, to improve the nutrition of the patient, correct any disorder of digestion or excretion that may exist, and protect the affected surface from further irritation, and endeavor to restore it to its normal condition. The measures to be employed in each case will vary with the cause of the disease, and the extent, variety and stage of the eruption. In some cases attention to diet and hygiene will be sufficient to effect a cure. In other cases, local or constitutional medicine will be required, while in obstinate cases both local and constitutional remedies must be employed. In mild cases of the erythematous or papular variety, in which the deficient character of the food supply is plainly apparent, immediate improvement can often be obtained by simply giving a sufficient quantity of appropriate nourishment. There are several ways of accomplishing this. If the mother is nursing the child, and her milk is scanty or impoverished, she should be placed upon tonics and a liberal diet, and directed to give the child a definite quantity of cow's milk in addition to her own at stated intervals throughout the day. I have notes of several cases in which a rapid and decided improvement in the character and the amount of mother's milk, and a disappearance of the eruption from her child followed a liberal diet, conjoined with the use of this formulæ :

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| B. | Tinct. ignatiæ | 10 drops |
| | Tinct. serpentariæ | 6 drachms |
| | Tinct. cinchonæ | 1 ounce |
| M. | Sig. Teaspoonful in water before meals and at bedtime. | |

If, unfortunately, the infant cannot be nursed by its mother, the best substitute for its natural food is pure, undiluted cow's milk, unmixed with any other substance whatever. More than thirty years ago Dr. N. S. Davis declared before this Association, that the practice of diluting the cow's milk given to infants was the direct cause of incalculable suffering and innumerable deaths. Careful observation has convinced me of the truth of Dr. Davis' assertion. Time and again have I been called in to see infants of ten weeks who were crying continually, pining away, and in addition were covered with various forms of eczematous eruptions. On inquiring what the little patients were fed upon, answers were one part milk and three parts water, one part milk, one part flour, and five or six parts water. In one case the unfortunate child was being slowly and unknowingly starved to death upon one part milk and eight parts water. My orders in every case were at once to give each child plenty of pure, unadulterated cow's milk and nothing else for

food. For some I directed 2 grains of pepsin to be given in addition with each feeding. No others medicine was employed or required, and in every case the eruption spontaneously disappeared in from a few days to two weeks.

In other cases it will be found that the trouble is due to the child being given potatoes, pies, pastry, pork and all sorts of table food, preparatory to being weaned, or to assist it to cut its teeth. The child's stomach is unable to digest such food, its gastro-intestinal canal is disordered, and various eruptions appears that are charged to dentition. Dentition is a perfectly natural process, and in the overwhelming majority of cases is accomplished without any reflex or direct disturbance of the system. The cases of eczema attributed to it are numerous, but they are really due to errors of feeding and disorders of digestion.

Cases of infantile eczema, due to imperfect digestion and mal-assimilation, require to be studied carefully. Those in which there is a deficiency in the gastric juice, are benefitted by the administration at each feeding of from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 grains of pure pepsin, or from 2 to 5 grains of lactopeptine. Nux vomica in doses of from one-quarter to two minims of the tincture three times a day is also valuable. Minute doses of the chloride of iron, or of hydrochloric acid, sometimes yield better results than either pepsin or nux vomica. If diarrhoea exist, small doses of opium or Dover's powders, with an astringent tonic, like cinchona or geranium, will be of the utmost value. In some cases a change of air, as to the seashore or the mountains, will be the most effective remedy. Cod liver oil will be found of especial value in all patients that are debilitated, anæmic, or that present any evidences of the scrofulous diathesis. It may be given in half-drachm doses three times a day, or used as an inunction every morning. In many cases no other treatment will be necessary. The syrup of the iodide of iron is also valuable. The dose will vary from five to twenty drops, according to the age of the patient. It may be given in any convenient medium or in combination with cod liver oil.

Quinine is also an effective remedy, especially in malarious districts and in cases in which the eruption manifests itself during the spring and autumn months. It may be given in the syrup of yerba santa, in doses of from $\frac{1}{2}$ grain to 3 grains once or twice a day. Very often in cases arising from gastro-intestinal irritation or complicated by constipation, marked and rapid improvement can be obtained from the use of minute doses of calomel, alone or combined with a small quantity of jalap resin.

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| R. | Hydrag. Chlor. mitis. | 1 grain |
| | Resinæ jalapæ | 1 grain |
| | Sacchari albæ | 10 grains |
| M. | Make 6 powders. | |

Sig. One powder every other day.