

possesses, to a marked degree, the property of hastening the absorption of inflammatory products.

Chloral is also a rubefacient, producing some redness and heat in the skin, followed by marked anaesthesia, especially to subjective sensations. Its antiseptic properties are also well marked. When we combine these agents in equal parts we obtain a solution which is not a mere mixture but a complex chemical compound which acts as a rubefacient, staining the skin a light yellow. A slight, stinging pain is first produced, which is soon followed by a decided numbness of the skin over which the solution is painted. This solution possesses strong antiseptic, antiparasitic, antipruritic, antiphlogistic, analgesic, anaesthetic and absorption properties. It penetrates deeply into the tissues of the skin, not only hastening the absorption of inflammatory products, but being itself readily absorbed. Although it possesses these important therapeutical and physiological properties, it is not altogether free from evil effects which may result from its use. In a few cases, especially in children and blondes, the amount of pain and inflammation following its use is so extensive as to forbid its employment except much diluted, or over very limited areas. If applied to the face, scalp or hands it produces some staining, which, although lasting but a few days, is an objection to its use in some cases. There is always danger of the absorption of carbolic acid when this solution is painted over a large area, resulting in constitutional poisoning. This objection to its use should never be lost sight of when this agent is employed.

I was first tempted to use this combination of chloral, iodine and carbolic acid in certain cases of skin diseases, having employed it in my hospital days as an application to the cervix uteri, and noticing what a decided effect it had in lessening the congestion and thickening of the tissues. The little papillary growths so often found on the cervix were frequently destroyed, after a few applications of this mixture, without any inflammatory reaction. As the solution was also a powerful germicide, besides having such decided action on congested, indurated tissue, it seemed to me just the application to make in all parasitic affections of the skin accompanied by induration and thickening. Acting on these indications, I

began its use in my dermatological practice with the case just recorded, and have continued its use with the best results in certain classes of cases ever since. Especially has the result of treatment been most satisfactory in *ringworm* of the scalp. Cases which had resisted other forms of treatment for months began to improve at once, and were practically cured in three or four weeks.

The plan of treatment employed in these cases consisted in extracting the hairs from the diseased area, which was done with ease and without much pain after thoroughly rubbing into the scalp a four per cent. cocaine ointment, then cleansing thoroughly with soap and hot water, after which an application of this solution was painted over the patch extending a little beyond its border. If the area is a large one, and especially if the child is young, I advise that no larger area than an inch square be treated at one time. It is not unusual to find that this application is followed by quite a severe dermatitis of the scalp. To relieve this inflammation a Lassar paste is ordered continually applied. Usually in three or four days the inflammatory action has so far subsided that another application can be made. In a large number of cases treated I have found but very few that required more than three or four such applications.

This plan of treatment not only acts well in the non-inflammatory forms of ringworm of the scalp, but especially so in the *tinea kerion*, the inflammatory condition present being no counter-indication for its use. In ringworm of the body and in *tinea versicolor* one or two applications of this solution will usually effect a cure. In the treatment of *tinea barbae* I have perhaps met with the best success in the employment of this agent. The plan of treatment usually employed was as follows: If the disease had lasted but a short time its progress was usually checked by painting over the diseased surface every two or three days a solution of this iodine, chloral and carbolic acid, and in the meanwhile keeping some soothing application continually applied to relieve the subsequent inflammation. In chronic cases, and when the disease was extensive, it seemed much better to make this application over small areas at a time, thus taking perhaps a week to go over the whole surface, in the meantime keeping the beard cut very close and carefully extracting all hairs