

have seen many such cases. There are other factors which are also irritating and which do harm in a reflex way. One of the commonest of these is intestinal worms. Young children with worms will have their eczema aroused into a state of the greatest possible activity, and it is necessary, therefore, that we should direct our attention to that. If, therefore, we have got a child who is being well fed, who is having food which is appropriate, and in whom the simple, dry, scaly condition has been converted into an acute eczema, what internal treatment can we give which is likely to modify the process and relieve the symptoms? I believe there is no drug or combination of drugs which has such a good effect internally as mercury in some form. I believe it to be the experience of every general practitioner that if children are out of sorts a small dose of mercury will do wonders for them. Certainly that is the case as far as acute eczema is concerned. Of all the preparations of mercury there is none better than a small dose of calomel. It should be given at bedtime, and repeated in two or three nights. So far as the constitutional treatment is concerned it is the best that I know of for this condition.

Then, as regards local treatment of the acute stage, it is first necessary to do everything in our power to dry up the discharge, and the best way to do that is to apply powder. But if powder be applied to the skin a crust is formed which is sometimes exceedingly difficult to get off, and in the process of trying to get it off the condition is again aroused into activity. Therefore, it is not a bad plan to apply the powder in a muslin bag. Then comes the question, what particular kind of powder should be employed—whether it should be simply starch or rice powder, or whether it should be some antiseptic powder? I think that the best way out of that difficulty is to mix them. One part of finely triturated boric acid, and one part of starch, and perhaps one part of oxide of zinc, should be taken. These combined make an exceedingly useful drying powder. If it is put into a muslin bag, not too tight, and loosely applied over the head, that will tend to moderate the discharge. Immediately after that something extremely soothing should be applied to check as far as possible the formation of scabs. One of the prescriptions which I am fond of using at that particular stage is what I call "zinc cream." It consists of oxide of zinc, lanoline, olive oil, and lime-water. The proportions best suited for it, I think, are seven drachms of oxide of zinc, one drachm of lanoline, one ounce of olive oil, and one ounce of lime-water. It will at once be seen that the olive oil and lime-water make carron oil, to which are added oxide of zinc and lanoline. If oxide of zinc be added to