

acute disease, and that is to give rest to the skin as completely as possible. The local treatment should be directed to remove irritation, to destroy parasites, and to protect the inflamed surface from air and other irritants. All the crusts should be removed. They may be softened and loosened by the application of non-irritating oil to the patches. Pustules, if present, should be opened, and the surface washed once with a solution of boric acid or sprayed with a ten volume solution of hydrogenperoxide. Repeated washings with water are contra-indicated. Then a mild antiseptic astringent lotion should be applied. The writer has used for this purpose, during the last few years, a combination of black wash and calamine lotion, and cannot recommend it too highly, particularly in acute vesicular and pustular eczemas. It is made up as follows :—

R Hydrarg. sub-chlor.	grs. xv.
Zinci, carbonat.	℥ iv.
Zinci, oxidi.	℥ iii.
Glycerini.	℥ iss.
Aquae calcis ad.	℥ iv.—M.

Sig. : Apply frequently to affected parts.

This preparation is antiseptic, sedative, astringent and protective. Another remedy worthy of recommendation in vesicular and weeping eczemas is a saturated solution of picric acid. It precipitates the albumen and forms an artificial cuticle and is at the same time both sedative and antiseptic. However, picric acid is useless in acute dry eczemas, such as the papular and erythematous types. When the lesions are highly inflamed, I have usually found ointments and pastes, even when made as soothing as possible, to be more or less irritating, but as soon as the inflammation has subsided and lesions have become dry and scaly, then some form of greasy preparation is indicated and should take the place of the lotions. These should be slightly antiseptic, protective, and as emollient as possible. I have found Ihle's modification of Lassar's paste the best for this purpose. It may be prepared as follow :

R Resorcini.	grs. x.
Pulv. amyli	
Zinci oxidi	
Lanolini	
Vaselini.	aa ℥ ii.—M.

Sig. : Apply to part two or three times a day.

There are several other formulæ for good bases for pastes which I sometimes use in place of the above combination. I shall only give the formulæ for three of them :