

Another tarry preparation may be mentioned, the "Tinctura saponis cum pice;" it is made by dissolving tar and *sapo mollis*, or "green soap," in alcohol, equal parts of each of the three ingredients being taken.

The application of this remedy may be followed by that of the unguentum diachyli above described. In fact, the fingers and hands should always be wrapped up in ointments after the application of any of the remedies of a tarry and caustic character, or of those intended to macerate the epidermis. A good ointment to use after these washes is the following:

℞ Hydrarg. ammoniat., gr. v ;  
Zinci oxidi, ʒ iii ;  
Ung. picis U.S.P., ʒ iv ;  
Ung. aq. rosæ, ʒ vii ;  
Vaselin, ʒ iss.—M.

Rags or narrow bandages should be smeared thickly with this ointment, which is to be kept in contact with the skin continuously, being removed only when the tarry and caustic applications are made, or when used alone the ointment may be simply wiped off every evening, and a new application may be made immediately.

Two other forms of treatment remain to be described,—blistering and the application of plasters. The former plan is chiefly to be put in practice when the eruption is situated on the backs of the hands or on the fingers; it is performed by simply painting the parts with cantharidal collodion, and dressing the blister with one of the milder ointments. The other procedure is occasionally of use in cases where the palmar surface is thickly covered with dry horny epidermis. It consists in keeping the following ointment applied on narrow strips of muslin constantly in apposition to the surface:

℞ Hydrargyri vivi. gr. c ;  
Terebinthinæ, gr. c ;  
Emplast. plumbi, gr. ccl ;  
Resinæ pini, gr. l.—M.

This should be kept in contact day and night for a considerable period. As it is very tenacious, it rarely requires to be changed.

Finally, the fissures which occasionally occur in eczema, particularly about the fingers, are to be treated by long-continued soaking in hot water, followed by the application of a fine pencil of nitrate of silver in each fissure, and then wrapping up in one of the ointments described.

Constitutional treatment is rarely of use in chronic eczema of the fingers, though arsenic is occasionally found to do good. The acute varieties of eczema are to be treated like the same disease elsewhere. In any case a chronic affection, the prognosis of eczema of the hands should always be guarded. Some cases resist all treatment stubbornly.—*Phil. Medical Times*.

#### EXCESSIVE SWEATING OF HANDS.

For this annoying condition, Dr. F. H. Alderson says in the *Lancet*, July 28, 1883:

"The patient should soak her hands night and morning in warm water, in which should be dissolved about two drachms or half an ounce of the chloride of ammonium, and about twice as much carbonate of soda (crystals), enough water to be used to well cover the hands. I generally prescribe for my patients sufficient for six applications; and, as skins vary in tenderness, tell them to use as much as will temporarily, to a slight extent, cause the wrinkling known as *cutis anserina*, a condition which I describe to them as looking like the hands of a washerwoman. After well bathing, the hands are to be well rubbed with the following embrocation; Tincture of iodine one drachm, compound camphor liniment and glycerine of each a drachm and a-half, and compound liniment of belladonna one ounce. (If for the hands, a drachm of eau de Cologne makes the embrocation more agreeable.) The embrocation to be applied twice a day. A cure quickly follows. This treatment is equally appropriate and successful for excessive sweating and even bad-smelling feet, for that odor is due to the excessive function of the sudoriparous glands."

#### HABITUAL CONSTIPATION.

J. Mortimer Granville advises the following in constipation dependent upon a lax and torpid condition of the muscular coat of the alimentary canal, a loss of the reflex contractility that is natural and necessary to proper action:

℞. Sodæ valerianatis.....grs. xxxvj.  
Tr. nucis vomicæ.....ʒ j.  
Tr. capsici.....m. xlviij.  
Syr. aurantii.....ʒ iss.  
Aquæ.....q. s. ad ʒ vj.

M. Sig. A tablespoonful three times a day a half hour before meals.

When there is constipation depending on a deficiency of glandular secretions generally throughout the intestine, manifested by a peculiar dry and earthy character of the dejecta when the bowels act, he gives something like this:

℞. Aluminis.....ʒ iij.  
Tr. quassiaæ.....ʒ j.  
Infus. quassiaæ.....ʒ viij.

M. Sig. Take two tablespoonfuls three times a day after meals.

When constipation is due to the interruption of the habit of a daily evacuation of the bowels, he often prescribes the following with satisfactory results:

℞. Ammonia carbonatis.....ʒ j.  
Tr. valerianaæ.....ʒ j.  
Aquæ camphoræ.....ʒ v

M. Sig. Two tablespoonfuls to be taken in the morning immediately on rising.

It is, as a rule, neither necessary nor desirable to continue it for a longer time than a fortnight.—*Brit. Med. Jour.*