

of increasing the resistance of the patient and reducing the liability to further infection. For this purpose a series of injections should be given at intervals of four or five days, four or five injections are usually sufficient. Sometimes—for unknown reasons—the vaccine treatments fail to give the expected result, and it is useless, perhaps harmful, to continue with them. I have recently seen a case of furunculosis in which the medical attendant gave no less than twenty-four injections of an autogenous vaccine and fresh boils continued to appear. I cured this patient promptly by purely external applications.

The external treatment which I employ consists in the application of a plastic, first recommended by Dr. H. G. Klotz, of this city, made according to the following formula:

Emplastic diachyli	60
Emplastic Saponis	25
Cerae Japonicae	2
Petrolati	8
Acidi salicylici	5
M. ft. emplastrum lege artis.	

It is useless to hand this prescription to your patient and tell him to apply the stuff. It will take the druggist a day to make it, and at his first attempt he will probably make it badly. I advise you to give the formula to a druggist in your neighborhood and direct him to put up a quantity of the plastic and keep it in stock, rolled in sticks of about a half ounce each, wrapped in paraffined paper, in which it will keep indefinitely. The patient is instructed to spread the plastic by means of a stiff knife on a sheet of common muslin (sheeting), "like butter on bread," and apply a sufficiently large piece of the spread plaster, say one to two inches square, centrally over the boil. The effect of this plaster is almost immediate. The plaster acts as a cutaneous splint to protect the tender area, it softens the epidermis and thereby relieves tension quite as effectively as an incision; it softens and removes the little crust at the summit of the boil and thereby facilitates the discharge of the pus, and finally it serves as an occlusion dressing and by preventing the accidental spread of infectious matter over the skin reduces the probability of fresh infections.

The plastic should be changed—applied fresh—at first once a day, later when the boil is discharging freely twice a day, and perhaps three times on the day of the discharge of the core. To