

THE SURGICAL TREATMENT OF CERTAIN SKIN DISEASES.

BY DR. GEORGE HENRY FOX, OF NEW YORK.

Dr. Fox read a paper on the above subject at the recent meeting of the Ontario Medical Association, which was illustrated by cases and life-sized photographs. He called attention to a few simple instruments which he considered indispensable in dermatological practice, and of which the physician in general practice rarely makes use.

The value of the lancet in the treatment of indurated acne, rosacea and chronic leg ulcers; the use of electrolysis in the destruction of angiomata and the removal of pigmentary moles and superfluous hair; the employment of a metallic roller electrode in the relief of general pruritus, and the use of the curette in epithelioma and the scarifying knife in lupus, were successively discussed.

A case of nevus was exhibited in which a large pigmented, hairy, and warty patch involved the cheek and eyelid. The hair from a small portion of the patch had just been removed by electrolysis, and the reader of the paper claimed that by the use of the electrolytic needle, the excrescences, the hair, and the discoloration could be removed, and a better result attained than by any other plan of treatment.

A case of lupus vulgaris of long standing was also exhibited which had just been treated by linear scarification. The instrument used for this purpose by Dr. Fox was a small kidney-shaped knife; and it was claimed that by the adoption of this method of treatment, especially in cases of ulcerative lupus of the nose, the diseased tissue could be gradually destroyed and a far less contractile and disfiguring cicatrix left than by the use of the dermal curette or cautery. The use of a burr and hook, such as are employed by dentists in cleaning out carious cavities, was also recommended highly in the treatment of lupus, under certain conditions.

T. D. Greenlees states that in acute mania and conditions of mental excitement there is a lowered arterial tension.

Selections.

We are indebted to DR. NEVITT for the translations from the Italian and to DR. ZIMMERMAN for the French.

TREATMENT OF CHOLERA INFANTUM IN BELLEVUE HOSPITAL.

Dr. A. Jacobi treats the cases which come into his ward as follows:

INTERNAL MEDICATION.—*Empty the stomach and bowels* of fermenting masses. The castor oil of the lay public answers well. A dose of calomel (grs. j-vj) answers better, because it acts as an anti-fermentative, beside being a purgative.

Neutralize acids (fat acids) in the stomach. Carbonate or phosphate of calcium, grs. j-ij, every one to two hours, acts as an adjuvant to other treatment. Bismuth also answers this indication, besides being an anti-fermentative. Dose, grs. ss-ij every one to two hours. May (must) be combined with opium, Dover's powder, grs. $\frac{1}{10}$ — $\frac{1}{3}$, every one, two, to four hours. No salts of magnesium or sodium, because they add to the diarrhoea in these acute cases. Avoid syrups to correct the taste of medicines. They will turn sour. Prefer glycerine.

Anti-Fermentatives.—Calomel, bismuth, alcohol, creasote, salicylate of sodium, and resorcin have been recommended for their anti-fermentative effect. Of the two latter I prefer resorcin, iv-x grains a day, in solutions (suspensions), or as a constituent of powders (with bismuth, chalk, opium).

Sedative.—Opium depresses hyperæsthesia, hyper-peristalsis, and hypersecretion. Dover's powder (gr. $\frac{1}{10}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ every two to three hours) acts very well, though some writers object to it, and is indispensable. Does well with bismuth, and prepared chalk, with or without resorcin.

Astringents.—In acute cases, and when the stomach participates in the process, lead, tannin, gallic acid, alum, etc., are badly borne. In chronic protracted cases they will find their indication. Nitrate of silver does better in many acute cases, gr. $\frac{1}{30}$ th to $\frac{1}{30}$ th in 2 drachms of distilled water (dark bottle) every two hours. Creasote water in chronic cases.