

matol, which, as you know, is the subgallate of bismuth. When dusted on a moist surface, all drying powders have the same defect, viz., they form crusts under which sero-pus accumulates. In order to obviate this, poultices are applied as well; and we get a combination of mutual advantages, the dermatol acting as a drying agent, the poultices preventing it adhering too intimately and damming up secretion; while the film of dermatol protects the skin from becoming too macerated by the poultices.

This method of combining a powder and poultice is an excellent manner of treating coccogenic folliculitis. When I judge that the time has come to change from poultices to ointments or pastes, the procedure is as follows. And here, I may say, that I consider as much depends upon the method in which the remedy is applied as upon the remedy itself; and the dressing I am about to describe has been gradually evolved after much practical experiment:

A piece of ordinary lint, cut to the shape and size of the part to be dressed, is soaked in cold water, wrung out, still leaving a fair proportion of moisture, and laid flat upon a table. The ointment or paste to be used is then spread thinly and evenly with a spatula on the smooth side of the lint. As the lint is wet, it does not absorb much of the grease, and being wet it keeps cool and prevents the grease melting with the heat of the body, and finding the path of least resistance, viz., outwardly. Pastes and ointments after being spread, are always faced with butter-muslin, and this is of the greatest importance. I sometimes say to my students and colleagues that any fool can spread a paste on the skin, but it takes a wise man to remove it without damaging the delicate, newly-formed epidermis.

But the muslin face enables one to peel off the dressing like a banana-skin, and prevents too much of the paste adhering to the integument. Further, it facilitates surface drainage. In virtue of the water they contain, these dressings keep cool for several hours, and as the paste contains starch this tends to set in a slight degree, and thus the dressing acts as a splint, and helps to keep the inflamed parts at rest. This form of dressing, while applicable to all parts of the body, is particularly useful when applied to the face, where it is kept in place by specially knitted nets.

The pastes which I find give the best results are, Lassar's paste, boric paste, or a paste containing from 5 to 10 per cent. of sulphur.

Under such a dressing as I have described, a case of acute eczema progresses rapidly to a cure, and though the dressings are somewhat more expensive than simply giving a box of ointment to the patient