



## XIII. A specific remedy for the tinea capitis

Mr. James Barlow

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*Observations on this Case by Dr. Thornton.*

1. The herpes is a species of hitherto incurable leprosy, and was confirmed in the habit of this gentleman, having existed, as he writes to me, twenty-five years.

2. The common means failing, the trial of carbonic acid air to the parts affected was a judicious application.

3. If meat is put into fixed air it does not become putrid, and even tainted meat becomes sweet by immersion in fixed air.

4. Fixed air also takes off inflammation; for if a blister be cut, and fixed air be applied, the pain instantly ceases.

5. In this case it evidently promoted action, for after each application a moisture always prevailed; the incrustations were before hard and dry.

6. As the cure has existed seven years, a relapse is not to be dreaded; and this case is, I think, a very striking example of the propriety, not of the "madness," of the application of the pneumatic agents.

I have the honour to remain, dear sir,

Your obliged devoted friend,

ROBERT JOHN THORNTON.

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XIII. *A specific Remedy for the Tinea Capitis.* By  
Mr. JAMES BARLOW.

*To Mr. Tillock.*

SIR,

HEREWITH you will receive an account of a specific remedy for the *tinea capitis*; the insertion of which in your valuable Magazine will much oblige

Your obedient servant,

Blackburn, Lancashire,  
October 20, 1805.

JAMES BARLOW.

Most practitioners in medicine must have frequently experienced the difficulty of curing this obstinate malady. The intractableness of most children when attempted to be controlled or governed by the accustomed mode of treatment, renders the disease in most instances very difficult to subdue; and the quickness with which the hair of the scalp grows in children, has hitherto almost always rendered every effort to conquer the disease of no avail.

It was from a constant failure under the numerous and diversified remedies which have been recommended by authors in this malignant disease, that I was led to adopt the

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subjoined lotion; and I am happy to announce to the public, that by bathing the affected head therewith a few times, morning and evening, and suffering the parts to dry without interruption, the scabs will decorticate and peel off from the scalp, and leave the parts underneath perfectly healed; and this without torturing the patient by either shaving the head or cutting off the hair. I have been in the habit of treating this disease in this manner, and with this application, for the last ten years, and have invariably found it to answer (when duly applied) both in children and adults; and in many inveterate cases even where every other means had been previously used without effect, some of which were of several years standing.

R. Kali sulphurat. (recens preparat.) ʒ ij.

Sapo. alb. Hispan. ʒ jss.

Aq. calcis ʒ vijss.

Spir. vinos. rect. ʒ ij.

Ft. Lotio pro tinea capitis.

Might not the above remedy for *tinea capitis* be efficacious in relieving that dreadful endemic disease called *trichoma*, or *plica polonica*?

XIV. *On the Decomposition of Alkaline Sulphurets by the Oxides of Lead and of Manganese.* By M. DIZE\*.

IF charcoal be mixed with an alkaline sulphate, and then exposed to a high temperature, the oxygen, one of the constituent parts of the acid, burns the charcoal, quitting the sulphur which served as its radical; with which the alkali then combines, forming what is called an alkaline sulphuret. This combination, which is a result of the decomposition of the alkaline sulphates by the charcoal, is not so easily destroyed as might be supposed, especially when large masses are operated upon. The exposure, frequently repeated, of the alkaline sulphurets to a managed heat, is not sufficient to cause the sulphur to volatilize; for the alkali still retains enough of it to render it improper for certain operations in the arts; and the sulphur during its volatilization is partly deflagrated, and forms sulphurous acid, which combines with the alkali. Thus the operation is rendered more complex instead of being simplified, since we obtain only an alkali mixed with sulphuret and alkaline sulphite.

\* From *Van Mon's Journal*, No. 15.