

present. Other remedies had been without influence. The nitrate of silver was given in the ordinary dose, and improvement rapidly ensued. The author believes that the remedy profoundly influences the capillary circulation by its impression on the vaso-motor nerves.

#### TREATMENT OF NÆVI BY ELECTROLYSIS.

In some years' experience MARSHALL has reached the conclusion (*Lancet*, Jan. 12, 1889) that, upon the whole, electrolysis constitutes the best method for the removal of nævi. Its advantages are: (1) That there is no after-pain; (2) It is free from danger; (3) There is no bleeding; (4) The scar is white, and does not tend to contraction in loose structures, like the eyelids. Its main disadvantage is its slowness, for, while in exceptional instances nævi may be cured at one sitting without sloughing, it is unwise to attempt so much, as the chances are against a satisfactory result. It is better to have recourse to several such applications at intervals. The author's method consists in inserting the needle attached to the *positive* pole well under the surface of the growth, and then, after remaining in one spot long enough for some effect, to move it to other parts without withdrawing the needle. The circuit is made by attaching a rheophore to the negative pole; in this manner an unnecessary puncture is avoided. Before withdrawal of the needle it is first rotated. The orifice is painted over with collodion. A current from five to ten Leclanché cells is generally sufficient. Change in color to a dusky hue is an indication that the action has been sufficiently long continued.

#### AN ANOMALOUS FORM OF ECZEMA.

MAROTTER has met with (*British Medical Journal*, January 5, 1889) several cases of apparently eczematous disease involving the tragus and hairless skin in front of it, which have borne a striking resemblance to Paget's disease of the mammary areola. He quotes Crocker as having seen a similar condition on the scrotum. These regions have some physiological analogies: in all, the sebaceous glands are very large.

The several cases here embraced were characterized by a uniform, florid, oozing surface without granulations, hard and slightly raised, but without the rolled-over edges of rodent ulcer; without pain or much itching; stubbornness to treatment, and with, after healing, a slightly depressed unpigmented cicatrix remaining.

#### THE TREATMENT OF HYPERTRICHOSIS.

JAMISON (A.) describes in *The Practitioner* for July, 1889, a method which he has successfully employed in removing hairy moles and excessive hair growth upon unusual parts. It consists in the application of sodium ethylate. The notes of a case in which this plan was practised are given. The patient was a child of three months, the whole right half of whose forehead was closely covered with a growth of long hair. Under chloroform, after cutting the hair short on a part of the involved area, sodium ethylate was rubbed over the cleared surface "very freely and thoroughly till the skin had an orange appearance." Cold cream was then applied. At the end of

a fortnight the result was seen, and was most gratifying. "The hair-follicles over the greater part of where the application had been made seemed destroyed, and a whitish skin remained." Other parts were from time to time treated in the same manner, and the final result was satisfactory.

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#### ZOSTER GANGRÆNOSUS ATYPICUS.

In the *Wiener klinische Wochenschrift* of March 7, 1889, KAPOSI contributes, under the above designation, the notes of two cases of an anomalous herpetic disease. Both patients were females of a nervous temperament. The eruption occurs in patches or groups, similar to ordinary zoster, beginning usually as a somewhat elevated efflorescence, showing, in a day or two, scattered thickly over its area, subepidermic darkish or brownish points. The redness fades, and the gangrenous points rapidly involve the epiderm, and the patch then appears as a superficial, incompletely formed dry slough; or separation beneath the sloughing points takes place, and gives the patch the appearance of a dotted, superficial, sharply outlined erosion or ulceration. One or more patches may be present, and may be irregularly distributed. In four to eight days the disease tends to retrograde, disappearing entirely at the end of a few weeks, leaving behind, as a rule, more or less scarring with a keloidal tendency. In the one case a number of such attacks had occurred. The patches when developed suggested an artificial origin—from caustic potash or nitric acid—but when studied carefully it could be seen that the beginning of the process was subepidermal, involving primarily the corium. The disease, while unquestionably neurotic, differs from that which has been described as "herpes zoster gangrænusus" by the recurrence of the attacks, its irregular localization, and also by the fact that the eruption is not confined to one side.

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#### TRICHOMYCOSIS NODOSA.

PATTERSON describes (*British Medical Journal*, May 25, 1889), under this name, a nodose condition of the hairs of the axillæ and scrotum, the same as that to which Paxton and Behrend had previously called attention. The hairs, while appearing dry, are not, excepting at the nodules, abnormally brittle. They feel rough and knotted, and the knotting may be either nodular or diffuse. The author considers, from his investigations, that the affection is of bacterial origin, small rod-shaped bacteria growing in the cortical layers of the shaft having been found. The hair is not deeply penetrated, nor are the follicles invaded. The writer believes that the affection has often been confounded with trichorexis nodosa.

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#### XERODERMA PIMENTOSUM.

The notes of a typical case of this disease, illustrated by a chromo-lithograph, are contributed by MCCALL ANDERSON in the *British Medical Journal* of June 8, 1889. The antecedent family history was good. The patient's sister, however, had been similarly affected, and had died at the age of nine of an intercurrent lung affection. The disease in the present case, a boy aged nine, was first noticed when he was two years old. Nothing further was