

DERMATOLOGY.

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A Case of Rodent Ulcer Cured by Radium.—SEQUEIRA (*Brit. Jour. Derm.*, February, 1909) reports a case of rodent ulcer which has been cured, and has remained so, five years before. The disease had begun at an unusually early period, when the patient, a young woman, was between fifteen and sixteen years old, and was situated upon the lower lid. The diagnosis of rodent ulcer was established by microscopic examination. The ulcer had partially healed under x-ray treatment, but this had to be stopped on account of conjunctivitis, and a relapse followed. In February, 1904, six applications of 10 milligrams of radium in tubes, having an estimated radio-activity of 500,000, were made on six successive days; this produced a marked reaction, and on February 24 the ulcer had healed.

Lupus Erythematosus Apparently Cured by Zinc Ionization.—MACLEOD (*Brit. Jour. Derm.*, March, 1909) reports a patient, a middle aged woman, having an erythematous lupus, of seven years' duration, in whom a cure had been obtained by the employment of zinc ionization. Two per cent. zinc sulphate was used, and a current of about 5 milliamperes, ten minutes at a time, to each patch. Nine sittings in all were given; and under this treatment the scaliness and redness had disappeared, leaving a pale, supple, slightly depressed scar.

GRAHAM LITTLE (*ibid.*) also reports a patient with erythematous lupus, a girl, aged fourteen years, in whom the same method of treatment had produced satisfactory results. He regards this treatment as the most rapid and efficient at our disposal in dealing with this obstinate affection.

The Treatment of Superficial Epithelioma by Curettage and Immediate Radiotherapy.—LENGLET and SOURDEAU (*Bull. de la soc. Française de derm. et de syphil.*, 1909, No. 2) have found the following method most successful in the treatment of superficial epithelioma: Every epithelioma, whatever may be its seat, is submitted, if possible, before irradiation, to complete, methodical scraping. If this cannot be done on account of its situation, and extirpation is possible, it is removed surgically. The scraping should be preceded by complete anesthesia of the entire area to be curetted; and if local anesthesia is not possible, recourse must be had to general anesthesia. The curettement must be most thoroughly done. Bleeding is usually stopped by simple compression,

but exceptionally the parts must be lightly touched with the actual cautery. Immediately after the operation, before the wound is dressed, it is irradiated, six H. being given, rarely seven; the rays used being No. 6 or No. 7, the latter being preferred. The second séance is not given until the time of reaction is largely passed, usually about the twentieth to the twentieth-eighth day; and the séances are thus continued until cicatrization occurs. The importance of this preliminary scraping is shown by the fact that Lenglet and Sourdeau have obtained a cure in 12 cases out of 36, with one irradiation, and in 9 with two séances. They believe that this combination of curettement and radiotherapy gives results superior to any other method of treatment.

Impetigo Contagiosa.—LEWANDOWSKY (*Archiv f. Derm. u. Syph.*, 1909, xciv, Heft 2 und 3) always found the streptococcus in 100 cases of impetigo examined bacteriologically, partly in pure culture, partly associated with the yellow staphylococcus, the former greatly exceeding the latter in numbers. In the great majority of cases of ecthyma the streptococcus was found in pure culture in the primary purulent lesion; in rare instances it was contaminated with isolated staphylococci. In one out of a small number of cases of pemphigus neonatorum and infantum examined, only staphylococci were found, while in the others streptococci in trifling numbers were also present. In impetiginous eczemas both streptococci and staphylococci were found, as well as in other serous lesions of various other dermatoses. Intra-epithelial inoculation with pure streptococcus cultures produced impetigo contagiosa; and epithelial cutaneous inoculations were followed by ecthyma. Inoculations with staphylococci taken from impetigo were usually without result, or produced an abortive pustule. Staphylococci obtained from pus, eczema, impetigo, and some other diseases were affected in the same manner by agglutinating sera.

Occupation Carcinoma.—ZWEIG (*Derm. Ztschr.*, February, 1909) under the designation occupation carcinoma, reports three cases of carcinoma of the skin occurring in workmen employed in making coal briquettes. These briquettes are made by mixing ground coal with pitch and tar, subjecting the mixture to a high heat in an oven and afterward making it into bricks by pressure. Zweig thinks the injurious effects of this occupation upon the skin are due either to the dust arising in the process of mixing or to certain volatile substances produced in the heating of the mixture. This form of carcinoma is identical with those previously described as chimney-sweeper's cancer, paraffin cancer, etc. Zweig thinks there can be no doubt of the immediate relationship between this form of carcinoma and the chemically acting agents used in these occupations.