

shaped, bald area, which had evidently been formed by the coalescence of several smaller round ones. The skin was of normal color, free from swelling, smooth, and without scales. Three weeks later a six-year-old sister presented a round, coin-sized, smooth, bald area upon the vertex. The second observation concerned two sisters, the one ten, the other six years old, both of whom presented patches of alopecia areata, in the first instance having lasted one year, in the second, six months.

Atrophying Hyperkeratosis.—DUCREY and RESPIGHI (*Annales de Dermatologie et de Syphiligraphie*, 1898, Nos. 7, 8, 9) have made a new and extensive clinical and histological study of the affection described by Mibelli under the name porokeratosis, and their conclusions concerning this singular disease are as follows: Beside its cutaneous manifestations it may present manifestations upon the buccal mucous membranes, reproducing exactly the types of those upon the skin. By reason of its special and constant characters, clinical as well as anatomical, it should be considered as a particular morbid entity. One cannot confound it with the lichen of Wilson, which seems to be the dermatosis to which it is most nearly related, and it cannot in any manner be ranged in the group of ichthyoses. The designation which best sums up the principal characteristics of the dermatosis, at least from the clinical point of view, is figurate centrifugal atrophying hyperkeratosis.

Polymorphous Tuberculosis of the Skin.—BROUSSE and ARDIN-DELTEIL (*La Presse Méd.*, 1898, No. 32) report the case of a girl, sixteen years of age, chloroanæmic and scrofulous from infancy, who developed various cutaneous lesions after a disease of the bone occurring upon the right big toe at the age of four years. These lesions were a *tuberculosis verrucosa* of the right foot and leg with elephantiasis, a *scrofulo-tuberculous gumma* of the left side of the face, and a patch of true *tuberculous lupus* on the left cheek. Great improvement resulted from curetting and ignipuncture of the leg, followed by moist antiseptic dressings and the application of chlorophenol to the patch of lupus and the gumma.

Maragliano's Serum in the Treatment of Cutaneous Tuberculosis.—FILETI and LA MENSA (*Giornale Ital. delle Mal. ven. e della Pelle Fasc.*, 1897, i.) treated ten cases of lupus and scrofuloderma with Maragliano's anti-tubercular serum, using it both subcutaneously and locally. In a case of lupus of the hand occurring in a child, aged nine years, a cure resulted in forty-six days, six injections of the serum having been made in that period, besides using it locally. As no good result appeared, however, in any of the other cases treated by this method, the apparent benefit in this one case was probably only a coincidence.

The Frequency of Verrucose Tuberculosis of the Back of the Hand in the Course of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—BÉCLÈRE (*Annales de Derm. et de Syph.*, 1898, Nos. 8, 9), at a séance of the Société Médicale des Hôpitaux de Paris, reported four observations showing that verrucose tuberculosis is, of all the forms of cutaneous tuberculosis, the one most frequently seen in pulmonary phthisis. It is seen almost always upon the backs of the hands

and fingers, by preference upon the thumb and index-finger. This is due, as Vidal has already pointed out, to the fact that the patient, after having coughed, wipes off the lips and moustache with the back of the hands. Proof of the correctness of this assumption is furnished by the fact that this form of cutaneous tuberculosis is exceptional in women. It results from a direct auto-inoculation, favored by abrasions of the skin in this region.

Cicatrization of an Ulcerating Epithelioma of the Face by a New Method of Applying Arsenious Acid (Czerny's Method).—HERMET (*Jour. Cut. and Gen.-urin. Dis.*, November, 1898, from *Annales de Derm. et de Syph.*, 1898, p. 226) cites the case of a physician, aged seventy years, upon whom this treatment was successfully used. The ulcer was cleaned and moistened with the following solution: Arsenious acid, 1; ethyl-alcohol and distilled water, aa 75. The water and alcohol must be evaporated in order that the arsenious acid alone remains in contact with the ulcerated surface. This is the secret of success. The first application is painful, but the pain usually passes away during the process of evaporation. Sometimes severe pain is felt for six or seven hours afterwards.

The best means of allaying the pain is to send the subject into the open air. Morphine is seldom needed. No dressing is required. Immediately after the fixation of the arsenious acid, a profuse serous-bloody liquid begins to ooze. During the night a reddish-brown crust is formed, which is to be removed on the following day. The open surface is then moistened with the same solution, while the crusted area is soaked with a solution of 1:100 to 1:50. The arsenious acid, penetrating the crusts, destroys the neoplastic tissue beneath. The application must be continued until enucleation on the borders begins. When the crust disappears and the ulcer looks healthy, the wound is treated as a simple sore. Three months' treatment was required to effect a cure in the case reported. [The treatment would seem to be adapted especially to the mild forms of the disease.]

A case in which the lower lip was successfully treated is reported by E. JEANDRAU (*La Presse Méd.*, 1898, No. 73). Here the application according to Czerny's method for two months resulted in complete disappearance of the tumor, there being no recurrence a year later.

A Liquid Soap; a New Base for Remedies; New Wool-fat Preparations.—HERBERT SKINNER (*British Journal of Dermatology*, October, 1898), under the caption of "Pharmaceutical Notes," gives some new formulæ which have been found useful in cutaneous diseases. A liquid soap, highly esteemed, is made of oleic acid, 2 ounces; alcohol (90 per cent.), 3 ounces; solution of ammonia, a sufficiency; water to 6 ounces. This may be perfumed with vanilla to disguise the odor of the oleate. The ammonia is added drop by drop until, after vigorous shaking, the odor can be barely detected. It is then allowed to stand for seven days and filtered through kaolin. Its cleansing properties are far above those of ordinary soap, and the alkalinity is scarcely noticeable.

A base containing wool-fat and lanolin soap, which can be used as an ointment or as a vehicle for the application of certain drugs, is made of lanolin soap, $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce; distilled water, 2 ounces; anhydrous wool-fat, $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.