

liferates in the epidermic structures only, requiring probably a condition of the skin suitable for its reception and development. All predisposing factors—"pre-existing improvements of the nutrient base"—hitherto so called, bear upon the disease only in so far as they bring about changes in the skin favorable to the germ-proliferation. External agencies—the so-named exciting factors—are to be looked upon as "accidental improvements of the nutrient base." In accordance with these ideas Unna defines eczema as "a chronic parasitic catarrh of the skin, with desquamation, itching, and the disposition to respond to irritation by exudation, and well-marked inflammation."

The author states that the local treatment should, therefore, always have in view the destruction of every single germ in the depths of the epidermis.

ELECTROLYSIS IN THE TREATMENT OF LUPUS VULGARIS.

JACKSON has employed electrolysis, somewhat after the method of Gärtner and Lustgarten, in six cases of lupus vulgaris (*Journal of Cutaneous and Genito-urinary Diseases*, November, 1890). The effect while slow was favorable, and in a few instances practically curative. All the cases were of the non-ulcerative type. A metallic electrode of zinc, half an inch in diameter, attached to the negative pole, is placed upon the patch, and the positive electrode (a sponge electrode) is placed indifferently. The strength of current was about seven milliamperes, and it was passed for seven or eight minutes. A crust forms, which falls off in a week or so. An application is made once weekly. After a time the disease has so far disappeared that but a few isolated nodules remain. The needle is now substituted for the metallic plate, using a current of about three milliamperes. The main objection to this method, the writer states, is that it is slow, otherwise it has many advantages.

NOTES ON PILOCARPINE IN DERMATOLOGY.

KLOTZ gives (*Journal of Cutaneous and Genito-urinary Diseases*, November, 1890) a succinct *résumé* of the literature of pilocarpine bearing upon its employment in cutaneous disease. According to the investigations of such observers as Simon, Pick, Piffard, and others, this remedy has a positive value in such diseases as prurigo, dermatitis exfoliativa, hyperidrosis pedum, pruritus, ichthyosis, etc. Klotz reports favorable results in two cases of pruritus senilis, from doses of one-eighth to one-twelfth of a grain, t. d., the quantity being gradually reduced. The notes of three cases of eczema, of the papular and squamous type, are also given, showing good effects from the administration of this drug. The author believes that in the light of more recent theories (Unna) of the physiology of the secretion of sweat, the use of pilocarpine in pachydermatous and xerodermatous conditions of the skin has a rational foundation, but as recommended by Pick, it should be given in small doses and be long continued.

THE USE OF THIOL IN SKIN DISEASES.

SCHWIMMER reports (*Wiener klinische Wochenschrift*, No. 18, 1890) favorable results from the external use of thiol in herpes zoster, dermatitis her-