

The Paste Treatment of Inflammatory Skin Diseases, especially of Eczema.

Dr. P. G. UNNA, who has been largely instrumental in bringing into use the method of treating diseases of the skin by means of impermeable pastes, has recently given in the *Monatshefte für praktische Dermatologie*, Nos. 2 and 3, 1884, a very complete list of the preparations used in his practice.

Bolus Pastes (Bole Armeniac).—This is made of bolus alba (or clean kaolin) with vaseline and glycerine, in equal parts, or with olive, almond, or linseed oil, in the proportion of two to one, as R.—Boli albæ, parts 2; linseed oil, part 1.—M. The addition of more oil makes a liniment. In order to obtain a good paste for eczema it is necessary to add some liquor plumb. subacet. (or liquor alum. acet.) or oxide of zinc. R.—Boli albæ, 5 parts; linseed oil, 3 parts; liquor plumb. acet., 2 parts.—M. This proportion is easily handled. It should be remembered that the bolus and oil are always to be mixed first, before the lead or aluminium is added, since the bolus and alum make an insoluble mass. Instead of 5 parts of bolus, we may use 3 parts, and 2 of zinc oxide, as R.—Boli albæ, linseed oil (or glycerine), āā 30 parts; oxide of zinc and liq. plumb. subacet. āā 20 parts.—M. Make a paste. This is an excellent application for eczema. Instead of bolus earth, kaolin may be used, and instead of the bolus alba, the flava or the rubra may be used on the hands and face. The bolus pastes are valuable, not only for the treatment of all kinds of eczema, erythema, and intertrigo; but, on account of the fineness of the clay, also as a constituent for strongly oxidizing, reducing, or corrosive preparations.

Lead Pastes.—Unna makes a lead paste in the following manner: Take a quantity of litharge, and cook it with double its weight of vinegar, until the latter is completely evaporated, and the litharge is reduced to a damp paste. With this paste the skin is smeared. After a time the litharge dries, and must be cooked again with more vinegar. The following prescription will practically amount to the same thing: R.—Lithargyri sublt. pulv., liquor plumb. subacet., āā 20; cerussæ, glycerin., āā 5.—M. This is a valuable remedy in eczema. Unna also uses the following: R.—Litharg. sublt. pulv., 50; acetii, 80; coque usque ad consistentiam pastæ, et adde ol. lini (aut glycerin, aut ol. oliv.), 10.—M. As is readily perceived, the cooking of the litharge with vinegar costs but very little, and is specially applicable for poor patients.

Starch Pastes.—As a base for his medicated starch pastes Unna uses: R.—Amyli oryzæ, 3; glycerine, 2; aq. destill., 15.—M. Coque ad 15 parts. A valuable starch paste for eczema is: R.—Zinci oxyd., 50; acidi salicylici amyli oryzæ, 15; glycerin., 15; aq. destill., 75.—M. Coq. ad 140. A valuable formula for acne is: R.—Sulphur. præc., 40; calcar. carbon., 2; zinci oxyd., 20; amyli oryzæ, 15; glycerin., 20; aq. destill., 75.—M. Coq. ad 120 parts. For poor patients we may add four parts of glycerin and two of zinc white, and then cook the whole while stirring it. As the starch pastes are not so friable after drying as the lead, Unna often mixes them, as:—

R.—Amyli oryzæ, 10;
Glycerini, 30;
Lithargyri, 30;
Aceti, 60;
Evapora ad 80.

R.—Amyli oryzæ, 10;
Glycerini, 30;
Lithargyri, 40;
Aceti, 80;
Evapora ad 90.

The first formula makes a creamy paste; the second is more like putty.

Dextrine Pastes.—Dextrine has of late been gaining ground in dermatotherapy, and makes a nice base, with glycerine, for medicated pastes. A good base is made of equal parts, by weight, of dextrine, glycerine, and water, cooked. A

good paste in eczema is: *R.*—Zinci oxydati, 40; dextrin., aq. destill., āā 20; glycerin., 40; flor. sulph., 2.—*M.* Make a paste. Another, a mixture of the lead and dextrine pastes is: *R.*—Litharg., 30; aceti, 50; coq. ad 50. Adde, dextrin., aquæ, glycerin., āā 15; antea eocta.—*M.* Make a paste. If the paste should become too hard when dry, a few drops of hot water may be added.

Gum Pastes.—Unna has recently used gum arabic as a base for medicated pastes, mixed with glycerine and some powder or other, using one part each of mucilage of acacia and glycerine, and two parts of powder. The following are examples of gum pastes:—

R.—Zinc. oxyd., 40;
Hydrarg. præc. rubri, 2;
Muc. acac.,
Glycerin., āā 20.

M.—Make paste. Eczema of ehil-dren.

R.—Cretæ alb.,
Flor. sulph., āā 2;
Picis liquid., 8;
Amyli, 20;
Muc. acac.,
Glycerin., āā 15.

R.—Sacchari alb.,
Zinc. oxydat.,
Mucil. acaciæ,
Glycerini, āā 5.

M.—For sore nipples.

R.—Zinci oxydati, 40;
Bals. peruv., 20;
Muc. acac.,
Glycerin., āā 30.

M.—Make a paste. Scabies.

R.—Zinci oxydat., 50;
Acid. salicyl.,
Acid. carbol., āā 2;
Mucil. acaciæ,
Glycerini, āā 25;

M.—Make a paste.

R.—Amyli, 25;
Acid. pyrogal., 5;
Mucil. acac.,
Glycerini, āā 15.

M.—Make a paste.

Lead is best used as acetate of lead alone, or mixed with dextrine paste. Oxide of zinc may be incorporated in bolus, lead, starch, dextrine, and gum pastes. Sulphur mixes well in starch, dextrine, and gum pastes, less so in bolus paste, and should not be used in lead pastes. Preparations of ichthyol mix well in all except the gum pastes; especially well in lead paste. Tar is a useful ingredient in all the different pastes. Naphthol, carbolic acid, chloral hydrate, and camphor mix well in all pastes. Salicylic acid mixes well with all pastes except the gum. Iodine and iodoform mix well in lead, bolus, and gum pastes, but not in starch and dextrine pastes. Sublimate, calomel, white and red precipitate incorporate well in all pastes. Chrysarobin and pyrogallic acid mix best in bolus and gum pastes. Animal, vegetable, and mineral fats, as well as soap, mix in slight quantities without injury to the pastes. Large quantities of these, as well as caustic alkalies, do not agree with the technical and therapeutic characters of the pastes.

SURGERY.

Extirpation of the Larynx.

Surgeon-Major K. McLEOD reports the case of a native of Bengal, æt. 40 years, admitted to the hospital on September 13, 1883, suffering from aphonia and dyspnœa and a tumour of the pharynx implicating the larynx. His troubles commenced about a year before his admission, when he was attacked with sore-throat. A painful swelling was noticed at this time, which prevented the swal-