

46. *Sulphurous Acid Lotion in the Treatment of Contused Wounds.*—Dr. JOHN BALFOUR states that an extended experience has given him great faith in this application. It gives almost instant relief from pain, controls and greatly restrains suppurative action, and, where possible, secures primary union perhaps as efficiently as carbolic acid. The lotion is of the strength of one in twelve; a thin rag (the thinner the better) should be laid over the wound, and kept constantly wet for the first thirty-six to forty-eight hours. When cold becomes less agreeable, the lotion is used tepid, the rag being wetted every twelve hours and covered with gutta-percha. Where primary union is taking place, about the third or fourth day, a dressing of zinc ointment is to be substituted for the washing: this allows the skin to heal. When suppuration is established, a zinc lotion may be used after a week or ten days, and the cure wrought out on ordinary principles. Dr. Balfour records the following, amongst other cases: S. B., a lad between eleven and twelve years of age, on the 8th of June, in company with some other boys, was amusing himself with gunpowder; a "peeoge" (or devil) hung fire, and he poured some powder on it from the flask. This of course exploded, and tore open the metacarpal space between the thumb and forefinger of the right hand. The metacarpal bone of the thumb was fractured, and both wrists scorched. A mass of the short flexors of the thumb was forced out of the wound, contused, torn, and blackened. As this muscular substance was much injured and could not be returned without using undue force, a good deal of it was cut off; the wound was washed out with the sulphurous acid lotion, covered with a rag wet with the same, and the fracture was kept in position by tying the thumb to the forefinger. Had a fair night's rest; the wrists (not complained of yesterday) now painful and beginning to vesicicate; dressed with carbolic acid and oil. Everything went on well, the burns on the wrists healed kindly, suppuration was most moderate, cicatrization rapid and perfect. Dr. Balfour lately passed the boy into a public work, with a thumb very little, if at all, the worse for the accident.—*Practitioner*, Dec. 1871, from *Edin. Med. and Surg. Journ.*, Nov. 1871.

47. *Topical application of Cabbage Leaves to Wounds and Ulcers.*—Dr. BLANC extols (*Revue de Thérap.*, 15 Jan. 1872) the utility of cabbage leaves as a dressing for wounds, obstinate ulcers, etc. The leaves should be deprived of their nervures, then applied with bandages, and the dressing repeated night and morning. He reports cases of wounds of various kinds, and obstinate ulcers, which were promptly cured by this application. He asserts that wounds of the most unfavourable appearance and giving off sanious discharges, promptly took on a healthy action and assumed a healthier aspect.

48. *The Subcutaneous Injection of Morphia in Traumatic Erysipelas.*—Prof. ESTLANDER, of Helsingfors, states (*Deutsche Klinik*, No. 39) that he employed this injection originally in his clinical practice, in combination with the so-called abortive treatment (chiefly by means of tincture of iodine), mainly with the view of relieving the heat, tension, and pain of the inflamed skin. It was soon found, however, that the morphia must have exerted other effects also, so quickly was the course of the disease mitigated. It was therefore used in a series of cases as the sole local remedy, and the conviction became established that it must have exerted a direct influence on the inflammatory process, diminishing its intensity, and arresting its progress. When the limits between the inflamed and healthy portions of the skin are not very clearly defined, and the process manifests itself in the form of large red spots gradually approaching each other, if we inject near the affected parts, we usually find next day that the erysipelas has not extended farther, or has done so only to an insignificant extent. In cases in which the limits of the reddened and swollen skin are well marked, if we make some injections in its vicinity, we may find that the inflammatory process, which during the preceding twenty-four hours had made considerable progress, is sometimes at once arrested, but more frequently it continues in a diminished degree, gradually yielding in the course of a few days to a continuation of the treatment.

In the worst cases of erysipelas ambulans, as in the severe epidemic form, or