

## DERMATOLOGY

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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**Some Physiotherapeutic Methods in Dermatology.**—MALCOLM MORRIS (*British Jour. of Derm.*, May, 1912), in an interesting short article gives his experience with some of the newer methods employed in a number of obstinate diseases. His conclusions may be summarized as follows: The x-rays, radium, Finsen light, and freezing with carbon dioxide snow, are serviceable in the highest degree in early rodent ulcer, in tinea tonsurans, tinea sycosis, and tinea favosa, also in lupus vulgaris and small tuberculous glands, in lupus erythematosus, in certain kinds of naevi, in scars, and in keloid. In these diseases they are superior to medicine, the knife, or to any other form of surgical treatment. They are valuable in a somewhat less degree in later rodent ulcer, and in superficial carcinoma. They are serviceable in varying degrees, in coccogenic sycosis, in hyperidrosis, in hypertrichosis, in chronic eczema, pruritus, and liellenification, and in papilloma, while they possess distinct alleviative influence in such grave affections as Paget's disease, deep-seated carcinoma, sarcoma, mycosis fungoides, and leprosy.

**New Method of Removing Superfluous Hairs.**—W. SCHWENTER-TRACHSLER (*Jour. of Cut. Dis.*, June, 1912, p. 364) refers to 252 cases in which she has employed the following method with success. After removing the entire growth (by shaving ?) the patient rubs pumice stone in twice daily, under which procedure the hair is prevented from coming to the surface, and if this rubbing be persisted in for a year, atrophy of the follicles occurs and finer hairs or no hairs. The skin is never injured by this treatment.

**Treatment of Itching Skin Diseases with Normal Human Serum.**—LINSEN (*Dermatol. Woch.*, March 30, 1912), quotes a case of impetigo herpetiformis in which a cure followed the injection of serum taken from a normal pregnant woman. This treatment was also employed successfully in other dermatoses associated with pregnancy, and in other itching diseases of the skin, with favorable results, as urticaria, especially in infants, prurigo, and infantile eczema. Good results were obtained in senile pruritus in cases where no benefit had followed saline injections. In generalized eczema in adults favorable results were also obtained. The serum of a healthy pregnant woman is to be used,

that of a non-pregnant woman not proving satisfactory. For females the serum of females and for males that of males should be made use of. The fresher the serum the better. Fifty cubic centimeters of blood are withdrawn from the arm into a sterile centrifugalizing tube containing glass beads, the blood is defibrinated by shaking for five minutes. The serum is separated in the centrifugal machine, sucked up with a sterile syringe, and injected into a vein. In children it is injected subcutaneously. The dose is from 10 to 20 c.c., repeated on successive days, three to five injections being given. The treatment may be used in dispensary practice.

**A Useful Formula for the Widespread Tinea Tonsurans.**—A. W. WILLIAMS (*British Jour. of Derm.*, Jan., 1912) has used the following formula in a number of cases, and finds it to be remarkably efficacious. It consists of camphor, alcohol, aa 3iv; picric acid, gr. vii. Sig., Inflammable; paint all over scalp twice daily. An objection to its use is the yellow staining of the hair, which is still noticeable three weeks after stopping the treatment. Camphor and alcohol without the picric acid do not appear to be effective.

**Pemphigus Foliaceus.**—H. H. HAZIN (*Jour. of Cutan. Dis.*, June, 1912) cites a case of this disease in an adult, and also gives the notes of a case of dermatitis exfoliativa neonatorum in a child, aged fourteen days, and then discusses the relation of these two diseases, concluding that some cases of pemphigus foliaceus are undoubtedly due to a *Bacillus pyocyaneus* infection, and that the name dermatitis exfoliativa neonatorum is not a suitable one, as the exfoliation is secondary to a generalized cutaneous infection, probably with the *Staphylococcus albus*. The two diseases are different, though there may be gradations between them.

**Concerning the So-called Lichen Albus of Zumbusch.**—VIGNOLO-LUTATI (*Dermat. W'och.*, June 8, 1912) gives a case and enters upon the pathological anatomy of the lesions (with microphotographs), and concludes from a study of the literature and his own case, that he is forced to agree with the views already published by Hillebrand, that the affection must be regarded as a type of the sclerous form of lichen of Wilson, and that it is inappropriate to designate it with the new name of "white lichen," which term, moreover, is not exact, since the lesion may be in the beginning, bright red. Under the name of "white spot disease" cases of probably the same disease have been reported of late years by various writers.

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