

but if overdone the application may produce a species of eczema which is apt to be mistaken for the original scabies, and in this case continuance of the treatment only makes the rash worse.

Sometimes sulphur baths are ordered. These are made by dissolving sulphide of potassium in water at 100 deg. F. in the proportion of four ounces to thirty gallons, a ten or fifteen gallon bath being large enough for most children. The child must soak in this for a quarter of an hour, and then be well scrubbed with a hard brush, and allowed to soak for another quarter of an hour. One bath is generally enough, but two or three are often ordered to make sure of a cure. If after the bath there remain irritation of skin a little calamine lotion will soothe this.

Pediculus Capitis are chiefly seen on the occipital region of the head, and in a bad case produce so much itching that the scratching will produce a pustular eruption like impetigo contagiosa, and the hair be matted together with scales, under which the lice live and multiply. The eggs are deposited on the hair, being glued firmly to one side of it. In this way they may be easily distinguished from scurf, which is pierced by the hair, and also can be easily detached. Sometimes the irritation is sufficiently great to produce enlargement of the lymphatic glands of the neck.

If it is not necessary to preserve the hair this should be cut off close, the crusts softened with oil and removed, and white precipitate ointment rubbed in, which kills the pediculi, while the eggs, or nits, are removed with the hair.

When the disagreeable smell does not matter, soaking the whole head in ordinary petroleum immediately destroys the lice and loosens the nits. When the hair must be preserved the pediculi may be killed by rubbing in white precipitate ointment, and the nits may be gradually destroyed and removed by combing with a small comb dipped in one in forty carbolic solution. A dilute solution of acetic acid softens the glue which fixes the nits to the hair, and they are then more easily removed by small combing.

Pediculus Corporis.—In this disease the lice infest the clothes, chiefly the seams round the neck and between the shoulders, where they may be seen by careful examination. These animals suck the blood and produce intense irritation. The lesions are chiefly those due to scratching in such places as this may be done,

so the neck, shoulders, buttocks, thighs, etc., are the parts principally affected. The disease is not very common in children, but is occasionally found. It may be easily cured by thoroughly baking the clothes and bedding, and giving a good hot bath of soap and water.

*Bedsore*s are the result of continued pressure on the skin, whereby the circulation is impaired and the skin dies from want of nourishment. True bedsore is not common in children, owing to their light weight and also to their comparative absence of prostration in most of their diseases; but if a child's skin be constantly irritated by voided urine and fæces, that combined with slight pressure may tend to produce a bedsore. These are of all degrees, from a very slight abrasion of the skin down to a deep slough. The great point for a nurse to remember is the importance of prevention. Of the first importance is absolute cleanliness; when a child is frequently passing its water or motions into the bed a draw-sheet must be used under which is an indiarubber sheet, care must be taken that this is quite smoothly laid, as any wrinkle in it may irritate the skin; this sheet must be frequently inspected, and changed when necessary, while a pad of absorbent wool may be placed between the thighs to intercept urine as it is passed. Each time the child is found wet and dirty its buttocks and surrounding parts must be thoroughly cleansed and dried and dusted with any good powder, such as equal parts of boracic acid and starch or Fullers earth, etc. The places where sores usually form are over bones, especially if prominent owing to the child being thin, such as the buttocks, hips, over the spine and shoulder-blades, and the elbows. These parts should be rubbed twice a day in order to stimulate the circulation and so to nourish the skin; it is useful to employ methylated spirit to rub with in order to harden the skin. If any redness of skin appear the doctor must be informed at once, as this requires especial ointments and dressing.

NOTICE.

We have much pleasure in announcing that our next series of Medical Articles, which will commence shortly, will be on the Nursing of Diseases of the Eye. They have been written for this journal by Mr. Harold Grimdale, F.R.C.S., the well-known ophthalmic surgeon, and will, we are confident, prove to be of the greatest interest and usefulness to our readers.

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