In this manner over eighty of the permanent *habités* of these lodging-houses, who are specially liable to contact with infected strangers, were by vaccination protected themselves, and thereupon to a considerable extent ceased to constitute a standing menace to the health of the inhabitants at large. This nightly inspection led, in addition, to the early detection and prompt removal of several cases, and kept the lodging-house deputies on the alert.

As regards the apparently healthy inmates of infected houses, I may state that since the recent completion of our present very perfect steam disinfecting chamber and baths, it has in several instances been found easily practicable to remove these individuals at once thereto, and while they are bathing and being revaccinated to disinfect their clothing. When discharged thus purified, they were at once permitted to resume their ordinary avocations, but kept under sanitary surveillance for a fortnight. In consequence, to some extent at any rate, of these and other measures, and notwithstanding 22 fresh introductions of the disease, Stockport has since remained comparatively unscathed in the midst of a sea of small-pox, the whole number of cases which have occurred being only 29. Of the 22 fresh introductions, 10 were tramps, 3 were inmates of a common lodging-house in constant contact with tramps, 1 was a travelling music-hall singer, 2 came from a house in Ardwick where small-pox had broken out, 1 had attended a funeral thirteen days before in a village where the disease was then prevalent, 1 had been delivering beer at infected houses in other districts, and the remaining 4 could not be satisfactorily traced. Of the 7 secondary cases reported, 1 was revaccinated six days after first exposure, the attack being greatly modified; 5 (of whom 2 died) had refused revaccination, whilst to 1 sufferer revaccination was not specially offered, as she was not known to have been exposed to infection till her own case was reported.

As regards the system of quarantine in small-pox, I have seen it very successfully applied by Dr. M. K. Robinson, of East Kent, during a limited outbreak in Dover in the spring of 1892, and I am inclined to believe that in small communities it is applicable with a fair prospect of success, unless there be a large number of practically simultaneous occurrences of the disease.

TREATMENT OF PSORIASIS (SYPHILITIC) BY THYROID EXTRACT.

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THAT there is a profound alteration in the nourishment of unhealthy skin by thyroid feeding may at once be granted, but as yet our knowledge of the how or the wherefore is but vague and tentative. It is possibly too early to speculate whether the thyroid acts through the glandular systems, or by alterations set agoing in the character of the nutritive properties of the blood, or in the modification of nerve energy at the affected parts. But the ultimate generalisation of the actions will be helped by reports of cases in which therapeutic action has been observed. As a contribution to this end the following case is recorded:

A woman, aged 49, appeared in the month of July, 1893, at the Aberdeen General Dispensary, complaining of an ulcerated mouth. Examination revealed an ulcer on the inner side of the left cheek, about half an inch from the angle of the mouth. Iritis was also present, and the post-cervical glands were shotty. The ulcer was cauterised by nitrate of silver, and iodide of potassium was given internally. The ulcer rapidly healed, and the iritis disappeared. The iodide of potassium treatment was continued till the end of September. At this date she first noticed an eruption on the skin. It was diagnosed psoriasis. It was well marked on the palms of the hands and on the soles of the feet. Five minims three times a day of the alkaline solution of arsenic were ordered, in addition to the iodide of potassium. Chrysophanic acid ointment was also prescribed. She continued under this treatment till November 4th, 1893. There was only a very slight improvement during this time. But on some parts of the body there was undoubtedly an amelioration of the condition.

It was resolved to give thyroid extract a trial. All treatment was stopped for a week. On November 11th, on which day the thyroid extract was first given, the following notes were taken by Mr. Thomson, one of my clinical clerks: "There was a well-marked eruption of psoriasis all over the body—scalp, face, trunk, upper and lower extremities; a few spots were also visible on the palms of the hands and soles of the feet.

The eruption involved the flexor as well as the extensor aspects, but was more marked on the extensor aspects. The eruption was discrete, the spots showed dirty-grey-looking scales on a hyperæmic and infiltrated base. They averaged from a quarter to half an inch in diameter, and were not more than an inch apart on the arms and trunk, but on the legs they were somewhat more widely scattered. On the extensor aspects of both elbows, over the upper part of both scapulae, and on the nape of the neck were large confluent desquamating patches. There was an ulcerated patch on the buccal aspect of the left cheek near the angle of the mouth." At this date she was ordered to take 20 minims daily of Brady and Martin's thyroid extract.

November 18th. Appearance of the eruption little changed; the bases of the patches seemed somewhat less hyperæmic and more clearly defined. The intervening skin looked healthier and more elastic to touch.

November 25th. A most marked improvement; the scales have almost entirely disappeared; the hyperæmia of the bases much diminished; the skin between the patches smoother and more elastic. Patient expressed herself as feeling ever so much better in her general health; her own expression was that "she felt ten years younger."

December 3rd. The scales and hyperæmia have quite gone. There is left a tawny brown pigmentation where the patches of psoriasis were. The whole skin has a soft, well-nourished character.

December 7th, on which evening she was exhibited at the Medico-Chirurgical Society, she had still maintained the improvement.

December 20th. Thyroid extract stopped. No return of the psoriasis. The treatment by iodide of potassium resumed. The general improvement has not continued. She complained of a feeling of *malaise* and pains in the arms and legs.

There is no doubt that this was a case in which syphilis was present; and at first it was a moot point whether syphilitic psoriasis was a suitable case for thyroid treatment. So far as the psoriasis is concerned it gave highly satisfactory results, and in the first weeks of treatment the whole aspect of the patient greatly improved. Whether the thyroid extract had any controlling influence on the specific poison beyond the increase of vitality which accompanies its treatment is difficult to say.

It must also be remarked that she was under the influence of arsenic for a considerable time, and that this drug has a potent influence on the nutrition of the skin. It is also granted that a slight improvement had occurred before the thyroid treatment was initiated; but the active set of changes that took place, and which led to the complete removal of the psoriasis between November 11th and December 3rd, forms a marked contrast to the slow alteration that was visible from the previous treatment. It may be possible that the condition had just reached the point at which it was to resolve under the effects of the iodide and arsenic, or that some hindrance to their action was removed by the thyroid treatment. And this might indicate that in cases in which psoriasis did not yield to thyroid treatment alone, alternate administration of arsenic might be employed. On the whole, however, I am inclined, keeping in recollection the well-marked action of the thyroid treatment on the nutrition and function of the skin, to claim for it a therapeutic value in this case.

MEMORANDA:

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL, THERAPEUTICAL, PATHOLOGICAL, Etc.

SPORADIC CRETINISM.

Most of your readers were probably, like myself, much interested in Dr. Bramwell's graphic description of his case of sporadic cretinism in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of January 6th. As bearing on the question of the benefit derivable from thyroid feeding in such cases, I would beg the space for a few remarks on an interesting example of the disease that came under my notice previous to the days of such treatment.

Some years back I was asked if I objected to seeing a young man aged 24 amongst my out-patients at the Shadwell Children's Hospital. My intention to refuse was forestalled by the entrance of the patient himself. The man of mature age presented the appearance of a child of about 2 years old, was somewhat under 3 feet in height, and entered the room with one hand clasped in his mother's and the other clutching a doll. On inquiry, I found that my patient possessed both a melancholy and historic interest. He was E. D., the first of the four patients brought before the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society in the paper that originally brought the subject of sporadic cretinism into prominent notice in this