

SCROTAL ECZEMA: ITS OBSTINATE NATURE AND CURABILITY

DR. P. C. SRIVASTAVA, M.A., L.T., H.M.D.S., Port Blair

Scrotal eczema is an advanced form of dermatitis which creates eruptions of little vesicles, rashes, papules and pustules, upon an inflamed irregular surface of the scrotum and around. Formation of cracks, scabs and scales and watery exudations are generally associated with this disease. Some times, it is full of thick crusts and often marked with large exfoliation of the skin, in the form of parchments or fine scales.

This type of eczema ranks among the most obstinate diseases that resist the treatment for a long period without showing an inclination to yield substantially, even to the best kind of treatment.

A sufferer from this malady has a tendency to hide the disease and he tries with the best of his ability to suppress the cutaneous eruptions by means of topical applications which, on certain occasions, merely suppress the disease but do not cure it permanently.

This type of suppression, in cases of scrotal eczema, has sometimes resulted in complete or partial impotency, gastric or mental derangements and fatal lungs diseases, such as, Asthma and many other kinds of diseases which are not only incurable by other modes of treatment but even homœopathy cannot effect a cure in such cases without bringing back the suppressed eruption. I believe, that if a general survey, on research lines, is carried on in all the lunatic asylums of India and abroad, it will be revealed that a good percentage of the lunatics have the history of suppressed Eczema at one or the other stage of their lives.

Among its causes are: (1) Direct irritation of the skin by hot baths or cold bandages and also by various other substances. (2) Stagnation of the venous blood within the capillaries. (3) A dyscratic diathesis. But there are cases where we cannot trace its existence to any particular cause.

The following remedies can be employed homœopathically with good results in view of the therapeutic indications as detailed below:—

THERAPEUTIC HINTS

Arg. Nit: Skin brown, tense, hard, withered and dried up with irregular bloches. Sensation as if something is drawn from the skin as from a spider web. Irresistible craving for sugar. Intolerance of warmth. Desire for stool when ready for church or opera.

Arsenic: Generally dry, scaly eruption, sometimes fetid thick exudation, with nightly burning pain and intense itching which is relieved by external warmth. Restless but fastidious patient.

Caladium: Eczema, like erysipelatus inflammation, Intense itching and

burning, worst by motion and better by sweat. The sweat is so sweet that it attracts the flies.

Crot. Tig: Itching followed by burning, vesicles run together, ooze and form thick, gray brown crusts, nightly aggravations, relieved by rubbing and gentle scratching. "Stools aggravated by eating and drinking" is a concomitant frequently attended with the disease. Bowel and skin symptoms sometimes alternate.

Graphites: Impetiginous eruption, soreness after scratching, worse on left side, and in the evening, sticky transparent exudation. Aversion to fish, mucous covered stools, and cobweb sensation on the forehead.

Hepar Sulph: Purulent exudation, itching and soreness of the scrotum and groins, worse in the morning and on the right side, unhealthy skin, even the slightest wound will suppurate. Hasty speech, great sensitiveness to all impressions.

Lycopodium: Thick crust, with fetid secretions underneath, bleeds easily after scratching with a diminished sexual power. Foaming abundant after urination which remains for a long time.

Nat. Mur.: Raw inflamed surface continually discharging a corroding fluid which eats away the hair; on the boundaries of hair, sweating of palms, cannot urinate when others are nearby, excessive craving for salt, eczema between scrotum and thighs.

Nit. Ac: Eczema ulcerated, bleed easily, sensitive, splinter like pains, base looks like raw flesh, exuberant granulations. Urine strongly offensive, revengeful temperament.

Petroleum: Itching and humid Eczema on scrotum perineum or between scrotum and thighs. Nightly itching and burning. Slightest scratching causes sticky exudation. Thick greenish crust, redness, raw, cracks bleeding easily, winter aggravates every year, strumous diathesis, abnormal appetite at night, wakes up and eats again, diarrhoea during the day only which is aggravated by eating cabbages.

Rhus Tox: Thick, moist crust, tingling, stinging, burning especially at night, localised in hairy parts. Red triangular spot on the tip of the tongue, skin symptoms aggravate during rainy season.

Sepia: Ringworm like eruptions in every spring, offensive smell from the affected parts, worse open air better in warm room, eczema between scrotum and the thighs, sides alternate, loss of natural affection towards certain members of the family, hatred with ones own profession, over-sensitive to noises, standing is the worst-position.

Sulphur: Crusts and pimples itch spontaneously, especially at night, bleed easily, standing is the worst position, dirty and disorderly patient who is always too selfish by nature, aversion to bathing.

Thuja: Ulcerated eczema especially in anogenital region, freckles and blotches, perspiration sweetish and strong specially while going to sleep,

dry skin with brown spots, eruptions worst after scratching, washing aggravates, forked stream during urination.

Precautions :—It is always better to soak the affected parts with olive oil. Underwear or long cloth of the patient should be boiled in hot water every day. Scratching should be avoided to the best of patient's capacity, and if unavoidable, it may be done with a fine piece of cotton soaked with olive oil, under exceptional circumstances. Nails should never be used for scratching. The use of soaps should also be avoided particularly on the affected parts.

Prognosis: Examples are not lacking where a number of cases suffering from scrotal Eczema were treated with allopathic or other kinds of ointments for years together without the least improvement. But it has been observed, in practice, that not a single case of scrotal Eczema has shown any reluctance in yielding before a judicious homœopathic treatment, within a reasonable time, provided correct remedy has been selected by the Physician for his patient with due regard to the local and constitutional symptoms of a particular patient and the patient has, in his turn, fully co-operated with the Physician from beginning to the end.

All the remedies listed above are not so exhaustive as to cover every case. I have simply tried to mention those medicines which have been found useful to me and the peculiar symptoms mentioned against them are those which have been well verified by me and found useful during the course of treatment. To acquire mastery over the subject, one has to acquire a thorough knowledge of the homœopathic materia medica and become acquainted with all the principles which are peculiar to this wonderful science by which we are guided in healing the sick.

SCIENTIFIC EDUCATION

(Continued from page 269)

From *Christian Frederick Samuel Hahnemann—A Biographical Monument*.

From the papers of his family and the letters of his friends.—From a friend and admirer. Leipzig 1951, on the unveiling of the Hahnemann Monument on August 10, 1851.—I. WOLF.

—*The Layman Speaks, June, '60*
