the necrosing action of the latter drug. It is at the same time a powerful disinfectant, so that it serves a double purpose. The solution which he employs contains one part of hydrochloride of cocaine and one part of salicylic acid to two parts of rectified spirit. Immediately before its application a few drops of a 1 per cent. of adrenaline are added to the amount which is used. This reduces the bleeding, and it is employed in this way, as otherwise the solution would not keep if the adrenaline was one of its constituent parts. About ten drops of the solution are instilled into the meatus, the patient lying for twenty minutes with this ear uppermost. There is no toxic action, even in children, nor is cocaine poisoning likely, as the fluid only contains 25 per cent. of cocaine, and only a small quantity is used. Very successful paracentesis of the drumhead is carried out in this way, while excellent results are also obtained in the incision of boils in the external meatus and in the removal of granulations. A. L. T.

DERMATOLOGY.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

W. ALLAN JAMIESON, LL.D., M.D., AND R. CRANSTON LOW, M.B.

The following from the pen of Dr. George T. Jackson (Journ. Cut. Dis., July 1913) is well timed and deserves reproduction. The great amount of attention given by women, both rich and poor, and by some men, to the care of the hair has created a demand for workers to give such care. To meet this a vast horde of women and a few men have swept down on the community, styling themselves "Hair Specialists." Some of these are absolutely ignorant; some have picked up some information from experienced workers, or in certain "schools" established for the purpose of teaching the care of the hair; and some few have a little scientific knowledge derived from the study of books. All of them are law-breakers, many of them ignorantly, because they treat disease without a licence. It is hard to understand why a druggist, who often is well versed in the actions and uses of drugs, and the medical quack are liable to arrest and fines for prescribing treatment for diseases, while these "hair specialists" are allowed to go their more or less harmful way entirely unmolested. If "hair parlours" and their attendants existed only for the shampooing and dressing of the hair it would be bad enough, because such places, on account of a lack of hygienic regulations, tend to spread diseases of the scalp, like the barbers' shops do, but their proprietors claim to have a peculiar knowledge of the hair (it is often most peculiar), and to be able to cure all its diseases. To this end some of them apply strong acid preparations that set up violent inflammation of the scalp; massage
more or less violently every scalp, no matter what the condition of it may be, and thereby do damage to many a patient; singe the ends of the hair, a perfectly silly procedure; wash the hair with sponges and then dry it with a hot air blast, so as to hurry the process and get in another victim. These are a few of the harmful acts they do because they know no better and are anxious for money. The wrong information they give their dupes and the false ideas they spread are surprising. Still more surprising is the gullibility of those who go to them. The latter will willingly pay over large sums of money for simple solutions of soap, and for lotions which they are told contain rare and expensive ingredients, the profit on which swells the bank account of the vendors. These people do not appreciate that constitutional conditions of the patient often cause loss of hair, and until the former is improved the latter cannot be. It is a fraud for anyone to presume to treat the diseases of the hair without a knowledge of general medicine. The medical profession is largely responsible for the existence of these quacks, because it has thought it below its dignity to have anything to do with the hair. Doctors forget that it is a grievous thing for a woman to lose her hair. If they would remember this and refer their patients to some regular physician who knows something about the care of the hair, in case they do not desire to inform themselves, they would do much to lessen the number of so-called hair and beauty parlours.

A Simple Method of Treating Lupus Vulgaris.

Nicolas and Moutot (Bull. de la Soc. française de derm. et de syph., July 1913, Paris) observe that new modes of treating lupus are always extolled at first and an imposing array of successes paraded, but when tried for a time there are often more failures than triumphs, and recourse has to be made to older and well-established methods. They have found that the best results in the greatest number of cases have been obtained by employing scarifications, followed immediately by cauterisations with a ten 10 cent. solution of chloride of zine and painting with tincture of iodine. It may be said on the first glance this is neither original nor new. Yet this plan, when systematically carried out, has advantages over others. As regards the scarifications, (1) these should be cross-hatch ones, and should always extend widely beyond the apparent limit of the lesions; (2) they should be made as deeply as possible, till the sensation of a resistant plane is experienced on cutting; (3) in order to obtain the pulp recommended by Brocq-Lenglet it is advisable to vary the direction of the lines of cutting, otherwise the knife is liable to follow the track of previous incisions, and nodules are apt to escape or points not to be torn up. The ensuing hæmorrhage must be carefully checked; the incisions ought to be made to gape, and pressure by hydrophile gauze applied. Ten
minutes are sometimes required to procure complete cessation. When this has been obtained the surface, being still kept stretched, is sopped with a ten per cent. solution of chloride of zinc. This may also be painted on with a brush to ensure penetration. If a stronger solution is used it occasions sloughing; if a weaker, it is ineffective. A suitable caustic action is manifest when one sees the cross-hatching from the scarifications assume a white colour. The surface is now to be sopped with tincture of iodine. This latter procedure is repeated night and morning, the tincture of iodine employed being diluted with spirit of wine of 80° in the proportion of three-fourths to five-sixths. Cicatrisation is somewhat slow; it may not be entire till the fifth or sixth day, occasionally even not till the tenth or twelfth. A whitish, reticulated area is then visible, within which are still small islands of lupous tissue. At subsequent sittings these islands are attacked, and little by little the surface is transformed into a white cicatricial texture. If the scarifications have been carried to a sufficient depth the cure is complete and permanent; no fresh lupoid tissue develops under the scar. The cicatrix is pliant and level. The duration of treatment cannot be positively laid down, as instances of lupus vary so much in their character. The writers say the results they have had have been excellent, and compare favourably with those got by radio-therapy, the actual cautery, Finsen light, and carbonic snow. Cases of severity are cited in illustration, one in particular in which the form of a nose extensively diseased was perfectly preserved. The simplicity of the plan places it at the disposal of every practitioner.

MESOTHERIUM IN DERMATOLOGY.

Kuznitzky (Arch. f. Dermat. u. Syph., Vienna, 1913) has been experimenting with this as a substitute for radium. It is employed enclosed in capsules in the form of a fine powder. The size of these, owing to the price of mesotheriun, is expressed in millimetres. One milligramme of mesotheriun costs at present about £7, 10s. (According to Everyman of 5th September, however, it is reported that mesotheriun can be obtained by a process still secret from monacite sand found in large quantities in South America. Each ton of the sand yields a grain of the element. Should this prove correct the price will be much reduced.) For the nonce widespread surface skin diseases are not suitable for the treatment. If a smaller quantity is spread over a larger area a longer exposure is necessitated, and inflammation may be produced by the β rays which are given off. His observations were made by using capsules whose diameter was 5, 10, or 15 mm., and the total quantity used did not exceed 20 mg. The close relationship which exists between Roentgen, radium, and mesotheriun emanations would lead one to expect that only those skin diseases which have
proved amenable to X-rays would be favourably influenced, but it has been learned that mesothorium can be employed with advantage concurrently with ultra violet rays or with carbonic snow. Mesothorium seems to combine some of the benefits derived from the other processes named, as it possesses not merely the specifically acting $\beta$ and $\gamma$ rays, but is valuable as a curative agent by inducing an inflammatory reaction while permeating the tissues. Mesothorium has a softer action than radium. This constitutes no defect, since it contributes to the absorption and dispersion of inflammatory products or new formations. In using the mesothorium, as a rule no filtration media were employed; the talc covering of the capsule was placed in immediate contact with the skin. The time allowed for radiation varied from twenty minutes to two hours. The reaction ensued one or two days after irradiation, commencing as a vivid erythema, becoming dusky each day, till in course of a week it passed into a brownish red. About this time there appeared serous exudation from the irradiated part, and superficial necrosis of the epithelium. This grew into a hardish yellow crust, firmly attached and surrounded by an inflammatory halo. The separation of the crust took some time, and this could not readily be abbreviated. The resulting scar was sometimes scarcely perceptible, sometimes bluish-white. Of twenty-four cases of cancer of the skin nineteen were cured. There were two recurrences, but it must be borne in mind that the technique is still imperfect. In isolated angiomata it seems to rival if not be superior to carbonic snow. Lupus erythematosus appears to be most favourably influenced by mesothorium. Recurrences are few, and he gives it a place above the quartz lamp and carbonic snow.

**THE EMPLOYMENT OF A SOLUTION OF MASTICHE IN DERMATOLOGY.**

Hammer (*Dermatol. Woch.*, 24th May 1913) says that solutions of mastiche are regarded as of much value in surgery, particularly military surgery, in the treatment of wounds. Mastiche is a gum resin obtained from the lentisk tree. Though chiefly used for making varnishes, it has for years been had recourse to for fastening bandages. V. Oettingen in the Japanese-Russian war availed himself of a solution of mastiche in chloroform, with the addition of a few drops of linseed oil, and this he named mastisol. Now benzine with a small proportion of turpentine forms the solvent. Hoffmeister recommends a 20 per cent. ethereal solution. It is a satisfaction to dermatologists that surgery has gradually abandoned efforts to sterilise the skin. The systematic mistreatment previous to an operation with soap, hot water, and a brush, continued for a quarter of an hour, has always horrified Hammer. It is astonishing that people would allow their skins to be so handled. In the immediate neighbourhood of the operation wound the virulence of organisms is lessened by swabbing with
spirit, or by the application of tincture of iodine, etc. The solution of mastiche can now be added to the protective measures at our disposal. In selecting such a safeguard the property most desiderated is that it should cause no irritation, else it may promote the development of dormant germs. The mastiche solution possesses this quality. It does not irritate the healthy skin, but, what is much more remarkable, hardly disturbs an inflamed and eczematous integument. Even fresh or purulent wounds scarcely show any reaction, while in these collodion readily induces pus formation, and the same may be said of glycerine jellies. He has cured long-standing fissures at the angles of the mouth by placing small pieces of gauze impregnated with mastisol in the bend. Obstinate cracks on the hands, and fissures about the anus can be similarly dealt with. In lupus good results have been obtained by freely spreading on mastisol to which 10 per cent. of pyrogallic acid has been added. Over this a single layer of gauze is fitted. This occasions much less pain than an ointment, and produces rapid contraction of the lupus deposit. This may be persisted in for a considerable time. One would think that this method might be found suitable for some examples of lupus erythematous.

W. A. J.

INFECTIONOUS DISEASES.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

CLAUDE B. KER, M.D.

THE CONTROL OF DIPHTHERIA.

Delyannis (Wien. klin. Woch., 28th August 1913) describes two outbreaks of diphtheria in institutions which he was able to check by isolating healthy carriers of the bacillus, and pleads for the universal adoption of this method as the most rational one for combating the disease. He does not approve of prophylactic injections except for certain selected cases, e.g., members of a family which has shown itself particularly susceptible to the diphtheria virus, convalescents after exhausting illness, young children, and also during the simultaneous prevalence of other infectious diseases. His objection that only a three weeks' immunity is to be obtained, and that therefore subsequent injections with possible risk of anaphylaxis may have to be given, does not appear very sound, as, surely, three weeks give the public health authorities plenty of time to deal with the cause of an outbreak, and temporary protection is usually all that is needed. Delyannis raises an interesting point when he doubts the reliability of the virulence test. As is well known, carriers are frequently released from isolation if their germs are not found to be virulent to small animals. The suggestion of Delyannis that a negative test on a laboratory animal does not necessarily prove that the bacillus in question is non-virulent