

THE TREATMENT OF PRURITUS PUDENDI BY PEPPERMINT WATER.

Routh has used peppermint water as a lotion in pruritus at Charing Cross Hospital, and describes his mode of use and results as follows :

The B. P. preparation of aq. menth. pip. answers well, but is bulky for carrying about, and is incapable for concentration unless rendered alkaline. This is best done by borax, as being in itself soothing and antiseptic. Patients can easily make their own lotion, as required for use, by putting a teaspoonful of borax into a pint bottle of hot water, and adding to it five drops of ol. menth. pip., and shaking well, the parts affected to be freely bathed with a soft sponge.

If no cracks or sores are present, this lotion will remove the itching; but if there be eczema, etc., or rawness from scratching, it is inapplicable, olive oil, with five grains of iodoform to the ounce, being then more useful. The greatest and most permanent relief is afforded in the neurosal form, especially in the reflex pruritis which often accom-

panies pregnancy, and which then may take the place of reflex sickness or vomiting. It is also very useful in the pruritis which occurs in the climacteric, or in elderly women, in whom it may be only a part of a general pruritis, and also in those cases of women of all ages where the urine simultaneously becomes of very low specific gravity, without any evidence of having a gouty or granular kidney as a remote cause.

In pruritis due to pediculi, ascarides, an irritable urethral caruncle, and endocervical polypus, early cancer of the cervix, distension of Bartholini's ducts or glands, the leucorrhœa of vaginitis, endocervicitis, and metritis, or the irritating discharges of advanced carcinoma uteri, or to a gouty or diabetic diathesis, the drug excels all others, cocaine inclusive, in affording relief, whilst endeavors are being made to remove the cause.

In two obstinate cases of uncontrollable pruritis of pregnancy, where this remedy gave only temporary relief, the patients were cured by applying iodine liniment to the angry-looking cervix uteri, which method has been used successfully by Dr. John Philips and others for the similarly severe vomiting of pregnancy.—*British Medical Journal*, April 14th, 1888.