SKIN DISEASES AND BURNS

133 Contact Dermatitis due to Gold. M. A. Cowan. Brit. J. Dermatol. 72, 348 (1960).

A case is described of contact dermatitis due to allergic sensitivity to gold with confirmatory positive patch tests. -- Can. Med. Assn. J. Absts.

134 Dihydroxyacetone. P. B. Mumford. Brit. J. Dermatol. 72, 279 (July 1960).

The active agent in cosmetic preparations designed to "tan" the skin is reported to be dihydroxyacetone, a white crystalline powder soluble in 1 part of water and 15 parts of alcohol. Although the exact chemical nature of the color reaction is uncertain; it is probable that a compound is formed by one of the hydroxyl radicals of dihydroxyacetone with amino acids in the superficial layers of keratin, followed by complex polymerization resulting in production of a brown pigment in several hours. The pigment is not melanin. The author describes his experiences with an experimental formula containing 2.5% dihydroxyacetone, 2.5% glycerin, 33% methylated spirits, and water to 100. He was unimpressed with the cosmetic results obtained. Moreover, the pigment formed did not diminish the response to ultraviolet radiation. On the skin of 32 normal and 10 eczematous persons, there were no evidences of irritation or complaint of local discomfort. -- J. Occ. Med. Absts.

135 Boxing Gloves in Dermatology. E.R. Gross. A.M.A. Arch. Dermatol. 82, 266 (Aug. 1960).

This article calls attention to a simple, socially acceptable, inexpensive, mechanical deterrent to nocturnal excoriation. As a part of the selling program, the author keeps a set of boxing gloves in his office and loans a pair to the itching patient for one week when indicated. He has found there is no hesitancy about purchasing a pair if this therapeutic measure proves effective. NOTE: Scratching at night, whether conscious or unconscious, is one of the primary factors responsible for the perpetuation of pruritic "neurodermatoses". -- J. Occ. Med. Absts.

136 The Inadequacy of Dermabrasion in the Therapy of Nevi. C. Mopper and E. S. Mercantini. Can. Med. Assn. J. 83, 1015-1016 (Nov. 5, 1960).

It is a well-accepted fact that surgical skin planing, in the treatment of acne scarring and other cosmetic defects, is a useful tool in the hands of the experienced operator. However, the treatment of nevi by this method has produced varied results and varied opinions as to its merits. As removal of extensive disfiguring pigmented lesions of the skin by excision and grafting often results in more disfigurement than the original condition the authors employed dermabrasion in 3 patients with pigmented nevi. They conclude that dermabrasion has proved inadequate therapy in the treatment of the types of nevi reported in these 3 cases. A review of the literature on planing of nevi is presented, along with the authors' results and conclusions in the treatment of these 3 cases.

137 Further Observations on Late Radiation Necrosis Following Therapy of Skin Cancer. H. L. Traenkle and D. Mulay. A.M.A. Arch. Dermatol. 81, 908 (1960).

In regard to the complication of late radiation necrosis, a series of 816 patients with skin cancer, treated with daily fractions of 500 r, 400 r, and 300 r have been compared with a previosuly reported series of 935 patients who had received 100 r fractions. When calculated by the life-table technique over a 4 1/2-year period, the probability of developing late necrosis in the present series of cases treated with smaller fractions is less than 3% as contrasted with almost 14% in the previously reported series. -- Can. Med. Assn. J. Absts.

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