

CORNS AND TENDER FEET.

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D. TOLMY MASSON, M.A., M.D. (Edinburgh), writes: "A Brigade-Surgeon" may profit by the following hints, the outcome of considerable study and experience in the treatment of tender feet. 1. Unsuitable stockings are often more hurtful than tight shoes and boots. Seamed stockings should be carefully avoided. Even when knots and loose threads are pared away the seams do serious mischief. Perhaps "A Brigade Surgeon" has heard of the practice among soldiers of turning their stockings inside out before beginning a long day's march. Knitted woollen stockings, well fitting and undarned, form an essential item both in the prevention and cure of this troublesome ailment. 2 In the active treatment of corns a hot foot-bath is the first step. It softens the outer crust of the horny-like growths and callosities, which, when thus softened, may be partly rubbed away by the energetic use of a good bath towel. Repeat this process from time to time, wearing suitable stockings and easy shoes, and you will in many cases attain, if not a cure, yet at least a gratifying measure of alleviation. 3. A touch of glacial acetic acid, carefully applied to the centre of the more prominent callosities, will greatly facilitate this treatment, but the acid must of course be used with care; even a medical expert should not be his own patient when using so dangerous a remedy. 4. A piece of "impermeable pline," consisting of soft cotton tissue backed with gutta percha, if nicely fitted into the stocking over the corn, and moistened, will often give comfort to the sufferer and hasten his cure. The mechanical benefit of this cleanly form of poultice may also be variously helped out by judicious medication, for example, the moistened "pline" may advantageously be smeared over with an emollient ointment, consisting of soap, lanoline, vaseline, or olive oil, etc. 5. In suitable cases I have sometimes, by more heroic treatment, effected the radical cure of corns that threatened serious mischief. With acetic acid I turned the corn into a blister, whose effused fluid mechanically uprooted the callous growth down to its ultimate filaments—a plan of extirpation which I venture to suggest as applicable and effectual in the early stage of growths more to be feared than corns. Here, again, care and careful discrimination are indispensable.

TO CORRESPONDENTS

OUR correspondents are reminded that prolixity is a great bar to publication, and, with the constant pressure upon every department of the JOURNAL, brevity of style and conciseness of statement greatly facilitate early insertion. We are compelled to return or hold over a great number of communications chiefly by reason of their unnecessary length.

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Einführung in das Studium der Bakteriologie mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der mikroskopischen Technik. Für Aerzte und Studierende bearbeitet von Dr. Med Carl Günther. Leipzig: Georg Thieme. 1890.

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G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1890.

A System of Oral Surgery. By James E. Garretson, A.M., M.D., D.D.S.
Fifth edition. Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Company.
1890.

A Textbook of Physiology. By M. Foster, M.A., M.D. Fifth edition. Part III.
London: Macmillan and Co. 1890.

La Dengue et la Grippe. Par W. Chasseaud. Paris : Octave Doin. 1890.

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