

open. The explanation is very simple: the wound, after the application, covers itself with a thick, brown crust, which protects the raw tissues completely.

A very interesting experience, which contributes to the illustration of the effectiveness of the treatment, is the fact that, in cases of burns of the face, I could not, of course, apply it on the eyelids, fearing to injure the globe of the eye, and I confined myself to using around there a preparation of argyrol or sylvol, but in every case the whole face was already healed many days, while the eyelids were still unhealed; and the worst of it was that the eyelids healed slowly, giving rise to ectropion. The treatment must be done over once every day.

As I said above, when the above-mentioned crusts fall, they give way to a fine new tissue, pink, neat, having all its suppleness, and in no case had I any of those retractile scars which, ordinarily, as everybody knows, are one of the worst complications following burns. I have no doubt that the worst enemy is the infection, not only because it delays the cure, but also because it causes the pain, causes the general infection, which generally shows itself by the regular and steady increase of temperature, loss of appetite, weakness, and so on; and then gives way to the formation of that scar tissue, which in mostly all cases is bound to retract sooner or later. With this new treatment, nothing of the sort. After a few days, four or five, the temperature comes down to normal, and this gradually and steadily, and stays at normal until the complete cure is over. The patient keeps his normal general condition of health; he sleeps very well at night, because the pain, which exists in every case treated by other methods, is absent; in fact, the only pain is the one during the application, and it is easy to manage it; but as for the pain of the burn itself, there is none whatever.

The treatment, to have all its effectiveness, must be made as soon as possible following the accident. It is easy to understand that it is more difficult to disinfect an infected wound than to prevent the infection. This is a fact that I have always experienced, and I consider it to be of the highest importance.

If the method is used on burns of the first and second degree, it is a complete treatment, and you do not need anything else; but, as everybody knows, there may always be spots or surfaces where the burn would have gone more deeply and attained the third degree, injuring the whole thickness of the skin, and sometimes the adipose tissue, and even the muscles. For those deep burns I apply, just the same, the tincture of iodine in the same way as I do for the surrounding surfaces; but, of course, after a certain time, the destroyed parts, which have been killed by the fire, must detach themselves, and this surface of sphacelus leaves a wound more or less large, which has to be treated by the ordinary antiseptic dressings. To complete the cure and prevent the retractile scars, now is the time to appeal to grafting of new skin. This is what I do, using the Thiersch method.

In cases where the surface of the burn is covered by blisters, it is important not to open them, and to let them dry up under the effect of the iodine. They dry up in a few days, and do not bring any complication whatever.

In a few cases, when the patient was too sensitive, or when, for any other reason, the pain was too great, I replaced the tincture of iodine by the vapours of nascent iodine; but, of course, in every one of the cases the first treatment was always made by using the tincture of iodine, in the way above described, and I used the nascent iodine only for the subsequent treatments, which must be applied then once a day, as in the case of the tincture.

I feel so highly convinced of the great and practical value of this treatment, that, in coming before your meeting, I come with only one object in view, which is that of trying to popularise the method, knowing that it will be such a great help to this class of poor patients. When one imagines or represents to himself the pain, the dangers of all sorts, that followed these terrible accidents when we were using most of the other treatments, it is easy to understand the amount of the services that would be rendered to our poor humanity if it were possible to decrease, in any degree, the said calamity. There is another question, which has in itself its