

**ECZEMA; A CONSIDERATION OF ITS  
COURSE, DIAGNOSIS, AND TREATMENT,  
EMBRACING MANY POINTS OF PRACTICAL  
IMPORTANCE, AND CONTAINING 146  
PRESCRIPTIONS, ILLUSTRATING DOSAGE IN  
LOCAL APPLICATIONS**

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Eczema; A Consideration of Its Course, Diagnosis, and Treatment, Embracing Many Points of Practical Importance, and Containing 146 Prescriptions, Illustrating Dosage in Local Applications by Samuel Horton Brown

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# ECZEMA

*A Consideration of Its Course, Diagnosis, and Treatment, embracing many Points of Practical Importance, and containing 146 Prescriptions, illustrating Dosage in Local Applications.*

BY

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## PREFACE.

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This arrangement of the common knowledge regarding eczema has been devised with the hope that it will render the study of the disease more convenient than has been done by the other works extant. The dogmatic manner in which some of the facts have been presented will doubtless be pardoned when it is recalled that any statement no matter how true, loses weight when qualified. Accordingly, in the treatment, the physician who consults these pages will be agreeably surprised to find explicit directions for the care of the case, a novel feature in books devoted to this subject.

1901 MT. VERNON ST.  
June, 1906.



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## ECZEMA.

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A detailed consideration of this rather widespread disease presumes a knowledge of the primary lesions of the skin and also the effects of the preparations of various drugs when used locally. Without this knowledge chaos, as regards this subject, must reign supreme. The diagnosis in any case depends on the former; while the treatment rests entirely on the latter.

DEFINITION.—A most casual glance at any case of the disease shows to the trained eye, that the disease is inflammatory in nature being attended by the usual phenomena of heat, redness, swelling, and discharge. Pain may occasionally be present but is usually substituted by itching and burning. Couched in more technical terms the disease may be said to be characterized by erythema, vesicles, pustules, or papules. These characteristics are made use of in naming the clinical varieties of the disease. As each case progresses, scales and crusts will be formed. In those instances in which

vesiculation is a prominent feature, a discharge is common. There is always more or less infiltration and thickening of the skin depending upon the duration and the severity of the disease. The affection is at no time contagious.

SYNONYMS.—While the term Eczema is rather well known it is not universal and other names are employed to designate it both by physicians and laity. Among these may be mentioned, Tetter, Salt Rheum, Scall, etc.

TYPES.—It is customary to consider the affection as of three types. Acute, subacute, and chronic, but the line of demarkation between these cannot be sharply drawn. A given case may be chronic as regards its duration yet be markedly acute as regards the violence of its inflammatory reaction. It is a safe working rule to regard cases that react slowly, if at all, to medication as chronic and those that react promptly, as acute. Those cases in the borderland between these extremes are of necessity subacute.

VARIETIES.—Custom has placed the stamp of approval on designating the disease according to the primary lesion most prevalent in each case. For instance should erythema or diffuse redness be the most prominent feature of a certain case,