

DISCUSSION

DR. FRANK CROZER KNOWLES: There are several insurmountable difficulties in the use of salvarsan, except in selected cases, unless the technic can be simplified and the dangers lessened. First, the use of the drug should be preceded by careful examination of the organs and vascular system and of the inner structure of the eyes. Second, the preparation of the drug for injection requires, if the Wechselmann method is used, approximately one hour; if the simpler technic of Lesser is employed, about one-half hour. Third, it is almost essential that patients treated by this drug should be kept in bed for several days to prevent either serious discomfort or complications. Moreover, the remedy is not infallible, as was at first thought. While salvarsan is an important aid in the treatment of syphilis, it will not, in my opinion, displace mercury in the cure of this disease.

DR. H. M. CHRISTIAN: My experience with salvarsan has been limited to about seven cases. The first case was one of tertiary syphilis, with a necrotic gummatous ulcer at the ankle, of about two years' standing. The man was injected in the gluteal region about six weeks ago. The ulcer healed within ten days and the man gained in weight from 15 to 18 pounds. He had been taking mercury and potash for over a year. The next case was one of chancre, which had resisted all ordinary methods. One dose of salvarsan was given. The temperature ran to 103-104 F. for two nights and then dropped to normal. In a week the ulcer was entirely healed. One case of acute roseola with sclerosis of a chancre was not much affected. In a case of papulosquamous eruption, the eruption has almost entirely scaled off. In all these cases the Wassermann reaction was positive.

DR. S. SOLIS COHEN: There is a peculiar psychic effect of salvarsan. A colored man, much emaciated, was admitted to the hospital on account of enlarged liver. There was a perforation of the palate extending through the bone as well as the mucous membrane, and a gumma in the neighborhood of the sternoclavicular articulation which was giving considerable pain. Eight-tenths of a gram of the neutral solution was injected into the muscles of the back. The pain of the gumma disappeared within a couple of days, and all other external evidence of disease disappeared. The Wassermann reaction, however, has remained continuously positive for some twelve weeks. The patient feels well; his appetite has been good and he has gained in weight. A curious fact is that daily and careful examinations of the urine have failed to reveal arsenic. The feces, unfortunately, were not examined.

DR. JUDSON DALAND: Because of a large number of relapses reported in Berlin, it has been decided definitely that the method of administration should be changed from the intramuscular to the intravenous. The intravenous dose for a male adult should not be less than 0.5 gm. More than 1 gm. has been given intravenously without ill effect. It is well to follow the advice of Ehrlich to employ the alkaline solution in all intramuscular injections. The point that Dr. Cohen made regarding the urine being arsenic-free, I cannot explain. Most of the reports show that arsenic remains in the urine for from ten days to two weeks or longer, and has been found in the fecal discharges for about the same length of time. When given intravenously, the arsenic is supposed to disappear from the urine in about four days, but recent observation shows that it persists much longer.

DR. J. F. SCHAMBERG: Regarding the value of this particular remedy, opinion must depend largely on the point of view. Those who were led to expect a cure at one stroke doubtless experience a feeling of disappointment. Those, however, who recognize that we have had introduced into our therapeutic armamentarium a drug of marvellous immediate value, cannot but feel that a great advance has been made. Doubtless, many cases of syphilis will require a repetition of treatment by this drug. At the present time salvarsan has its chief indication in those cases which resist mercury and iodid. It is, perhaps, fortunate that there is a halt in the exuberant enthusiasm excited by Ehrlich's announcement, for this may retard injudicious haste in the use of the drug by unqualified persons and in unsuitable conditions. At present, given a robust individual, with early syphilis, who desires treatment, it seems to me that we are perfectly justified in using it.

Current Medical Literature

AMERICAN

Titles marked with an asterisk (*) are abstracted below.

Medical Record, New York

January 28

- 1 *Personal Experience with a Very Restricted Diet (Rice) in Acute Inflammatory Disease of the Skin. L. D. Bulkley, New York.
- 2 Surgical Aspects of Filariasis. C. F. Stokes, U. S. Navy.
- 3 *Camphor in Large Doses in Pneumonia. L. Weber, New York.
- 4 Infant Mortality in New York City. W. C. Phillips.
- 5 Concealed Chancere of the Male Urethra. C. M. Whitney, Boston.
- 6 *Treatment of Peritonitis Consecutive to Appendicitis. J. J. Buchanan, Pittsburg, Pa.
- 7 Inebriety, Its Treatment and Curability. T. D. Crothers, Hartford, Conn.

1. This article also appeared in the *British Medical Journal*, Sept. 24, 1910.

3. **Camphor in Pneumonia.**—Of a freshly prepared solution, 20 per cent. camphor in oil of sweet almonds, Weber injected two hypodermic syringefuls into the outer circumference of the thighs every hour until eight had been given each day, representing altogether about 30 grains of camphor a day for four days. The patient recovered promptly, although at first there could be no doubt but that the patient would shortly die unless given some pneumococcus serum, or vaccine, or chemical antitoxin which would help her to overcome an infection against which her constitution could not prevail.

6. Abstracted in *THE JOURNAL*, Nov. 19, 1910, p. 1837.

Boston Medical and Surgical Journal

January 26

- 8 Herbert Leslie Burrell, M.D. (1856-1910). In Memoriam. E. H. Bradford, F. S. Watson and G. H. Monks, Boston.
- 9 Time and Method for Prostatectomy. B. Tenney, Boston.
- 10 Medical Problems of Alcoholism. I. H. Neff, Foxborough, Mass.

New York Medical Journal

January 28

- 11 *Nervous Affections and Adjustments of the Eyes. G. T. Stevens, New York.
- 12 *Carcinoma of the Ileum with Unusual Symptoms. A. Bassler and J. P. Grant, New York.
- 13 Dietary Studies in Institutions for Tuberculous Patients in the State of Colorado. C. D. Spivak, Denver.
- 14 Treatment of Septic Endometritis. H. Weil, New York.
- 15 *Direct Lavage of the Duodenum. M. H. Gross, New York.
- 16 When Sedatives are Tonic. W. F. Waugh, Chicago.
- 17 *Roentgen-Ray Therapy in Malignant Lesions. J. Rudis-Jelensky, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
- 18 Typhoid Complicated by Double Parotiditis. R. E. Coughlin, Brooklyn, N. Y.
- 19 Abuse of Urethral Instrumentation. G. Greenberg, New York.

11. **Nervous Affections and the Eyes.**—Attention has frequently been directed by Stevens to the important relation which exists between the habitual pose of the body, as well as the muscular expression of the face, and the peculiarities in the adjustment of the eyes within the orbits. In this paper he considers two forms of chronic spasm, one affecting the muscles of the neck, the other those of the face, which in their established and typical forms cannot be said to be subject to the influence of ordinary forms of medical treatment, and to which both surgical and electrotherapeutic treatment have most frequently been directed in vain. Stevens treats these patients through the eyes, and he reports several cases. Notable relief in each case not only followed, but was the direct result of the more or less complete correction of the maladjustments of the eyes. It is reasonable, then, he says, to attribute to bad adjustments the extreme conditions of spasm. He believes that such spasmodic conditions as these are, in a more direct sense, the result of habitual excessive tension of the affected groups of muscles, this excessive tension arising from certain habitual body poses or from certain facial expressions, all in the interest of compensation for, or correction of, the unfavorable adjustment of the eyes.

12. **Carcinoma of the Ileum.**—The report of the case under the author's observation is of interest for the following reasons: (1) Whether an attack of typhoid (the ulceration in which is mostly in the ileum) may have had to do with the