

The essential point, as Fordyce points out, is to get mercury into the system. All are agreed that oral administration, injections and inunctions, are efficient means, and each has its advantages in a general way, and its peculiar adaptation to particular cases or phases of the disease.

Oral administration is the most readily carried out, but more easily produces digestive disturbances, and more readily permits the patient to escape the close personal attention which is so necessary for success.

Inunctions are especially valuable in children, and to supplement mercury by the mouth. They can readily be carried out, especially in institutional treatment. It is, however, a disagreeable method to the patient, and usually unsuited, for obvious reasons, for home or ambulatory treatment.

Mercurial injections rapidly bring the patient under the influence of the drug, necessitate his being under the physician's control, and shorten the course of treatment. They are somewhat painful, however, and at times may be dangerous from injection into a vein, and in case of idiosyncrasy the dose has passed beyond the physician's control. These risks are largely avoidable, however, by careful technique. American and continental physicians are partial to this form of treatment.

Considering everything, the best results are to be obtained by the use of the preparation and method with which one is most familiar, and in which the physician has most carefully perfected his technique. Personally, for routine cases, I prefer hydrarg. cum creta with pulv. ipecac. co., as recommended by Hutchinson, because I have found it efficient, and from experience know best how to use it.

Salvarsan is especially useful in the earliest period of syphilis, before general infection, and in the secondary stage of the disease, and in later cases that have not responded satisfactorily to mercury and iodides. I have used it in many cases without ever having had any bad results, and often the effect has been so brilliant as to surpass anything I have seen from any form of therapy. I have had a number of cases that were resistant to mercury, clear up in the most astonishing manner. Numerous fatal results have been reported, but I believe many of these may be attributed to a lack of proper discrimination in the selection of cases, and to faulty technique in the preparation of the solution.

Notwithstanding the general consensus of opinion as to the undoubted value of Salvarsan, increasing experience has not established the hope once entertained of a *Therapia sterilizans magna*.