

Sig: one three times a day after meals. In some cases it was thought advisable to leave out the iron.

At the outset of the treatment a purge of calomel was given, and where liquid foods were necessary, as was often the case, beef juice or beef jelly. The administration of the gold, the bitters, and the nervine pills was continued throughout the whole time, and often the nervine pill was given alone for a couple of weeks, after the hypodermics were stopped. The usual precautions in regard to sterilizing the hypodermic syringe were carried out, and on account of the corrosive nature of the salt, a platinum needle was found necessary to prevent clogging. The administration of alcohol was regulated according to the wishes of the patient at the outset. If a man was drinking when treatment began, he was allowed to have a limited quantity as long as he had any desire for it. As a rule, the taste was gone after a few days. After the habit was once broken off the patient was warned against even taking the smallest quantity, either socially, in medicine, or in any other way, as one taste of alcohol could at any time awaken the appetite again.

Dr. T. J. W. BURGESS said he agreed with Dr. Edwards that inebriety was a disease, but he went even further in that he considered it a disease long before the stage at which he (Dr. Edwards) set it down as such. It was a disease of which the most prominent symptom was lack of will power, and the majority of its victims were inheritors of an unstable nervous organization. Such men knew what the inevitable result of their conduct must be but they had not the will power to resist.

As regarded the gold treatment, he knew that similar results were got by cutting off the patients' liquor supply and building up their system generally. Such patients would tell you, like Dr. Edwards' that they had lost all craving for drink. In some cases the effect produced was permanent, but in the majority it was only temporary, the patient yielding when again placed within the reach of temptation.

Dr. JAS. STEWART said he had no practical experience of any of these forms of treatment, and he had no faith in this more than another. A certain percentage of cases were followed by a cure in anything making a powerful impression on the nerve centres. He did not think that Dr. Edwards had proved his point. Hypnotism had been found equally good. The disease was due to paralysed control.

Dr. J. B. McCONNELL agreed with Dr. Burgess in looking on the inebriate as a neurotic. He himself, in a paper read before the Society a couple of years before, had reported identical results from the use of strychnia.