

A drug is like a stool; it will stand on three legs. In other words, if there are three prominent definite symptoms indicating its use we can look for results. Others may have observed different conditions leading to the use of this drug, but to me these have been guiding indications. Its well-known effect of arresting the destruction of red blood corpuscles shows its usefulness in those diseases where it has been found beneficial.

My other case was that of a female about fifty years of age, stout, healthy, full-blooded, with good family history except that seven members of the family had suffered from rheumatism. The patient was also somewhat affected, though slightly. Patient had been visiting in a neighboring city when she became ill. When she arrived home, she was suffering much from distress of breathing. On examination, I found left pleural cavity filled with serum. As symptoms of great distress were present I aspirated, but in a few days the fluid had returned. With my success with arsenic in the other case fresh in my mind, I was tempted to try its effects in this case, but, acting on the theory suggested by someone, that all examples of serous inflammation are believed to be of a rheumatic character, and that sodium salicylate had a powerful influence over rheumatism I tried this remedy with the most happy results. In about ten days the fluid was all gone and never reformed. I have in several cases verified the effects of these two drugs in cases of pleuritic effusion. Arsenic would not relieve the latter case, neither would sodium salicylate the former. But where either of these drugs is indicated it will have the desired effect. I have followed the indications for the use of arsenic for other diseases, and can in confidence prescribe it when the indications suggesting its use are present, viz., anaemic condition with dryness of the skin and fine scaly eruptions on different parts of the body. These are to me some characteristic indications for its use which have led me to use it with success, in other words clear examples of faulty nutrition. Prof. Simpson, of the University of New York, gives as characteristic symptoms female suffering from dysmenorrhoea with tendency to asthma and scaly eruptions—another picture of faulty nutrition. In my experience arsenic will relieve diseases with the above indications and no others.

The other drug to which I wish to refer is sodium benzoate. This is a drug of which but little has been written in our text books, though one of our oldest remedies. But I have found it within the last few years a precious remedy in case of catarrhal diseases of the air passages, especially broncho-pneumonia. In many cases I have verified its good effect where the cough is very troublesome and the bronchi are loaded