

## TREATMENT OF SYPHILITIC LESIONS.

Dr. Seguin published an article in the October number of the "Archives of Medicine," on the use of iodide of potassium in large doses for the relief of the later lesions of syphilis, particularly of the nervous system. He dwells at length on the authorities regarding the dosage of the iodides. Dr. Seguin states—and states correctly, too—that text-books are generally silent on the use of iodides in extremely large doses. He also claims that the practice originated in America. Dr. William H. Van Buren was the first to give potassium iodide in very large doses, and as the results of experience showed its advantage it has been used by others in the same way. Drs. William H. Draper, R. W. Taylor, W. A. Hammond, and others have taught the use of iodide of potassium in large doses for many years, but as a rule it has not been so used until within a short time. All cases of syphilis do not require very heroic treatment. When there is no immediate danger, doses of from twenty to thirty grains three times a day may be given to commence with. In the meantime the effects can be watched, as a few individuals cannot tolerate large doses. In syphilitic manifestations of the nervous system, such as convulsions, hemiplegia, coma, etc., it should be given in the very largest doses at once. Dr. Seguin recommends it in such cases in doses varying from two-and-a-half to ten drachms in twenty-four hours; he gives it before meals, largely diluted. We are pleased with the forcible manner in which Dr. Seguin has drawn attention to this important matter of treating syphilis in the tertiary stage. We have had considerable experience with iodide of potassium in the treatment of syphilis, and have given large doses of the iodides, but have never pushed the remedy to the extent that Dr. Seguin advises. We have usually administered it after meals and not before, as advised by Dr. Seguin. We have never produced iodism to any extent, nor have we observed any gastro-intestinal irritation. In some cases the addition of small doses of mercury may be made with advantage in the treatment.

### AN ENQUIRY COLUMN.

It may not be generally known that there is published in England a magazine called *Notes and*

*Queries*, a very large portion of which is devoted to questions sent in letter-form from subscribers and others on literary, historical, archæological, and other subjects, which are answered in the same form by other readers.

The London *Lancet* has for many years devoted several pages of small print to notes, short comments, and answers to correspondents. This space has been well patronized, which is the best evidence we could have of its value to the profession. Medicine above all other sciences is benefited by the free communication and interchange of ideas among its votaries, and the medical press could thus greatly advance the interests and increase the sum total of knowledge amongst the large body of medical practitioners and students. Apart from the questions discussed by medical societies, and apart from the subjects treated of in papers contributed to medical journals, there are continually cropping up isolated problems which, although in reality often of vast importance, yet cannot be brought within the scope of either of the methods above mentioned. These could be laid open for the consideration and judgment of the profession at large by such a plan as we have referred to, and which it is our intention to adopt. To the student of medicine and junior practitioner it would be a great boon. The junior members of the profession are constantly meeting with difficulties which they cannot solve. Yet many of these difficulties could be tersely discussed through the press by such members of the profession as have the time and the opportunities to devote themselves to lending their aid in increasing the knowledge of medicine besides attending to their regular professional duties. Diagnosis and treatment are not the sole end of the life of a medical practitioner, and this system of notes and queries would tend to extricate many of our medical men from the monotonous groove into which too many of them have fallen.

We invite readers to send us for our March issue a few queries, worded as briefly as possible, on which we shall hope to obtain comments and answers for the succeeding number.

### PROFFSSIONAL ADVERTISING.

Those of our readers who are not in the habit of perusing English papers will be startled to hear