

## A CASE OF INFECTION OF AN INDEFINITE NATURE IN WHICH THE ADMINISTRATION OF SODIUM SALICYLATE APPEARED TO HAVE A BENEFICIAL ACTION.

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BY GRAHAM CHAMBERS, B.A., M.B.,

Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, University of Toronto; Physician, Toronto General Hospital.

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The object of this paper is to call attention to the possible value of salicylates in the treatment of acute infectious fevers other than rheumatism. At the outset I may state that I recently have used sodium salicylate in the treatment of several kinds of infectious fevers, with apparent benefit in some. This seems to me to be not an unnatural result, believing, as I do, that the curative action of salicylates in acute rheumatism, a disease which is no doubt caused by bacterium, is due to the action of the drug as an internal antiseptic. I might call attention to the fact that in disease caused by the protozoa arsenical preparations are of therapeutic value in, at least, three, namely, sleeping sickness, syphilis, and malaria. This suggested to me that in the therapy of diseases caused by bacteria, salicylates may be of value in more than one, and the observations which I have made on the subject appear to support this view. I am aware that it is usually difficult to estimate the value of any remedial agent in the treatment of an infectious fever. Nevertheless, if the treatment be rational, and the results apparently favorable, one is justified in calling attention to the observation. The following is a case in point:

J. D., age 24, civil engineer, was admitted to the Presbyterian Hospital, New York, Jan. 5th, 1911, under the care of Dr. Gilman Thompson.

The patient complained of weakness, drowsiness, headache, loss of appetite and feverishness. These symptoms developed on Jan. 2nd, but the patient had been ailing since Dec. 1st, 1910.

During the last six years the patient has worked hard and led a strenuous life. Since January, 1910, he has been a clerk in an office. His habits have been fairly regular. He uses tobacco, but no alcohol.

The patient has had no illness of importance until the autumn of 1909, when he had a fever, lasting five weeks, which was diag-