

After washing by means of an aqueous solution of carbolic acid, the dressing is applied as before, re-applied as often as necessary until cicatrization, usually rapid, is complete. Patients are advised, especially when varicosity exists or threatens, never to go about without the support of a bandage or an elastic stocking.

The results from the use of bismuth subiodide in the case of Mrs. M., æt. 50, emphasized the advantages over all ordinary dressings. This lady's left lower limb, disfigured by five ulcers, in size varying from a twenty-five to a fifty cent piece, was so enlarged and cumbersome, that walking was rarely attempted. As several medical men had exhausted their means, to no effect, the prospects were not particularly bright. However, after the preparatory treatment outlined above, bismuth subiodide broke the monotony of failures, and effected a cure in four weeks. This was looked upon as a marvellously short time in which to bring about a cure, for a year or more had previously been expended in attempts to close the gaps. As cicatrization was progressing the cedema gradually subsided, so that, at the end of the month, the patient was quite comfortable and able to go about.

Mrs. O., æt. 65, presented an ulcer the size of a twenty-five cent piece midway between knee and ankle. This patient was crippled by arthritis deformans, and suffered at this time with an ulcer of the cornea. The complication of ulcers corneæ indicated a disordered nutrition in a patient whose tissues generally were flabby and pale. As the ulcer was but of several months standing, with margins and surrounding tissues not yet in that thickened callous condition so frequently seen in ulcers of long standing, the effect of bismuth subiodide on the apparently dormant epithelial cells was awaited with considerable interest. When the dressing was removed on the third day the *solution of continuity* was no longer apparent. A covering of epidermis met the eye, a cover thin indeed, but still entire. Incidentally I may remark that about a week after this fortunate result I was hurriedly summoned to find her speechless and paralyzed along the right side. After the lapse of a week, patient regained almost complete control over the muscles that had been so suddenly disabled. Whether arrest of discharge from a chronic sore should be considered an etiological

factor in the production of apoplexy, or whether the supervention of apoplexy should be regarded in all such cases as merely coincidental, I would not say positively, though I incline to the latter view.

Where pain is a prominent symptom, not uncommon in ulcers situated over the malleoli, bismuth subiodide appears to act as a sedative of considerable value. The pain may, and not infrequently does, subside before healing can be said to have begun.

Ulcers characterized by over-action can best be treated by means of a caustic, as the chloride of zinc or nitrate of silver, and after separation of the slough, by applying the bismuth subiodide. Thus far the good points of bismuth subiodide have been set forth. Occasionally a failure has to be recorded, failure due perhaps more to inattention to details on the part of patients than to a want of control by the drug over the healing process. It is surprising, indeed to be regretted, that patients place so small an estimate on the value of rest in the treatment of sores.

While iodoform and a host of other drugs have their admirers and advocates, I feel confident that bismuth subiodide will stand well to the fore when a comparison is instituted; confident also that medical men, after better acquaintance with this and other new drugs, will realize that with the progress of time and of scientific researches, additions are being made to our armamentarium; additions of such value as to warrant the belief and hope that even medicine is destined to rank among the exact sciences, if not in the near future, at any rate long before that state of perfection A.D. 2000.

Selections.

THE ABUSE OF UTERINE TREATMENT THROUGH MISTAKEN DIAGNOSIS.

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While the treatment of uterine diseases received a great impulse from the writings of Simpson in England, of Kiwisch and Scanzoni in Germany, and of Huguier and Recamier in France, it is to Bennet that we chiefly owe the common use of local applications and the popularization of the speculum. The former gynec-