

an atrophic effect—not electrolytic action alone, that produces the desired end. The elements being separated an electrolytic action takes place and absorption follows. Caustic effects are not desired and there is no galvano-puncture, as in Apostoli's treatment. A current of more than 100 milli-amperes is never used. This method of treatment is claimed to be devoid of danger, painless, checks hemorrhage, reduces the size of the tumor and admits of accurate dosage. (*Med. News*, Vol. 51, No. 2.)

(*To be continued.*)

THE THERAPEUTICAL VALUE OF BISMUTH SALICYLATE.

Dr. Hale (*Polyclinic*) says :

In an experience extending over two years, with its use in treatment of inflammatory affections of the gastro-intestinal tract, seldom has it failed to accomplish the desired result and permanently cure the disease. In severe cases of diarrhea occurring in phthisical patients, I have effected diminution in the number of stools by half dram doses of the drug at intervals of two hours, reducing the amount of the dose on the amelioration of the symptoms. In cholera morbus, after the cause has been removed, this agent will reduce the existing inflammation and induce a cessation of the morbid action.

In dysentery, acute in character and of the sporadic variety, it has proved efficacious when full medicinal doses have been administered, allaying the disorder with great rapidity.

The diarrhea accompanying enteric fever, especially in children, I have been able to control by its use, when other well known remedies for this disorder had failed. If impossible to administer by the mouth, an enema may be employed, but in that case, the amount should be double that given by the mouth; and it should always have a small amount of opium administered with it.

In dyspepsia, with acid eructations and pyrosis, with a feeling of heaviness at the stomach after the ingestion of food, bismuth salicylate, in combination with simple bitters, soon tones up the organ and relieves the disorders. Recently, Dr. James Ware, of Lake Charles, La., communicated to me the following cases in which he had found the preparation useful :

1st. Female, æt. forty-five, dysentery. At the end of five days of treatment with opium and so on, I gave : R.—Bismuth salicyl., gr. c.; bismuthi subnit., gr. c. M. Ft. pulv. No. vj. div.

Gave one powder every three hours. The woman was entirely relieved in twelve hours.

2nd. Female, æt. twenty-three, dysentery.

Gave salicylate as above, also by enema, thus : R.—Bismuthi salicyl., gr. cc.; glycerinæ, f3j; aquæ, f 3vj. M. Sig.—f 3i, in three ounces of tepid water, after each stool.

Woman was well in forty-eight hours.

3rd. Child, æt. three; never fully recovered from an attack of cholera infantum last summer. Relieved by salicylate in eight grain doses.

4th. Male, æt. twenty-five; periodical fermentation of contents of bowels every ten or twelve days for a year. Relieved now at the beginning of every attack, by fifteen grains each of the bismuth salicylate and subnitrate.

5th. Female, æt. twenty; pruritus vulvæ. Suffered terribly for several days. Used corrosive sublimate, carbolic acid, and other remedies with no benefit; then employed : R.—Bismuthi salicyl., gr. c.; aquæ, f 5iv.

As a vaginal injection; relief instantly.

6th. Female, æt. fifty-six. Fermentation of contents of stomach and bowels every ten, twenty or thirty days for twenty years, accompanied with violent pain and frequent discharges of acid mucus. Relief generally came in from thirty to seventy-two hours. In the midst of an attack I gave ten grains of salicylate, and subnitrate, with immediate relief. She has taken this amount night and morning for thirty days, with no return of the disease.

The preparation of this drug I have used is a pure white, very flocculent and light material. In beginning the treatment of any inflammatory affection of the alimentary canal, full and decided doses should be administered, and subsequently, when decrease in the severity of the symptoms takes place, the amount may be lessened. In severe cases occurring in children, I never commence treatment with a dose less than five to eight grains.

The formula I prefer in cholera infantum and many other diarrheal disorders in children is the following : R.—Bismuthi salicyl., 3ij.; tr. capsici, gtt. xij.; spts. ammon. aromat., f 3iss.; pulv. acaciæ, 3ij.; aq. cinnamoni, q. s. ad., f 3ij. M. Sig.—Teaspoonful every two hours, for a child from three months to one year of age.

In the adult I prefer to use the preparation in powder, or combined with some other astringents, as tannic acid, acetate of lead, etc. With the bismuth salicylate it is possible in many instances to entirely dispense with an opiate, and this I always endeavor to do if possible.

The beneficial action of this drug is undoubtedly due to the antiseptic power of the salicylic acid as much as the astringent properties of the bismuth. In many cases of vomiting it will control it if given in five grain doses, also in pregnant women the vomiting in many instances may soon yield to the action of this preparation, and its return to any great extent will be prevented by its continuance in small and frequently repeated doses.