

symptoms by exhibiting larger doses; but in the latter case, so far as I have seen, it does not make a permanent cure; for the symptoms return again." For a similar reason, this medicine possesses but very small prophylactic power, *i. e.*, it has not much effect in preventing the developement of the subsequent stages of syphilis, and, in this particular, also, contrasts very unfavorably with mercury, as will be remembered. From the foregoing it may be fairly deduced, that iodid of potassium is not a reliable remedy in regular syphilis. Indeed, it may be, properly, doubted if it be even a safe medicine in this toxic state. Dr. Lawrie, of Glasgow, not only considers this agent very uncertain, but, furthermore, that it is at times dangerous. And this accords with the observations of others who have found, under the use of the iodid, the disorder often continues astonishingly obstinate. Vidal says, "if the case be one of superficial syphilides, it does not disappear, it may even become aggravated" under the exhibition of iodid potas; and he concludes by remarking, "now is the time to interpose the use of mercury."

Manifold are the evils that may attend the anti-syphilitic employment of iodid of potassium. They may be divided into local and general; of the former, the two most notorious are an affection of the ærian mucous membrane, and of the tongue. The former is the result of an indirect irritation induced by the poisonous influence of the drug. The latter is a variety of chronic glossitis,—the tongue "becomes hypertrophied, tender, and covered with lobes and fissured by deep cracks."

The constitutional effects of iodid of potassium are various; the most common is an irritation of the conjunctival and schneiderian membranes, marked by redness, defluxion and preternatural sensibility, the person appears as if he had a bad cold in his head:—in some rare cases, extreme congestion with extravasation of blood has been seen forming ecchymosis of the eye. Diuresis is likewise frequent, the urine has been increased under its use, to 7 pounds in the day. Ptyalism is next to these in frequency; it resembles the mercurial in most of the symptoms, as a flow of saliva, of a metallic and bitter taste, erythema and œdema of the gums, &c., but it differs in there being no actual inflammation, nor ulceration, nor characteristic fetor. I have, occasionally, observed a peculiar eruption, like erythema papulatum, brought out from its use. Others have noticed rashes like acne, ecchyma, maculæ, &c. Relaxation of the bowels is occasionally experienced, and sometimes irritation of the throat. Now and then, a peculiar state of the nervous system is the only mark of action of the remedy—as seen in headache, watchfulness, or mental inactivity, &c. Iodid of potassium, in person of peculiar idiosyncrasy, has given rise to alarming symp-