

silver, which it takes some time to wash out. I therefore use two syringes, one for thallin and tannin, the other for copper and silver.—Dr. E. L. Kees, New York, in *Med. Rec.*

# METHYL-VIOLET AND PERCHLORIDE OF MERCURY IN THE TREATMENT OF CANCER.

In the *Hospital Gazette* of last February I see that Professor Von Mosteg believes he has discovered a new cure for cancer in the hypodermic injection of methyl-violet.

As I have myself been experimenting in the same direction for the relief of malignant growths, the following notes of a case of cancer treated by me last year may be of interest to your readers.

On my return from Capetown on the 25th of August last, I received a telegram requesting my immediate attendance on a patient in a distant district.

Providing myself with methyl-violet and other germicides, I left the same evening by train, and arrived on the evening of the 27th, having crossed a mountain range 6,000 feet above sea-level, its peaks covered with snow, at the base of which he lived.

The patient—J. H. S., a Dutch farmer, aged 52, of healthy parents, but whose sister died from cancer of the stomach—had been hale and strong until two years before, when a small pustule appeared on his lower lip, where his pipe usually rested. It was destroyed twice with nitric acid, and then cut out in June, 1889. Four months afterwards, an enlarged gland appeared in the neck, which, in December, was as large as a walnut, increasing slowly till June, and then rapidly. When I saw him, the tumor extended from near the sternal end of the clavicle nearly to the point of the shoulder and to the lobe of the left ear, measuring  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches across, and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches vertically; and round the neck, over the two colloid prominences,  $17\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Pulse feeble, 88; temperature,  $102^{\circ}$ ; tongue furred, swollen, indented on edges, sublingual glands swollen and painful, difficulty in swallowing, no appetite, unable to lie down, sleeping in a chair at short intervals as the pains would permit, restless and low spirited, complains of fixed pain at back of neck, and a burning sensation with partial deafness in left ear, head on one side from pain and pressure of the tumor. He had been visited by a medical gentleman from the town, who declined to give an opinion.

A most unfavorable case certainly, and in a locality not favorable for remedial treatment, his residence being situated in a village of gardens and cornfields, on the alluvial banks of a moun-

tain stream, flooded at times, and receiving the silt and drainage of the cultivated farms and homesteads above; with a deep impermeable clay subsoil.

After frankly representing the hopelessness of a cure in such an advanced stage of the disease, whilst firmly believing in the curability of cancer in the earlier stages, I could only hold out hopes of relieving the pains and other distressing symptoms without opiates, and of checking the progress of the disease for a time at least; and tried to cheer him up by instancing cases of lupus ("Die Wolf") which I had cured, a disease more dreaded by the Boers than the worst forms of cancer. He started excitedly, "Well, doctor, if you have cured 'the Wolf,' you must try my case; the tumor has not yet burst, you may be mistaken. Do your best; I promise to do all you advise."

I injected at once 3ss. of liq. hydr. perchlor., P.B., in three places round the hard base of the tumor, and gave a dose of sodæ sulphas to remove vitiated secretions. Next morning I was surprised at the change. He told me he had more sleep than he had had for weeks past, the pains were less severe, the colloid mass less tense and flatter, his pulse 80, and temperature normal. Hope and confidence had been restored by the sleep without drugs and he decided to accompany me to Grahamstown to the Albany Hospital, if I would remain two days for him to prepare for the journey. I saw a case of lupus, and one of goitre, and heard of two more, one of which had quite recovered after removal to the Orange Free State, that day. I drove into the town next day, and saw both of the medical men who had attended him, and both considered the case hopeless, and agreed with me that the only chance for relief was removal to a higher altitude; and indeed, on the journey the reduced barometric pressure, change of climate, scenery, and dry, keen air of the upland plains had already produced a marked change in his condition and spirits. No medicine was given.

On arrival at Grahamstown on the 2nd September the germicide treatment by lotions and subcutaneous injections of mercury perchloride was commenced, 10 M. at first every day, increasing gradually to 20 and 30 ., with marked improvement in all his symptoms. The pains left with the removal of pressure as absorption progressed. In a few days he could lie down, and slept sometimes all night. Injections of methyl-violet were now alternated with the perchloride.

Both my *confrères* on the hospital staff examined him, Dr. Greathead on the third, and my brother, Dr. Edwin Atherstone, a few days later, and though both deemed the case hopeless they advised him to continue the treatment. The appetite improved, and he was able to walk into the Botanic Gardens, and even to attend to business.