

NOTES ON THE TREATMENT OF GOUT, RHEUMATISM, ETC.

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It is admitted that the presence of an excess of uric acid in the system gives rise to the symptoms of gout and rheumatism.

THE ELIMINATION OF URIC ACID

It is known that in such cases the normal alkalinity of the blood current is much reduced, while the excretions are strongly acid.

It is also known that the restoration of the normal alkalinity is followed by excretion of the uric acid and by alleviation of the symptoms.

The difficulty hitherto has been the bringing about of a rapid restoration of the alkalinity of the blood current and at the same time securing elimination of the uric acid in the system. Alkalies and alkaline lithium salts have been employed with more or less success, but the continued administration of alkalies tends to bring about cystitis (B. M. J., July, 1895), whilst lithium when administered in alkaline solution does not exert any great solvent action on the uric acid.

THE ACTION OF ORGANIC ACIDS

One of the most useful discoveries of recent years is the determination of the fact that in gouty and rheumatic patients the administration of certain organic acids causes a much more rapid and satisfactory restoration of the alkalinity of the blood current than when alkalies are employed.

When the alkalinity is restored, and not till then, lithium will exert its solvent action on the uric acid concretions.

The further discovery has now been made by Dr. E. C. Kirk, and independently by Dr. Haig, that by combining an organic acid with lithium, an ACID salt can be prepared which possesses much greater solvent properties in cases of uricacidæmia than is possessed by lithium when administered alone, after exhibition of acids. The reason for this lies in the fact that the lithium is set free in the system at the point where its activity is required, and elementary bodies in the nascent state are always much more active than when in combination.

THE ACID SALTS OF LITHIUM

This acid salt has been termed **TARTARLITHINE** and is manufactured by

McKESSON & ROBBINS, 91 FULTON ST., NEW YORK

who will be happy to send samples and literature on application.

The results from the administration of **TARTARLITHINE** so far obtained have exceeded expectations. It appears to be a specific in most cases.