

The proper dosage was that which would produce physiological effect. The rule of giving it while it produced improvement in the blood had been stated. Even then, perhaps, enough was not being given to do the most good. In some cases he had seen the virulence of the disease very little affected. The remedy could be looked upon as simply inhibitory, in some cases very slight. Some cases would resist the mercury and would show lesions in spite of treatment; therefore, some cases were incurable. The essayist had stated that a patient in the secondary stage might have serious internal lesions, though no external were visible. This must be taken as a matter of opinion, as probably impossible to demonstrate. Dr. McPhedran thought the two remedies, mercury and iodide of potash, had in the past been used very much at haphazard. Mercury was the drug during efflorescing phenomena, the KI being given for the grosser lesions. He thought the iodide was preferable in intracranial syphilis. It was generally considered by many neurologists that these late lesions were toxin lesions and not germ lesions. It was difficult to explain why the toxins should be there if the germ was gone.

Dr. ROBINSON replied. He said that he had stated that many cases were incurable. He quoted the experience of Hutchinson and others, which agreed with this. Others got well without any treatment. Great importance was attached to the condition of the ground. It must be paid attention to. That there were lesions of the internal organs many examples showed: disease of the eye in the early secondary stage without cutaneous lesions; women showed lesions of the vagina without another lesion; others have them in the mouth. If this was true of organs we could see it must be true of those we could not see. A case might be mild and there be no cutaneous disease; in another there might be nephritis. Microscopical examination of tissue showed changes before lesions have occurred on the skin. Physiological changes occur in the cutaneous tissue before microscopical changes are seen. They must take place if the toxins are there, causing fever, lassitude, etc.

Regarding the use of the remedies: KI had no effect directly on the life action of the organism, he repeated; it only aided by some action on the glands the elimination of the poison. It would cause absorption of the gummatous material, but would not stop the formation of lesions that would become gummatous. The only value of KI in a diagnostic way was where certain tumors were present, of the rectum, for instance, and the question was whether they were syphilitic or sarcomatous, carcinomatous, etc., KI might settle the question.

He had no objection to intravenous injections: he thought it was