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TREATMENT OF ACUTE RHEUMATISM BY SALICIN.

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CASE I.—Alex. Page, æt. 21, a farmer, was admitted, May 30, suffering from acute rheumatism. He first complained of pains in the joints about 23rd May.

On admission the symptoms of acute rheumatism were well marked, severe pains in the back and arms, tongue furred white, temp. 102; pulse

	TEMPERATURE.		PULSE.	
	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
May 30		103		100
31	101 3-5	104	96	100
June 1	102	102	96	96
2	101		80	
3	100		64	
4	99 2-5	100		
5	99 3-5	99 2-5	56	
6	99		50	
7	99	100	50	54
8	98 2-5		50	

98. A hot bath and a purgative, (calomel) were administered. Salicin in powder was ordered every 3 hours in five-grain doses. 2nd day, bowels open; pain continues in the back and arms. 3rd. Pain relieved in back, tongue less furred. 4th. Perspired during the night, pain in the right arm and left leg, tongue pretty clean. 5th. Pain is easier, sleeps well. 6th. Restless night, pain in the left ankle. 7th. Pain in the leg and arm much less, tongue clean. 8th. Appetite good, no pain in the joints, and not stiff. 9th. A little pain in the right arm and slight headache. 10th. Continued to improve and considered convalescent. Put on his clothes and was able to walk around the ward. Salicin discontinued. In all ζ iv. were taken. Patient discharged in a few days having no relapse.

CASE II.—Michael McDonald, æt. 28, by

occupation a labourer, was admitted to the hospital, June 5th, suffering from rheumatic fever. He was troubled with swollen and painful ankles, feet and wrists for about three weeks before being admitted.

On admission the symptoms of acute rheumatism were well marked; temp. 103°, pulse 105, with pain in left side, wrists and knees; joints much swollen; tongue furred white. He was ordered ten grain doses of salicin every three hours, but they were carelessly omitted at night.

1876	Temp.	Temp.	Pulse.	Pulse.
	M.	E.	M.	E.
June 5		103		105
6	103	102 2-5	104	100
7	102	102	100	94
8	101	100 2-5	90	86
9	100	99 3-5	80	75
10	99	99	65	63

6th. Perspired during the night, pain in the arms and legs; joints very stiff, tongue thickly coated, bowels open. 7th. Complained of headache, appetite not good. 8th. Had a good night, appetite improving, bowels open, tongue cleaner. Pain in right arm and shoulder. 9th. Slept well, left wrist a little swollen, perfectly free from pain, but joints a little stiff. Salicin discontinued. 10th. Convalescence good, continued to improve, and was discharged on the 19th.

CASE III.—Alfred Wood, labourer, æt. 27 years, was, as he thought, owing to an overstraining of the tendons about the hip-joint, obliged to take to his bed on the 31st May; at the same time complaining that he had taken cold, the hip at this time being swollen and painful.

On the 2nd June he was admitted to the hospital, the hip being somewhat swollen and painful, but not discoloured. The knee was similarly though to a less degree affected; the pains were fugitive, pulse 80, temp. 92, urine slightly deficient and acid, bowels constipated, tongue furred white; as the symptoms, though those of rheumatic fever, were slight, he was unprescribed for, excepting a black draught and stimulating liniment for the hip.

His symptoms next day, June 3rd, became exaggerated at 2 p.m. Pulse 84, temp. 99, bowels open, prescribed 10 grain doses of salicin every three hours daily. June 5th, pulse 84; temp. 101°; although temp. is higher, the pain in hip and knee is lessened. June 6th, pulse 80, temp. 95°, salicin continued though pain and swelling are completely subsided, tongue cleaning, appetite improving.