

the blood in an oxydized state, while the inflammatory process is progressing, he has only to press, with great rapidity, the alkalies into the system, and inflammation proper can only last as long as it requires to restore the blood to its normal alkaline state. The consequence of inflammation may remain, but the inflammatory stage can be checked in four or five days; and it is the only plan by which it can be kept in subjection; therefore Liq. potassa may be considered as having a complete control over this disease.

Rheumatism has been so frequently associated with excess of acid, that theorists have, for a few years past, laid down an alkaline course of treatment; but that excess of acid in the acute, or of alkali in the chronic, is symptomatic of the disease, I utterly deny. I would call your attention to the fact that there is a marked difference between rheumatism in Europe and rheumatism in Canada, particularly those of you who have had an opportunity of seeing cases in the hospitals of London as well as this country. In England, the chronic form tends to rheumatic gout; while in this country it assumes the nature of palsy. However, the fact that the excretions in some cases, and often in certain stages of the same cases, will acknowledge the test of alkaline and acid excess respectively, I think I may safely state as proven; hence it is our duty to seek out the admonitions that chemistry suggests and govern ourselves accordingly.

The powerful antiseptic and disinfecting effects of chlorine have been long known, but until the accidental discovery of the chlorido of potassium, a few years ago, the different forms in which it was necessarily administered contained objections commensurate with its advantages. This salt is free from any of the difficulties of former preparations, not so caustic for local use as chloride of lime, and more effective than the chlorido of sodium; it imparts its chlorine readily, and leaves the potassium as mild a caustic and gentle stimulant as could be wished, and wherever it has been applied to fœtid and indolent ulcers, the whole array of yeast and charcoal and other carbonaceous applications have fled before it in confusion. In that modern and most dreaded disease diphtheria, there appears no safety in any other remedy; it is a malignant fever with putrid sore throat, the whole living surface of the fauces and pharynx throwing off a false membrane, which again immediately forms attachments