

THE DOSE OF IODIDE OF POTASSIUM.—There are some physicians who believe that to obtain the most beneficial, permanent and immediate results from the administration of iodide of potassium, it is necessary to prescribe large doses ranging from five to ten and gradually working up to fifteen and twenty grain doses given from one to three times a day. Other physicians believe that one grain and from that down to one-half and one-fourth grain will accomplish as much and be less apt to induce unpleasant results. There is no need of going to extremes, but it does seem that one grain of iodide of potassium and possibly one-half grain will certainly produce the therapeutic action of the drug. Much depends upon the constitutional condition of the patient, and to a great extent it is the question of individual consideration, but the physician who administers unnecessarily large doses of any drug, doses which he would not wish to take himself, is doing wrong. We hope the time will soon come when this apparent competition to see who can administer the largest doses of certain drugs will cease to exist. In iodide of potassium, creasote and several other common drugs, many physicians exhibit peculiar interest in reporting the administration of large doses, and these reports representing in themselves something original, go the rounds of the press and stimulate other physicians to take a hand in the competition.—*N. Y. State Medical Reporter.*

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DR. GOWERS ON EMPIRICAL THERAPEUTICS.—In a recent address Dr. Gowers, in speaking of the use of drugs, claimed that the best of our still-used remedies were empirical or chance discoveries: "We smile at the popular herbal remedies. But it is to these that we owe the majority of our most useful drugs. I cannot conceive a therapist surveying a list of the chief drugs on which we depend in our daily work—and do not depend in vain—without a sense of wonder and perhaps of humiliation. We disinfect our rooms with burning sulphur; and so men did before the time of Homer. We purge sometimes with rhubarb, especially when some subsequent astringent influence is desirable, and so did the old Arabians for the same special reason. The value of castor oil in its chief use was familiar, probably for ages, to the natives of the East and of the West Indies before it was made known in Europe by a physician from Antigua one hundred and fifty years ago. Aloes was employed in the same way long before the time of Dioscorides and Pliny. The knowledge of the influence of ergot in parturition we owe to the peasants of Germany, and the use of male fern for tapeworm goes back to the