

observations of Vidal appear to be very trustworthy:—"I believe that almost all cases of syphilis may be successfully treated by mercury, if this medicine be properly managed; but sometimes the system is antipathic to it, and then instead of producing curative it produces morbid effects; thus, patients who are excessively debilitated, cannot be treated with mercury which evidently depresses the vital force. . . . I give in these cases iodid potassium."—And in addition it may be remarked that in syphilis occurring in scrofulous subjects, in which the evidences of this diathesis are especially clear, and in function derangements of the tertiary type, quickly removable, iodid potassium seems preferable to mercury.

Iodid potassium appears to have a special action which renders it more or less antagonistic to mercury. This is particularly manifested in persons of bad habits of body, to whom the latter drug has been given indiscreetly, and who get into a condition of hydrargyric-syphilitic cachexia; in them, iodid potassium often proves of signal service. Its utility is referred to the formation of a double iodid of mercury and potassium, so that not only is the mercury removed, for the compound is readily eliminated through the kidneys, but a new salt is produced which is in itself a most powerful anti-syphilitic. Iodid potas is also of service, in the same way, in certain disorders, which, though not syphilitic, are the *consequences* of previous infection: of this kind, are the following cases wherein Mr. Mayo has found it efficacious; viz., "emaciation, with ulcers of the skin; ulcerated throat; affections of the bones, &c., occurring in those to whom mercury had been given."

And, lastly, iodid potassium, from being an energetic diuretic, is of great use as a succedaneum to the mercurial treatment, by operating as an eliminative after the manner before described. If persevered in, with this intention, for a sufficiently long time, it will complete the cure which the mercury has originated.

In strict conformity with the meanings that have been above rendered of such a substance, iodid of potassium is not a regular anti-syphilitic. And experience abundantly supports its condemnation. It *removes* but does not cure the symptoms for which it has been administered,—it throws a veil of false health over the disorder, leaving the *origo mali* within unconquered, and it exposes the invalid, when discontinued, to a speedy relapse into his former miseries. Mr. L. Parker has known it to be taken by patients for 3, 7, and, in one case, for 10 years; it always kept the disease in check, but when interrupted, the symptoms became worse. Sir B. Brodie (*Lancet*, 1844,) observes, "you may remove slight symptoms by giving it for a time, and severe