

the society, in which usual anti-syphilitic treatment had failed. The speaker pointed out that pilocarpine could not be used indiscriminately. He called attention to the plan of systematic diaphoresis by vapor baths bi-weekly during the so-called secondary stage, while giving mercury. This would act like pilocarpine and was much safer. He did not agree that the immunity obtained by treatment was similar to that obtained by the mother through inoculation from the foetus. Dr. Reeve thought that emphasis should be laid on the dosage of mercury and the iodide. It was too often prescribed in a lakadaisical way, and in such doses that anybody could take year in and year out without harm.

Dr. T. F. McMAHON referred to a method of detecting whether the disease was present or not. It was held by some that sixty grains of pot. iodid. should produce iodism if syphilis was present. If it did not, the individual was free from the disease. He asked how certain cases of outbreak of syphilis at an advanced age were accounted for, barring the untruthfulness of the patient. If these cases were genuine, he would like to know if the essayist considered that these manifestations showed increased vulnerability of certain tissues, or were they due to the specific organisms being present and making an outbreak at that time?

Dr. C. J. HASTINGS cited reports of treatment by intravenous injections. One case of Jacksonian epilepsy, where there were two epileptic seizures daily, after the second injection, was relieved for a considerable time. One man had reported four or five hundred cases with gratifying results. The effects were almost immediate. The syringe used was made of glass, so as to be rendered entirely aseptic. The technique of the operation was described. One-sixth of a grain of the cyanide of mercury was used.

Dr. A. McPHERDAN said that the reader of the paper held a very optimistic view of the prognosis of syphilis. His opinion would give great hope to those affected with the disease; many practitioners in years past looked upon the disease as incurable. Quite a number of leading men to-day think it is incurable. He (the speaker) would like to go as far as Dr. Robinson, but would find a great deal of difficulty in doing so. Supposing all the mercury given in the contagious stage was not curative, but simply inhibitory, it did not destroy the germ—just inhibited its growth to a greater or less extent. In some persons the inhibitory action would take place rapidly, and they would show no signs of the existence of the disease for a long time. In other persons the lesions would appear during the administration of mercury, and with a virulence that would not be held down by mercury.