

the further consideration of the agent in this connection will be discontinued. It has only been thus spoken of to show its efficacy in such cases.

Iodine is less used by the Dentist than the tincture ; as an internal remedy it is seldom used, the iodide of potassa being considered far superior. Iodine may be useful in the local treatment of chronic inflammation or induration of the salivary glands, in dental periostitis, in alveolar abscess, in some morbid states of the antrum, in thickening of the mucus membrane, in tumors of the mouth, and in absorption of the gums and alveolar processes. The officinal tincture will answer very well for periostitis, thickening of the membrane, and sometimes for abscess. For chronic catarrh, or inflammation of the lining membrane of the antrum, the compound tincture very much diluted is a good injection. For destroying the sac in alveolar abscess, a solution of iodine and creosote is a sovereign agent, and when not too concentrated, the same is an admirable application to the margins of the gums and alveolar processes, after the removal of all irritating and dead substances ; but care must be taken that it is not applied too frequently. It is an escharotic, and as a general rule it is well to let the slough separate before a second application. To use externally I prefer a colorless solution of iodine, prepared by combining equal quantities of compound tincture of iodine and pure aqua ammonia. As combination takes place, the mixture becomes transparent and will not then color the skin. I do not think of any condition which will require the Dentist to prescribe iodine internally. When its constitutional action is indicated as in scrofulous or syphilitic diseases of the mouth more benefit will be derived from the use of iodide of potassium.¹

IODIDE OF POTASSIUM.

Omitting its history, we will pass immediately to its physiological effects and uses.

“Locally, this salt is an irritant, but is not near so energetic in its action as free iodine. On this account it may be given internally, in larger doses and for a longer period, than iodine. Indeed, iodine can be introduced into the system much faster by the use of the iodide, than when given uncombined. A solution of albumen, fibrin, or gelatin, is not obviously changed by the addition of this salt, and as these are the most abundant organic constituents of the body, we

1. Watt's Dental Materia Medica.