

required to act is practically a neutral one and the temperature low, there is present, besides, a large excess of the products of digestion which does not affect papoid—indeed it is most energetic in a concentrated medium. Moreover, papoid has been shown clinically to lessen very greatly the disagreeable fœtor of the disease. Painting on a 5 per cent. solution, freshly made, every two or three hours has been found to give the best results: the fœtor disappears in a few hours and the membrane in from 12 to 18 hours becomes thin and glairy.

It would seem to be especially indicated in these forms of dyspepsia in which peptic digestion is greatly impaired and where the secretion of gastric juice is very weak.

Papoid, therefore, promises to be a powerful auxiliary in combating those two great diseases—diphtheria and dyspepsia.—*Canada Medical and Surgical Journal.*

#### ON THE TREATMENT OF PSORIASIS BY LARGE DOSES OF THE IODIDE OF POTASSIUM.

In the year 1881 Greves recommended iodide of potassium for psoriasis, regarding it as a drug possessing much greater influence in causing the disappearance of chronic inflammatory products than was generally supposed. He advised beginning a course of treatment with a solution of ten grains of the iodide to three hundred grains of water, of which a dessert-spoonful was to be taken three or four times daily. At each renewal of the prescription the solution is to be made five grains stronger, and thus increased until thirty or forty grains to three hundred of water have been reached. He never prescribed more than one spoonful four times a day, so that the patient never gets more than ten grains daily.

Haslund began his experiments in the manner proposed by Greves, and while the patient supported the drug well, soon increased the dose materially.

The method which Haslund followed was usually to begin with a solution of ten grains of iodide to two hundred grains of water, of which a dessert-spoonful was administered four times daily. Small children began with a solution of

five grains to two hundred of water, but were soon placed upon the stronger solution. After two or three days six doses were given daily, and two days later, eight, and so on, until the patient was taking twelve spoonfuls, or the whole contents of the bottle in the course of the day, two spoonfuls at a time six times daily. If a patient had taken, for two successive days, the whole bottleful, the author every second or third day made the prescription two grains stronger, and ordered a glass of water to be taken after each dose. Some patients went so far as to consume, in the space of two or three months' time, the enormous quantity of from 1,827 to 2,256 grains of the iodide of potassium. The maximal daily dose varied in the rule from twenty to fifty grains.

The result of this method of treatment was in fifty cases as follows: In forty a full recovery was obtained, in four there was decided improvement, and in six no benefit was obtained. The average duration of treatment in the cured cases was a little over seven weeks.

There was considerable variation in the time at which a disappearance of the psoriasis began. In some cases it was noticed as early as the seventh to tenth day, while in others four or five weeks passed before the lesions began to disappear. One patient took as high as thirty-five grains before an effect could be made out.

These large doses of the iodide were well supported. In ten cases there were slight signs of iodism in the first few days, such as headache and coryza, and slight digestive disturbances, with nausea, cardiac oppression, loss of appetite, and diarrhoea. In one case there was a decided salivation produced; but in none of the cases was it necessary to interrupt the course of treatment, but only to increase the dose more slowly.

In seven cases digestive disturbances appeared necessitating the decrease of the dose one-half, and in a few cases was it necessary to stop the drug entirely. In a few cases the patients had headache and dizziness, in one patient the pulse was one day irregular, two developed albumen in the urine, which in one case persisted for eight days, but in the other had disappeared by the next day without the iodide being stopped. The only severe case of iodism occurred in a man of thirty-seven, who, after reaching fifty