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## Original Communications.

### ON THE SPECIFIC ACTION OF LARGE DOSES OF LIME-JUICE, IN THE TREATMENT OF ACUTE, SUB-ACUTE AND CHRONIC RHEUMATISM.

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The recently reported cases of rheumatism, failures, as well as successes, with salicin, and salicylic acid, have induced me to bring to the notice of the profession the high value of large doses of lime or lemon juice, in all stages and types of that affection. From among the various methods of treatment advocated from time to time—acid, or alkaline; mint water, or expectant; opiate or salicylic—each of which, with the exception of the latter, now on its trial, have in turn been taken up and abandoned—the young practitioner must often be sorely puzzled in his choice of a remedy, when called upon to make a selection.

In advocating the lime or lemon juice treatment, the author cannot of course, presume to suggest anything novel; but, he does venture on claiming originality, with regard to the *largeness* and *frequency* of the dose, and hesitates not to offer it, when so given, as a veritable specific in this not seldom treacherous, and intractable malady. Without regard to the condition of the bowels, unless previously much constipated, I usually begin with at least ten ounces of lime juice, increasing rapidly up to eighteen or twenty-four, in the 24 hours—from half an ounce to an ounce, or more every hour, with not less than double or treble the quantity of cold soft water—usually diluted and sweetened, however, to the patient's taste. Very often on the second day, the amendment is decided, and the disease, in acute cases more particularly, sthenic or asthenic, generally subsides on the fourth or fifth day of treatment. One grain of opium is usually given, with

or without lead, and tannin, night and morning, in order to restrain the bowels, which the juice has a tendency to relax. The first effect of such heavy doses is the rapid diminution of joint swelling, and diminished perspiration, together with steady falling of pulse, the latter often quite slow with a slight tendency to syncope, the majority of the cases requiring quinine, and supporting food about the sixth or seventh day, when convalescence advances rapidly. The following is a case of active sthenic type, occurring in a robust healthy woman.

CASE I.—Mrs. J. C., æt. 40. On arrival at 8 a.m. July 13th, found the patient very hot and restless; anxious countenance; suffused, swollen face; conjunctivæ deeply injected, smarting, and accompanied with epiphora. Pulse full, bounding, and about 100. Almost every joint much swollen; knees, elbows, and wrists, intensely so. Not able to turn, or lift up in bed; pains very acute. Had chills and rigors for a day or two previous to visit; sweating profusely. To have ℥iij. of lime juice every hour, night and day.

July 14th.—Patient generally improved; less anxious and restless; pulse 80; face no longer swollen, and red; lachrymation ceasing. Able to move and turn. Joint pain and swelling much less. Increased lime juice to about 14 ounces daily. July 15th.—Still improving; slight nausea; discontinued lime juice, and ordered weak lemonade made from fresh lemons. July 16th.—Patient pale and quiet; all pain and swelling subsided; pulse slow; feels pretty weak; to stop lemonade; diet, strong beef tea, eggs and milk; to have quinine every two hours, night and day. July 17th.—Still improving in every way; to continue quinine, etc. July 20th.—Convalescing rapidly; appetite good, and tongue clean; to sit up to-morrow.

CASE II.—February 28th.—R. B., æt. 30. Had been taking medicine from another physician; some days ill; fever still pretty high; tongue much furred. Wrists and knee-joints greatly swollen, and suffering from flying pains in different parts of the body. Ordered 16 ozs. of lime juice daily. March 2nd.—A great deal easier. Still suffering more or less from shooting pains; but fever, swelling, and sweating subsided. March 3rd.—Discontinued lime juice, and placed him under colchicum, belladonna and carbonate of iron; beef tea, eggs and milk. March 7th.—Convalescing rapidly, and gaining strength. To go out every day. Neuralgic pain,