

lack of critical care in selecting their cases and judging of the effect of the treatment. For example, I heard read before an important society last year a paper upon the effect of the administration of cacodylate of soda in cases of pernicious anæmia. Some three or four cases were reported upon, and all showed improvement when placed upon the drug. The author of the paper, however, seemed to have completely forgotten that many cases of pernicious anæmia show improvement quite as great when given simply rest without drug treatment, and indeed show often surprising remissions. Many of you will remember the very great vogue and praise which piperazine received when first introduced; everyone could see for himself that it had simply extraordinary powers of dissolving uric acid in the test-tube, and it is surprising how many physicians of high standing sung its praises, but unfortunately some mere pharmacologists studied its solvent action and found that disappeared completely in the presence of sodium chloride. Unfortunately at the time the quantitative excretion of uric acid under its use were carried out, and these, too, disclosed its inefficiency.

Further, I think that we are all in agreement with him in his statement of the necessity of an accurate diagnosis as a prelude to rational treatment. But unfortunately the best of us are at times unable to fulfill this condition. And having made our diagnosis aright, how often we have no drug which will fulfill Dr. Acheson's further three principles. In spite of the years, centuries one might say, of search, we have very few drugs which will attack organisms within the body in doses in which they do the body no harm. The examples of this class are, I think, quinine in malaria and possibly whooping cough and pneumonia, mercury, which alone kills off the *spirochæta pallida*, the cause of syphilis, possibly the salicylates in acute rheumatism, atoxyl and trypanred and its congeners in trypanosomiasis, urotropin and the salicylates which excreted in the bile serve to kill off the germs in the biliary tract, the urinary antiseptics, of which urotropin is one of the most important. To these one might add the antitoxins. Again, I fancy, many of us have some doubt as to whether we have any drug that will aid in the elimination of waste from the body, unless we consider water as a drug. Doubtless diuretics may help at times, but often are of no avail. This is especially true of gout, where neither water alone nor with alkalies nor diuretics seem to increase the excretion of uric acid. It appears as though water containing salt (sodium chloride) alone was efficient. Not as