

3. Drugs should only be used for preliminary cleansing purposes. In this is included, if necessary, a Spa course. Antiseptics are antipeptics.
 4. All digestive processes not due to organic disease can be modified by modifying the diet as to quantity, quality, and times of administration.
 5. Fluids should only be taken with the morning and evening meals.
- Folkestone, December, 1917.

SALVARSAN AND NEOSALVARSAN MYELITIS.

G. W. McCaskey, Fort Wayne, Ind. (*Journal A. M. A.*, Dec. 8, 1917) says it is not surprising that serious results may follow treatment of syphilis of the central nervous system with so powerful a drug as arsenic. The gravity of the disease, however, justifies the risks. Perhaps the most common neurotoxologic result is a hemorrhagic encephalitis which has been verified, in some cases, by necropsy and by microscopic examination. Other cases, however, have not been accounted for by the findings. A few cases of myelitis have been reported and some of them are here described. To these the writer adds another of his own observation with comments on it. The drug undergoes fundamental changes in the tissues, probably varying in different cases. It is not unreasonable to assume that to these reactions are due some of the serious and unpleasant complications that have been observed as the result of an administration of neosalvarsan. He sums up as follows; "1. Severe and even fatal myelitis may, though rarely, result from even small doses of salvarsan or neosalvarsan given either intravenously or subdurally. 2. This accident may happen without warning in cases in which the same treatment with identical doses had been well tolerated before. 3. It is not always, if at all, due to faulty manufacture, as the same solution has proved fatal to one and innocuous to others, to whom it had been given within the same hour, both before and after the fatal dose. 4. Wechselsmann's conclusions that renal block furnishes the explanation of salvarsan fatalities seems entirely untenable. 5. The most plausible hypothesis seems to me to be the action of toxic compounds in the form of intermediary bodies with especial affinity for the neurons formed in the retrograde changes which occur in the salvarsan compounds and which may vary in different individuals and in the same individual at different times, and of the exact nature of which we are entirely ignorant. 6. Considering the enormous number of these treatments given, the occurrence of myelitis is so rare that it should be ignored as a negligible possibility."