

Genito-Urinary Surgery

T. B. RICHARDSON, W. WARNER JONES.

A Few Plain Truths about Arsenobenzol. GOTTHEIL. (*New York State Journal of Medicine.*) *Abst. Therap. Gazette.*

Writing under this title, Gottheil says that he restricts himself to a bald statement of the results of his study of arsenobenzol. He embodies them in a series of propositions which he thinks can be sustained.

1. Arsenobenzol does not "cure" syphilis any more than mercury does, and perhaps less than mercury does. This is true of one or two doses of the new drug, the effect of which is comparable to that of a few mercurial injections. It does not "sterilize" the body.

2. Arsenobenzol is a powerful symptomatic remedy for the leutic phenomena, in some cases acting quicker and more vigorously than mercury, in others being equal to the older drug in therapeutic action, and in still others being ineffective.

3. Symptoms of persisting infection, wrongly called "relapses," appear rather more quickly after one or two arsenobenzol injections than they do in the course of an effective mercurial medication. This is to be expected when it is understood that complete sterilization with one or two injections is impossible. Long-continued action is required, as the mercurial medication attempts to effect.

4. Cases recently infected, in which the symptoms may be expected to appear in rapid succession, are the ones by which the efficacy of the arsenobenzol must be estimated. Isolated tertiary phenomena, appearing after long intervals of apparent health, may, when healed, be followed by symptomless intervals of indefinite length under any treatment, or under none at all. No conclusions as to the lasting effects of the new remedy can be drawn from them.

5. Since complete sterilization of the body cannot be effected by arsenobenzol, the intravenous administration of the drug, by means of which the system is subjected to the very fugacious action of a large amount of the arsenic, does not seem to be indicated save in exceptional cases. Intramuscular injection, as more lasting, would seem to be preferable; and it is very possible that the future may teach us that the best results are to be attained by the administra-