

aversion sooner or later, aspirin has a slight acidulous flavor. This taste is not marked, and never unpleasant or nauseating. In fact, some patients who took aspirin by mouth regarded it as tasteless. This comparative tastelessness is one of the properties which enables it to be given for prolonged periods. When aspirin has reached the stomach it never causes vomiting or discomfort. Occasionally there is eructation, but this can be easily avoided by administering it after eating. The appetite never was impaired, but rather became better. This was due to the fact, as shown by experiments in the test-tube, that aspirin decomposes extremely slowly in the presence of acid, and during its brief sojourn in the stomach therefore undergoes practically no decomposition. When salicylate of sodium is ingested, it combines with a large part of the hydrochloric acid in the stomach and free salicylic acid is formed, while aspirin does not affect the gastric juice. The salicylic effect does not manifest itself until the drug reaches the alkaline intestinal juice, where it is decomposed into acetic and salicylic acid. As one of its components, the acetic acid, produces practically no by-effects, the action of the second constituent alone is to be considered. Several hours after taking a dose of aspirin there is some sweating, with a fall of temperature in febrile cases.

Deafness was never observed during its use as well as heaviness in the head and delirium, while tinnitus was present in a few instances. Some patients were free from tinnitus after aspirin, although salicylate of sodium, even in small doses, at once produced this symptom.

In rheumatic articular pains the aspirin treatment acts as a sedative. Especially violent pains became more bearable at the end of twelve hours and disappeared at the end of two or three days. The swellings of the joints subsided perceptibly if they were recent and purely of rheumatic character, although in chronic cases the effect, as might be expected, was much slower and less reliable, and had to be supplemented by massage, steam baths, and hot compresses. In cases resulting from gonococci the analgesic action was likewise favorable, but not so marked as in true rheumatism. The heart, if already affected, was not influenced either for the better or worse. Collapse or very serious symptoms were never observed in any case.

We administered aspirin ordinarily in amounts of sixty grains daily, or, at the most, ninety grains, in doses of eight to fifteen grains after meals. This dose was exceeded in two instances without any advantages or disadvantages. If the salicylate of sodium had been given in a similar manner we would have often had occasion to observe unpleasant by-effects, compelling us to discontinue it, while aspirin has been given