

symptoms—many of which are obscure, and many not easy to formulate. And by reason of obscurity it can cause no surprise that errors in diagnosis are made. That many failures of relief are recorded, because the tendency has been to recognize and treat symptoms only instead of the true pathologic entity underlying the whole.

There is reason to believe that nearly all cases of periodic or paroxysmal headache, melancholia, not accounted for by other factors, and much of that undefined class of diseases denominated neurasthenia, are attributed to this cause. Then we have rheumatic affections, tonsillitis, cutaneous irritation, as in the various forms of eczema, anæmia and menstrual disorders.

A careful scrutiny is necessary in these cases in order to distinguish the actual condition present, as there is no one symptom which will interpret or cover the whole field of inquiry.

Help may, however, be obtained if we remember that it is almost always associated with gastric disorders, malnutrition, the result of disturbed assimilation, with more or less high arterial tension, super-acidity of the urine, of abnormal color, and probably scanty in amount.

These symptoms are not due to increased production of uric acid in the blood and secretions, but to its retention and storage in the various tissues of the body. A normal daily amount may be produced, and yet if the blood is not in a condition to carry it on as effete matter, or the kidneys to eliminate it, deposits take place with the resultant cumulative interference with the normal functions of the economy.

The indications for the relief of this morbid condition due to excess of uric acid in the system is to render the blood in a proper condition to dissolve out the deposit in the tissues and make the uric acid a soluble urate.

We have for this purpose a ready remedy in the so-called salines. The salicylates, and piperazine, and lysidine have met with decided favor, have rendered good service, and are well worthy of trial. Haig states that iron cures anæmia by clearing the blood of uric acid; that the administration of uric acid will quickly undo its work, and that if in any case it fails to clear the blood of uric acid it also fails to cure anæmia. That when iron fails to cure, other drugs that have more power over uric acid, or act in a slightly different way, may succeed; but that no drug of any kind will succeed if it fails to clear the blood of uric acid.

This is the principle of treatment in all cases—clear the blood and tissues of uric acid and the rest will follow. The symptoms will vanish.—*The Charlotte Medical Journal.*