

*Antipyretics.* Every year that I practice medicine I become more and more convinced that the demand for the administration of antipyretics becomes less and less. Exacerbation of temperature is not a disease. It is only one of the many evidences of disease. Rational treatment does not seek to allay symptoms. It seeks to combat and if possible to overcome the cause of the disease. It is true that many times we do not know definitely the cause of the disease, and in other cases we may know the cause but have not a remedy for overcoming that cause. Then we must treat the symptoms as they arise. It is also true that while we are fighting a known cause with a remedy which has been demonstrated to have the power of lessening the effects of the cause the temperature of our patient may rise and remain abnormally high. It is also true that abnormally high temperature long continued may exhaust and kill our patient. It is our duty in such cases not to wait for the effect of the agent we are administering to combat the cause of our patient's malady, but we must do something to lower his temperature. Year by year I am becoming more and more convinced that this internal administration of antipyretic drugs is not the best way to lower abnormally high temperature. I would rather place my reliance on cold sponging, the cold pack and the cold bath. The effects of antipyretic medicines is only temporary. After their administration the temperature soon rises again and a fresh dose must be given. This process must be repeated so long as the temperature shows a tendency to go up. Now the antipyretics internally administered have a tendency to depress the patient, especially as to his heart action. In those diseases in which we have a high temperature there is naturally the same tendency. It seems therefore to me bad practice to administer a depressing drug where there already exists a strong tendency towards depression. My practice in recent years has been to hold the antipyretic drugs in reserve, and when the temperature would not come down under sponging, packing or bathing, to administer a single dose of one of the antipyretics, thus lower the temperature and then strive to keep it down by the other means I have mentioned.