

medicine. We have been trying to recognize primary, secondary and tertiary stages. If the secondary stage was not present, we would have doubts that the case was syphilis. We have been expecting to have certain distinct lesions and sequence of lesions. The sequence takes place in the great majority of cases. We know there are many cases in which the sequence has been irregular. The doctrine taught us to-night will make us easily understand this irregularity, understand why some cases terminate fatally within a year, and why, in other cases, the lesions may be very slight.

In speaking of the possibility of reinfection, I would like to mention two cases which came under my own observation, in which, unless I made a mistake in the diagnosis, syphilis existed twice; the patients became reinoculated. I do not see why, particularly taking the ground Dr. Robinson has taken, there should be always immunity in syphilis. In variola, for instance, immunity does not follow. I knew a gentleman who had variola twice, the second time more severely than the first. I do not see why the same sometimes should not occur with syphilis.

Dr. Graham, continuing, asked the essayist his opinion of treatment by mercurial inunctions while the iodide of potassium was being given internally. Such treatment had been condemned, because it was said that the iodate of mercury was formed in the system, which was very injurious. He had seen the reports of some cases treated in this way where serious results followed. The speaker further requested the reader of the paper to give his opinion of the intermittent treatment, the administration of mercury in the form of blue pill for ten days, then the iodide for ten days, and ten days without treatment. This treatment had warm advocates. The mercury after acted on the system; then elimination was favored by the use of KI.

Dr. Graham agreed in pushing the mercury, as the essayist had recommended, and emphasized the necessity for buccal cleanliness at this time. There were persons, however, who could not observe this rule; they take so large an amount of mercury before the gums are touched. A good point to remember was this: It was known that syphilitic poison has a deteriorating action on the blood—lessening the amount of hæmoglobin. The mercury increases it. Rule.—Give mercury as long as the increment is kept up. When it is noticed to diminish, stop the mercury.

He would like the essayist's opinion on the use of intravenous injections of the bichloride.

There was no doubt about the importance of commencing treating the disease from its commencement.