

tion, which is one of the chief obstacles to the administration of salicylic acid. Among the preparations of this kind we have salophen, salipyrin, and lately aspirin. I have for some time investigated the last named drug, because it approximates most closely to the salicylates in its percentage of salicylic acid, and therefore comes nearer being a substitute. It also seems to me that its gradual decomposition and absorption in the intestinal canal is accountable for the fact that unpleasant by-effects, such as tinnitus, headache, and cardiac depression, are much rarer than in the case of the salicylates.

In connection with aspirin I have lately employed another new salicylic acid derivative as a local application, named mesotan. It is intended to replace the oil of wintergreen which has been largely used locally in liniments or in the pure state. Experiments made with the new preparation, however, have shown that it is much more easily absorbed than the oil of wintergreen and that in the milder forms of rheumatism it yields sufficient salicylic acid by absorption to do away with the necessity of giving the salicylates internally. My experience, however, does not agree with this, and I have been unable to note any beneficial effect from its use if applied alone. The best results were observed in acute inflammatory cases, the more acute and active the inflammation the more pronounced the results. The first improvement noticed was the reduction of the swelling and a marked lessening of the pain. No irritation of the skin was seen, except in one of the cases referred to below, and in this I believe it was due to other causes. Its psychical effect, however, cannot be ignored. The mere fact of rubbing in a small quantity of a drug gives an impression of power, and the odor being unknown and peculiar suggests a new remedy, and to this the laity attach a good deal of importance. Aside from this, however, I believe that the drug has a definite physiological action resembling that of the salicylates, and reinforcing their effects when internally administered.

Before making an application of mesotan I direct that the painful parts be covered with a cloth rung out of hot water and kept on for a number of minutes, or order a warm bath. If this is done immediately before applying the mesotan the effect seems to be more rapid and pronounced. I have employed mesotan in the pure state, but now prefer a mixture of equal parts of olive oil, as is generally recommended.

Below I have given the histories of a few cases treated with these drugs, both favorable and unfavorable, and these will serve to illustrate in some measure the results observed.

Case I. Mr. T., aged 27 years, clerk, suffered with an attack of acute inflammatory rheumatism affecting the right shoulder. There