

PUBLISHERS' DEPARTMENT.

DOES THIALION TAKE THE PLACE OF CALOMEL?

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The following case has been of unusual interest to me inasmuch as it has developed a use for thialion which must prove of great value to every doctor practicing in malarial regions like the one where I reside. It is difficult for the physician not living in such places to realize the tremendous power exerted against the health of the community by malarial poisoning, which is always more or less associated with enlarged spleen, enlarged and torpid liver, together with constipated bowels.

Calomel has always been our mainstay, in fact it is impossible for us to practice medicine without it, with any degree of success. But it seems that in thialion we have a new remedy presented to us, which will not only cure constipation, relieve the torpidity of the liver, but also increase the activity and anti malarial power of quinine.

I do not want to be misunderstood in this matter. I do not mean to say that two grains of quinine given with thialion is increased per se to 4 grains, but I do mean to say that by a thorough cleaning out of the liver, the reduction in size of the spleen, and the relief of the constipation, creates a condition by which the quinine is taken into the system more completely, more compactly, if I can so use the term, and is absorbed to a greater degree.

The case that I present here is typical; we have them by the hundreds in this section:

A woman, American, age 33, suffered for a long time from chronic malaria. The attack commenced with soreness through the liver, back, muscles of the back, and through the kidneys, radiating over the pubis and front of the abdomen, with extreme constipation, and when the stool was finally passed, it was of a light green color, almost as green as if Paris green had been mixed with water rather thick. The liver was enlarged, the spleen was enlarged, the skin was dry, rough and sallow, and liver spots were on the face.

She was ill quite a good while before I saw her first, and then was under my treatment for a good while before I thought that possibly thialion might do her good. And I was really astonished at the results. The first influence I noticed was that the green material stopped from the stools and they changed in character completely, and then she commenced to pick up, and the quinine took hold better, while the appetite improved.

The kidneys slushed out and the spleen began to be reduced, and she got better fast.

I was satisfied that if I had used the remedy at the start of her sickness, she would have gotten well much quicker. I had been giving 1 grain doses of calomel every two hours for four doses; then in four to six hours I gave castor oil, but the action of this was not at all to be compared with that of thialion. In fact, I think the latter will take the place of calomel, and I am now carrying on an interesting line of experiments in this direction.