

Aspirin, fifteen grains, was given five times daily, and salicyl-vasogen applied externally. On the next day the shoulders were free from pain, and after another three days the other joints were also relieved. At the end of eight days the patient left the hospital cured, with the exception of the cardiac lesion.

Case 9. R. O., 24 years old, has suffered from cardiac trouble since a previous attack of acute rheumatism. Fourteen days ago both knees became swollen and painful, these symptoms disappearing after rest in bed. They reappeared two days ago, and were unimproved by rest in bed and medical treatment, on which account the patient sought the hospital, December 19th, 1899. At that time there were present over the knee, leg, and dorsal surface of the feet isolated, reddish, infiltrated patches. The knees were painful on movement. Aspirin was given in doses of forty-five grains daily. December 23rd, the pains in the knees were less marked, but the elbow joints were painful. December 25th, all the pains had disappeared, there being only traces of the erythema. Tinnitus occurred, for which reason aspirin was discontinued. December 27th, all the disturbances had vanished, and on the following day the patient could be discharged.

Case 10. A. K., 24 years old, had suffered since fourteen days with loss of appetite, vomiting, headache and constipation. A week later pains occurred in the knees, calves of the legs and feet, which gradually extended to the thighs, hips and back, finally, large red patches appeared on the chest, back, face, hands and feet. The fingers and hands began to swell up. The eruption was so itchy that the patient was unable to sleep. Calomel, seven grains, was administered, followed by aspirin, 75 grains. As early as the following day the eruption began to disappear, and the pains in the joints subsided. After four days the patient could be discharged completely cured.

Many similar cases could be cited. Those which have been reported comprise only a part of the observations made during a part of the first year after commencing the use of aspirin. Since then, aspirin has been permanently adopted in the clinic, and has been given equal place with the salicylate of sodium. Having continued our observations now for the last three years in hundreds of cases, we feel that we may justly assume to have collected sufficient data to entitle us to a positive decision regarding the value of aspirin as an anti-rheumatic.

Summarizing the results obtained, not only in the cases referred to above, but in the many others which are not described here, we are able to say that aspirin is to be preferred to salicylate of sodium, especially on account of its taste. While salicylate of sodium, owing to its sweetish taste, excites