

## IODIDE OF POTASSIUM IN THE LATER LESIONS OF SYPHILIS.

The proper use of iodide of potassium in the later lesions of syphilis does not seem to be given the attention due it. This is particularly true of lesions of the nervous system. Our text-books do not seem to advocate the use of iodide of potassium in the quantities demanded in grave cases. Recent authority speaks of giving large doses, but does not urge the necessity for heroic doses in alarming cases. In cases where there are no alarming symptoms, twenty, thirty, or forty grains of the potassium iodide three times a day is ample. In these doses the symptoms can be watched and the doses increased in size to suit the endurance of the individual.

Syphilis of the nervous system, characterized by convulsions, hemiplegia, syphilitic hemispasms or coma, necessitates a quantity commensurate with the gravity of the cases; hence, in extremely unfavorable cases, from three hundred to five hundred grains should be given every twenty-four hours till the alarming symptoms are relieved. The drugs should be largely diluted. While several authors recognize the necessity of prompt treatment and large doses, they do not express the facts as forcibly as is required. We draw this conclusion from our experience with cases of tertiary syphilis that were under the care of physicians and treated for months without any apparent benefit. The iodide of potassium was employed in what was supposed to be large doses—twenty or thirty grains three times a day—without showing results. As soon as the dose was increased to fifty or eighty grains three times a day the effect was soon noticeable. Iodism or gastro-intestinal irritation is apt to follow the use of large doses, provided the drug is taken on an empty stomach, but if taken on a full stomach, or well diluted, no evil effects are, as a rule, noticeable.

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