

this incidence was probable. Numbers had also died off before the disease had made its appearance. From time immemorial syphilis had reigned in the most widely separated parts of the world as an endemic disease (Völskrankheit) and committed the greatest devastations, and it was only at the beginning of the century that it lost its endemic character. As it could not be supposed that all those families in which the disease had existed had died out, it was not improbable that in their descendants a tendency to the development of connective tissue growths should have remained, even if they appeared healthy and strong. Whether the tendency to the growth of the epithelial tissues into carcinoma could be explained in the same way must be left over to future investigation. It was known that growths of the superficial layer of the epidermis were hereditary to a high degree, for example, xeroderma, psoriasis, ichthyosis, eczema. He remarked, in conclusion, that cancer was curable when it was extirpated with the knife sufficiently early and widely. Only when it was too late for operation should the attempt be made to effect a cure by internal remedies.

—*Medical Press and Circular.*

A TONIC FORMULA.

BY AUSTIN FLINT, M.D., LL.D.

In the *New York Medical Journal* for July 31, 1886, Professor Allard Memminger, of Charleston, S. C., published a short article on "Bright's Disease of the Kidneys Successfully Treated with Chloride of Sodium." The suggestion by Professor Memminger, and his theory of the mode of action of the sodium chloride, pointed to a possible deficiency in certain cases of disease in the saline constituents of the blood. Under this idea I prepared a formula in which most of the important inorganic salts of the blood are represented, with an excess of sodium chloride and a small quantity of reduced iron, the various salts, except the sodium chloride, being in about the relative proportion in which they exist in the normal circulating fluid. I first used this preparation in the form of powder, giving ten grains three times daily after eating. It was afterwards put up in gelatin capsules, each containing five grains, but these absorbed moisture so that they would not keep

well in warm and damp weather. With the assistance of Fraser & Company, 208 Fifth Avenue, New York, I finally modified the formula so as to avoid this difficulty. The preparation is now in the form of compressed tablets made by Fraser & Company, tablets made by Caswell, Massey & Company, 1121 Broadway, and sugar-coated tablets made by Wanier & Imgard, 1322 Broadway—all under the name of saline and chalcylbeate tonic. I usually prescribe two tablets three times daily after eating. Of these preparations I prefer the sugar-coated tablets, the others occasionally producing slight nausea. In a few cases six tablets daily have produced some "fullness" of the head, when I have reduced the dose to one tablet three times daily.

The following is the formula that I finally adopted, the product of which may be put up in capsules:

Saline and Chalcylbeate Tonic.

R Sodii chloridi (C. P.)	5 iij ;
Potassi chloridi (C. P.)	gr. ix ;
Potassi sulph. (C. P.)	gr. vj ;
Potassi carb. (Squibb)	gr. iij ;
Sodii carb. (C. P.)	gr. xxxvj ;
Magnes. carb.	gr. iij ;
Calc. phos. præcip.	5 ss ;
Calc. carb.	gr. iij ;
Ferri redacti (Merck)	gr. xxvij ;
Ferri carb.	gr. iij,

M. In capsules, No. 60.

Sig.: Two capsules three times daily after eating.

I first used this tonic in a case of simple anæmia in Bellevue hospital in July, 1887. In this case the anæmia was profound and the pallor excessive. It had existed for several weeks, there was loss of appetite, and the patient, a female about thirty years of age, was very weak and unable to leave the bed. A powder of ten grains was given three times daily, and this, with good diet, constituted the only treatment. In forty-eight hours the patient was sitting up, with a fair appetite and improved in appearance, notably in color. At my next visit, two days later, she had left the hospital and was greatly improved.

Since the summer of 1887 I have given the tonic in nearly every case in private practice in which a chalcylbeate was indicated. In many