

a thing of the past. I need not go into their injurious effects. You all know them as well as I. Hear again I would remark the headache is not the disease. It is only a symptom of the disease. We should endeavour to determine what the cause of the headache is and treat that. All the drugs I have spoken of have a tendency to depress. Perhaps the patient is suffering from headache because he is already too depressed, or as the laity would say, run down. What more contrary to reason could be imagined that the administration of drugs to still further depress.

*Arsenic.* It is of the use of arsenic in the treatment of diseases of the skin that I would call you attention. Probably there is no drug more frequently prescribed in these affections than is arsenic. Properly used there is no more valuable remedial agent. Indiscriminately employed there is no agent that produces more injurious effects. In general terms we may say that arsenic should not be given in acute affections of the skin, but that its use should be restricted to chronic conditions. The action of arsenic is a stimulating one, being a direct stimulant to the skin or acting through the peripheral ends of the nerves supplying the skin. Thus in old, chronic, sluggish conditions of the skin its administration ought to be beneficial by stimulating the parts to renewed effort. In acute inflammatory conditions of the skin on the other hand where the skin is already overstimulated, the action of arsenic tends to aggravate the trouble. In all such cases its use should be avoided. Many skin affections are set up by the irritable condition of the intestinal tract. Now arsenic is an irritant to the *prima via* and therefore in all such cases arsenic should not be administered at least until the trouble in the stomach or bowels has been completely overcome. At all times arsenic must be used with caution. It is very liable to derange the stomach and thus interfere with digestion. It should therefore always be administered in well diluted form and when the stomach is full, or at least not empty. I always prefer to commence with a small dose and gradually increase the amount as I see how it is borne by my patient.