

There are four main varieties of iodoform poisoning :—

1. Skin eruptions, such as dermatitis, erythema, and swelling.

2. Persistent subjective taste and smell of the drug long after its application has been discontinued.

3. Toxic amblyopia (5 cases), and optic atrophy (1 case).

4. Acute thyroid symptoms, comprising rapid pulse, delirium, headache, vomiting, and a variable amount of fever. The most characteristic sequence is when the pulse is very rapid but the temperature normal.

Of the above groups we are now concerned only with the last.

It will be noticed that the clinical picture corresponds exactly with that seen after the administration of excessive doses of thyroid extract. Iodoform causes its toxic effects by stimulating the internal secretion of the thyroid gland, with the production of acute thyroid intoxication.

I have described a case in which *chronic* thyroid intoxication, that is to say Graves' disease, clearly followed the application of iodoform to an absorbing surface. There was certain proof that too much iodoform was absorbed, because for weeks after the drug had been withdrawn the patient was haunted by its smell and taste. The tachycardia and wasting were first noticed a week or two after this symptom developed. The Graves' disease was still present in a mild form one year later, but eventually disappeared.

Hunt and Seidel have shown that after dosing