

time is, What is the latest and best cure for influenza? Unfortunately, the reports in the lay and even medical press tend to perpetuate the popular fallacy that there is a cure for every disease if it could only be discovered. The advertisements of certain druggists that they possess specific agents in this disease is only a form of cheap quackery, but it nevertheless serves their ignoble aims. As many of these alleged specifics are agents like antipyrine, which is clearly injurious when given for days together, it is the duty of every medical practitioner to discourage patients from making use of them. As grave complications and sudden cardiac failure results at times from the direct action of the morbid poison on the heart, the continuous use of any drug like antipyrine is certainly injurious.

THE UNTOWARD EFFECTS OF SULPHONAL.

The injudiciousness of claiming for recently introduced drugs freedom from untoward effects after a few trials is well exemplified in the case of sulphonol. This drug, which has now been in use for a period of three years, possesses an undoubted hypnotic action, and has been extensively employed. When given in single and moderate doses it is, as far as we know at present, not followed by any disturbance. When given, however, in large doses, or in moderate quantities for some time, some very unpleasant and possibly fatal effects may follow. Recently, Jolles of Vienna has reported two cases where it is probable the continuous use of sulphonol was the direct cause of death. In both cases the drug had been administered to procure sleep in insanity. The urine had a reddish-brown colour, due to the presence of hemato-porphyrine. The fatal result was considered to be due to the destruction of the blood.

In the administration of sulphonol it is all important to administer the salt fully dissolved, otherwise if given continuously it may accumulate in the intestines in sufficient quantity to bring about symptoms of marked intoxication. This danger is intensified by the obstinate constipation which frequently attends the repetition of the agent. Sulphonol is best administered in three