

A REMARKABLE CASE OF PURPURIC ERUPTION ENDING IN
GANGRENE, APPARENTLY CAUSED BY SODIUM SALICYLATE.*

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HAVING had under my care during the past summer a very unusual case of skin eruption, supposed to be caused by the ingestion of sodium salicylate, I thought a report of it would interest the members of this association. I am indebted to my house surgeon, Dr. Byers, for the careful notes taken of this case.

William B., hotel porter, aged thirty-two, was admitted into the Montreal General Hospital, May 8, 1895, complaining of pain and swelling in the left knee-joint. Patient is a well-made man of medium stature, somewhat addicted to alcohol. Had typhoid fever six years ago, and a year later several severe attacks of renal colic, for which nephrotomy was performed. He never had syphilis, gout, or rheumatism. Two days before entrance into hospital, had received a severe blow on the knee, which was followed almost immediately by swelling, pain, and heat in the joint.

On examination the left knee exhibited all the characteristics of an acute synovitis. As there was no history of gonorrhœa or any other condition tending to a synovitis, the diagnosis of traumatic synovitis was made and appropriate treatment adopted. With the exception of the knee-joint lesion the patient was perfectly healthy.

The next day after admission the patient's temperature, which had previously been normal, rose to 100° F., but there was no aggravation of the knee symptoms.

Three days after entrance the heat, swelling, and pain disappeared from the left knee, but now the right knee was becoming affected. It was slightly swollen, red, and very painful. Thinking the case was one of acute rheumatism, and waiting his transference to the medical wards, the house surgeon ordered twenty-grain doses of sodium salicylate to be taken three times a day. After three doses had been

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