

As a rule the practice here is to give iodine during the secondary stage, when the symptoms are of a pronounced character. If they do not readily yield, or if the iodine is ill borne then mercury is given. Mercury is also given if the case is a particularly severe one. Iodine is considered to be as useful during the secondary as it is during the tertiary stage of the disease.

In either stage it is not like mercury a direct antidote of the poison, but acts indirectly by its favoring tissue changes, and increasing the resisting powers of the patient. Whatever preparation of iodine or mercury is used in the treatment of syphilis, only harm results if digestion is materially interfered with. This is a point of great practical importance, and one too often neglected. For the severer and more rebellious forms of the secondary stage, mercury must be used.

In scrofulous and tuberculous subjects it is very often found that neither mercury nor iodine have the wished for effect, until the patient has taken for some time iron or cod liver oil.

The rule that is generally followed here as to the choice between the iodides and mercury is to give the former in the moist and the latter in the dry secondaries. The division of the secondaries into dry and moist is considered to be one of great practical importance. It will always be found that the dry eruptions occur in the weak and badly nourished, while the moist occur in the strong and well nourished.

There are three methods in use in the administration of mercury: 1. Inunction. 2. Internal. 3. Hypodermically. The method by fumigation has been discarded.

Inunction is the method most commonly employed. It is certainly for the great majority of cases the most trustworthy. By no other method can we get the system so quickly under the influence of this drug. In gummata of the nasal septum, roof of the mouth, etc., where hours are precious in order to save the hard tissues from destruction, it should always be used. In syphilitic lesions of the nervous system (be the change from a circumscribed gumma, or from the blocking of an artery by cellular infiltration), where irretrievable damage