ZITTMAN'S TREATMENT FOR SYPHILIS.

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During the past five months we have tried Zittman's treatment, which was recommended in the Official Copy of "The Treatment of Venereal Disease and Scabies in the Army" (First Report, 1904), and in a special number of the Practitioner, devoted to Syphilis, recently published.

The results on the whole have been most satisfactory, the effect is often most marked, and the way a patient who has been going from bad to worse will suddenly improve, both locally and generally, is astonishing.

The treatment causes diaphoresis and diuresis, and also slight diarrhea; it evidently eliminates the poison from the system by this means, and possibly an examination of the excretions might furnish some information as to its nature. I hope to get this done.

Number of cases treated, 23. Of these cases 18 went through the treatment once; 4, twice; 1, three times.

Tabulated results: In 13 cases a great deal of good resulted; in 4 a good deal of good resulted; in 2 there was some improvement only; in 1 there was very slight improvement only; in 3 there was practically no result.

(1) Taking first the 13 cases in which a great deal of good resulted:
(a) In one of these the man was in an extremely bad state, weighing only 116 lbs., listless, eating nothing, nose, palate and face rapidly sloughing away, necrosis of bones of palate occurring. During the treatment (which he stood well) his weight went down to 97 lbs., but the destruction of tissue was rapidly checked, and within two months afterwards his weight has gone up to 145 lbs.; he eats well, and is quite lively.
(b) In two other cases, where destruction of tissue was taking place in the face, the destruction of tissue was rapidly checked, and the gain in weight within a short time was 14 lbs. and 21 lbs. respectively.
(c) In another case the man's whole back was covered with a rash of the nature of a psoriasis, and his face was also, but to a less extent, involved. The rash entirely disappeared under the treatment.
(d) In most of the cases there was extensive ulceration, which rapidly dried up under treatment.
gummata dried up and formed hard scars. (e) In one case, of a man who was bedridden with pains in all his joints, he was able to be about and walk considerable distances afterwards.

In all these cases there was considerable gain in weight after the treatment, in several cases 20 to 25 lbs. being rapidly put on, and the general condition was greatly improved.

(2) In the 4 cases in which a good deal of good resulted, ulcers on various parts of the body were caused to become smaller and often to dry up, and syphilitic pains in the joints generally became rather less severe.

(3) In the 3 cases in which practically no good resulted the patients were men with severe pains in the joints and with ulceration in 2 of the cases. Why there was no good result seems hard to explain, as these cases seemed quite similar to others who did well.

(4) Taken as a whole the Zittman treatment seems to have much more effect upon skin and connective tissue lesions, and in improving the general health and causing increase in weight, than it has upon cases suffering from syphilitic pains in the joints.