CLINICAL NOTES ON THE ACTION OF A NEW IODINE PREPARATION IN NOSE AND THROAT WORK.

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In operations upon the accessory sinuses, iodoform has served a most useful purpose as a dressing, but the disadvantage of its odor and staining property are so marked that any really efficient substitute which does the same work, and at the same time does not possess these extremely disagreeable features, would be very acceptable to all surgeons who do nose and throat work.

An article by Ford*, in which he related his experience with methylene disalicylic acid iodine (formidine) used as a glycerin emulsion in large abscesses, first attracted my attention to this substitute, and he also stated that his use of the preparation as a dusting powder had been very satisfactory; that there was no odor from it; that it did not stain the tissues and dressings and that it caused no irritation. Such a dressing I had long been looking for, so I determined to try formidine. The results are set forth in the following case histories.

CASE 1. Mrs. R., aged 35 years, married, housewife, had been suffering for twelve years with an infection of the antrum of Highmore, which had finally caused considerable necrosis. The radical operation was performed, and the wound packed with gauze prepared with formidine instead of iodoform. The result was an absolute cure. There has been no indication of a recurrence in one year.

CASE 2. Mr. F. S., aged 40 years, married, farmer, had an antrum infection. There was pus discharged through the nose and marked ozena. The antrum was opened, curetted and packed with formidine gauze. The ozena had disappeared on the third day. The opening in the alveolar process was allowed to close in three months. There has been no return after a period of ten months.

CASE 3. Mr. P., aged 50 years, married, farmer, had an infection involving the anterior ethmoidal cells, the frontal sinuses and antrum. The frontal sinus, antrum and ethmoidal cells were all opened and packed with formidine gauze. The patient reports a good recovery and there was no irritation set up by all these packings.

The antrum in each of these cases was redressed daily, a new gauze packing being put in, covering a period of three months. No irrigation of any kind was used. Bacteriologically the infection in each of these cases showed staphylococci.

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* FORD: "A New Substitute for Iodoform," *Therapeutic Gazette*, March, 1907.