

cases. His intimate knowledge of the home, soil and educational conditions in the South give his remarks added significance. While Dr. Wilson seems to be rather extreme in some of his postulates, as "vegetables are not permissible in the summer dietary of Southern babies under three years and must be given with great care even then," his treatise is one worthy of commendation. A unique feature of the work is his consistency in refraining from outlining a routine treatment in the various diseases of childhood. He is wise in advising that all sick babies should consult a physician—and especially is this a safe procedure when dealing with that serious trouble—colitis—so frequent in the South.

An enlarged edition by Dr. Wilson would fill a long-felt want not only of the practicing physicians, but would furnish a useful text-book for the medical schools of the country.

Correspondence

REGULATED ARSENICALS

Washington, D. C., June 5, 1920.

Editor, SOUTHERN MEDICAL JOURNAL:

On account of the large number of arsenic preparations which are being exploited for the treatment of syphilis, the United States Public Health Service has considered it desirable to issue a circular letter, copy of which is enclosed, discouraging the indiscriminate use of untried preparations.

Attention is especially invited to the fact that provision is made for the experimental use of any preparation under conditions which will make the results of such experiment available to others than the physician immediately concerned.

I shall be glad to have you give the circular and this letter of transmission publicity.

Very truly yours,

H. S. CUMMING,

Surgeon-General, U. S. Public Health Service.

Bureau Circular Letter No. 219. May 12, 1920.

Medical Officers, U. S. Public Health Service, and Others Concerned:

Your attention is invited to the extensive exploitation through advertisements in professional journals and otherwise of various arsenic preparations which are not related to the arsphenamine group. The preparations referred to are sold with claims in regard to their value in the treatment of syphilis, which are unwarranted.

In the opinion of this office it is in the interest of

all concerned that the subcutaneous, intramuscular or intravenous use of arsenic in the treatment of syphilis be confined to preparations of the arsphenamine group as these agents are of established value and are produced under the regulations of the Public Health Service. The following firms are now licensed for the manufacture of arsphenamine and neo-arsphenamine: Dermatological Research Laboratories, Philadelphia, Pa.

H. A. Metz Laboratories, New York, N. Y.

Diarsenol Co., Inc., Buffalo, N. Y.

Takamine Laboratories, Clifton, N. J.

The Lowy Laboratory, of Newark, N. J., has been granted a license to prepare a stable solution of arsphenamine.

It is not the desire of the Bureau to limit clinicians in the choice of agents of recognized worth, but in the case of arsenic preparations, not members of the arsphenamine group, the available evidence indicates that their routine use is inadvisable in the treatment of syphilis. If it is desired to use any of these preparations in a purely experimental way previous authority from the Bureau should be secured. Applications for this authority should be accompanied by a statement as to the composition of the drug including the structural formula and the reason for its use. All information available on the value of the preparation should be forwarded.

Receipt of this circular should be acknowledged and marked "V. D. Division."

H. S. CUMMING,
Surgeon-General.

BENZYL BENZOATE IN DYSMENORRHEA: AN INQUIRY

Brundidge, Ala., June 6, 1920.

Editor, SOUTHERN MEDICAL JOURNAL:

Will you kindly inform me if you have any reports of untoward effects from the use of an alcoholic solution of benzyl benzoate? I have had two cases, one of dysmenorrhea and another of spasmodic asthma, in which within thirty minutes after ten drops had been given in milk there was extreme weakness, in fact a collapse, the patients being so weak that they couldn't raise an arm. This condition lasted for about an hour.

Will you kindly state if other physicians have had similar experience?

I have used this preparation with excellent results in five other cases of dysmenorrhea and am very anxious for an explanation of the above results.

Yours very truly,

J. F. ROWE, M.D.

EDITOR'S NOTE.—THE JOURNAL has no information on the subject referred to above. If any of our readers can answer Dr. Rowe, please do so direct or through this column of the JOURNAL.

Book Reviews

The Pituitary—A Study of the Morphology, Physiology, Pathology and Surgical Treatment of the Pituitary, Together with an Account of the Therapeutical Uses of the Extracts Made from This Organ. By W. Blair Bell. 348 pages, profusely illustrated. New York: William Wood & Co., 1919.

Although several excellent monographs have appeared on the subject of the pituitary, they have usually been poorly adapted to the needs of the practitioner. While this book goes deeply into the laboratory and experimental side of the subject, it constantly points out the practical application of the principles involved. The whole work focuses upon the final chapter on the clinical application of pituitary therapy and its contraindications.

Much of the material of the book represents the original investigation of the author, but also summarizes the most reliable researches of others. The work is both scholarly and highly practical.