

Potassium Iodide Treatment.

The Use of Pot. Iodide in the Leprosy Treatment Centres in India.

By I. SANTRA.

During the last 17 months the Leprosy Survey Party, working under the Indian Council of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, has opened its P.T.S. centres, and at these 3,414 patients are being treated. Everywhere the results have been of uniform improvement. Whenever I hear or read a complaint against the use of potassium iodide in leprosy I think that the complainant has relied more on himself than on the patient.

When we began this work we had no time for the sedimentation test or to record temperatures. The reactions and the general feeling of the patients were the best guide to ascertain the doses. That was the day when it was advised to begin potassium iodide from $\frac{1}{2}$ a grain and increase very cautiously. From the patients we learnt that in many cases one could safely begin from 30 grains.

I hold the view that among all the medicines that are now in vogue for leprosy, potassium iodide is the safest one in the hands of the Indian patients. The results have been so encouraging that even the Kaviraj (the Ayurvedic practitioner) comes to learn the use of potassium iodide in leprosy.

We have not seen a single case where a leper has not been benefited by potassium iodide. It must be remembered that the late B3 and A2 cases are not treated in the P.T.S. centres.

Patients travel on foot, bullock carts and on horseback from a radius of 15 miles, which provides plenty of exercise to produce the dramatic effect that we see in so many cases.