

A Comparative Study of the Relative Efficacy of "Special Esters" and the Ordinary Ethyl Esters of Hydnocarpus Wightiana.

G. R. RAO.

MESSRS. Burroughs Welcome & Co., Ltd., requested Dr. R. G. Cochrane, the Medical Secretary of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, to try the "Special Esters" prepared by them, against the ordinary Ethyl Esters, from Hydnocarpus Wightiana, used in the treatment of leprosy; and ascertain if the Special Esters were in any way better than the ordinary Ethyl Esters. For this purpose, a liberal supply of both the special and the ordinary esters prepared by them, was sent to Dr. R. G. Cochrane. Both the Esters were iodised with iodine.

Eleven cases of leprosy, mostly out-patients attending the out-patient clinic of the Purulia Leprosy Colony, were selected for this experimental study. Of these eleven cases four were very irregular in attendance and this experiment was not continued. The remaining seven cases were fairly regular and had fairly symmetrical, bacteriologically posi-

tive and leprotic infiltrated type of lesions on both sides of the body. The special esters were injected into the lesions on the right side of the body intradermally, and the ordinary esters into the left side lesions, also intradermally, once a week. The resulting local and general reactions as well as improvements (clinical), if any, were noted carefully week by week. The table appended herewith gives all the relevant particulars about the cases studied. The experiment was carried on for from six to eight months.

CONCLUSIONS.—The special esters were found to be too irritating (producing keloids in some cases), and could not be used for any length of time; and the improvement in the injected lesions was not commensurate with the irritation produced. The special esters were found to be therapeutically inferior to the ordinary Ethyl Esters.

TABLE.

Serial Nos.	Name	Type	No. of injections	Period of Treatment	Range of dosage in c.c.m.	Results	Remarks
1	Karuna Kansari	C ₂	20	6½ mnths	Spl. ½–2½ ccm Ord. ½–3 ccm	Spl. too irritating	Improvem't more marked on the left side
2	Soma Muchi	C ₂	18	7 mnths	Spl. ½–2 ccm Ord. ½–2 ccm	do.	do.
3	Parama Rajwar	C ₂ –N ₁	23	7½ mnths	Spl. ½–2½ ccm Ord. ½–2½ ccm	do.	do.
4	Narayan Singh	C ₂ –N ₁	23	6½ mnths	Spl. ½–2½ ccm Ord. ½–2½ ccm	do.	do.
5	Narayan Bouri	C ₂ –N ₂	21	7½ mnths	Spl. ½–2½ ccm Ord. ½–2½ ccm	do.	do.
6	Goju Mahato	C ₂ –N ₂	18	7½ mnths	Spl. 1–2 ccm Ord. 1–2 ccm	do.	do.
7	Ballu Ram	C ₂ –N ₂	23	7 mnths	Spl. 1½–3 ccm Ord. 1½–3½ ccm	do.	do.

Spl. — Special Esters of Hydnocarpus Wightiana.

Ord.— Ordinary Ethyl Esters of Hydnocarpus Wightiana.