

**Practical observations on the cure of syphilitic affections by the
Aix-la-Chapelle hot sulphureous waters / by L. Wetzlar.**

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PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS

ON THE CURE

OF

SYPHILITIC AFFECTIONS

BY

THE AIX-LA-CHAPELLE HOT SULPHUREOUS WATERS,

BY

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AIX-LA-CHAPELLE.

BENRATH & VOGELGESANG.

1860.

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Since my last publication on the medical properties of the Aix-la-Chapelle hot sulphureous waters *), I have been frequently requested by English patients and by friends of mine belonging to the profession in England, to compose a book in English on the Aix-la-Chapelle springs, founded on the same principles as my French treatise. I should have been glad to comply with their wishes, but not having found sufficient time for this task, I selected one of its most important chapters, viz. that on the cure of *syphilis* by the Aix-la-Chapelle springs. For, considering, that the effects of these waters in other chronic diseases, viz. *chronic rheumatism*, *gout*, in diseases of the *skin*, in *contraction*, *paralysis*, *ulcers*, and *fistulas etc.* are generally known and appreciated, whereas many erroneous opinions prevail about their action in *syphilis*, I thought it best to devote the following pages to the latter disease exclusively. By thus limiting my task I have been enabled to enter more into detail, and I hope, that the cases recorded in this paper, selected out of a great many observed by me during a period of twenty seven years, during which I have been constantly residing and practising at Aix-la-Chapelle, may be welcome to the profession.

The celebrated Dr. *Hufeland* when speaking of the virtues of the Aix-la-Chapelle hot sulphureous springs in syphilis, expresses himself in these terms:

„I must lay the greatest stress upon one of their effects which gives a particularly eminent position to these springs, viz. the power which they are endowed

*) *Traité pratique des propriétés curatives des eaux thermales sulfureuses d'Aix-la-Chapelle et du mode de leur emploi par L. Wetzlar, D. M. 1856.*

with to cure the remains of venereal disease so frequently resisting all other treatement. It is well known how great the number of those unfortunate people is, in whom, by neglect or by an incomplete or a careless mercurial treatment, the disease has attained its worst form and has become almost rivetted, and how obstinately its consequences resist the usual medicines. Sore throats, ophthalmia, ulcers of every kind, chiefly in the throat, suppurating or indurated glands, exostosis and caries, cutaneous diseases, even nervous affections, abdominal complaints, dyspepsia, hypochondria, and disorders of the pectoral organs, are the symptoms which present themselves to the eyes of the physician. In vain would you try to cure them by mercury, they would even become worse by its use, and the usual substitutes for this medicine would prove of no avail. Very frequently you will be tempted to take the case for one simply arising from mercury, and be left in doubt as to the simultaneous existence of the original malady. Here the well of Aix-la-Chapelle is of eminent virtue, and numberless are the wretched persons who owe their entire recovery to this place, the waters of which are not less efficacious in destroying the consequences of the original disease, than the remains of mercurial poison."

These words of one of the first physicians of his time, have certainly not a little contributed to raise the reputation of the efficacy of these springs in syphilis; but by quoting *Hufeland*, I would not have it inferred that I adopt his opinion without restriction. For, to come directly to the main point, I feel it my duty to declare, that the waters are without avail in fresh cases, of syphilis, in which they can not be employed as a substitute for mercury or other antisiphilitic medicines; whereas I shall prove, that they are a powerful auxiliary in the cure of complicated syphilis, viz. in

cases of syphilis in which mercury has been useless or even injurious before, and also when iodide of potassium has been employed after the mercury without curing the patient; and I do not doubt but, that the facts stated in these papers will demonstrate the correctness of my views. Before, however, entering further into this subject, it will be necessary to speak first about the effects of the Aix-la-Chapelle sulphureous springs in *mercurial cachexy*.

The waters are not to be considered as an antidote in a case of poisoning by a strong dose of mercury, but their reputation for curing the evil consequences of repeated courses of mercury, is well deserved, and they constitute a sovereign medicine in mercurial cachexy.

Effects
of the waters in
merc. cachexy.

It is a well ascertained fact, that a too protracted mercurial treatment, a neglect of the necessary regimen, or a cold taken while the patients are under the influence of mercury, is frequently followed by serious consequences. Those which I observed on the visitors of these springs, were ulcerations or swellings on the gums, on the tongue and in the throat, dyspepsy, neuralgy, paralysis, nocturnal pain in the bones, flying pains in the fibrinous tissues, increasing on sudden changes of the weather.

The cure is the more easily effected by the waters, when the mercurial cachexy is not complicated with an other disease; but even in a complicated case, the cure is facilitated by the use of the waters, because they take away the mercurialism which, as long as it exists, is an invincible obstacle to any treatment which might be resorted to against the coëxisting malady. The use of the sulphureous springs in mercurial cachexy is scarcely ever marked by fever. Nearly all patients whom I saw, became gradually better after having used the waters a short time; and

the improvement, after it had once begun, did not fail to make a steady progress towards perfect recovery. In some rare cases the improvement of the infirmity is observed to come on with a salivation.

Case I.
Mercurial para-
lysis.

Mr. A., an officer in the Russian army, aetat. 43, was attended by me in 1844. Two years before he had a venereal infection, for which he took large doses of mercury without following a proper regimen. A cold, which he caught while under the influence of mercury, brought on a paralysis of the right arm, which resisted all treatment. I found the limb emaciated. Its movements were not utterly impossible, but they were incomplete and effected with great difficulty. The forearm was in a state of half-flexion. All action, principally supination, was accompanied by great shaking. The patient, it is true, was still able to write a few lines, but when doing so he was obliged to make the greatest efforts to keep his shaking hand on the paper. He had a strong constitution and enjoyed excellent general health. His digestion was good, sleep sound and there was no determination of blood to the head. He began drinking and bathing July the 30th and took simple sulphureous and sulphuretted vapourbaths up to the 16th of August, when, all on a sudden, without any precursory symptoms, a profuse salivation with slight ulcerations on the gums, made its appearance. The salivation continued with the same force for four days and then gradually abated, till with the eleventh day it perfectly disappeared. During the whole time the patient was less tormented by the salivation than by an almost intolerable thirst. But the most interesting, and, at the same time, the most fortunate incident was, that from the first beginning of the salivation the patient had a greater facility in moving his hitherto lamed arm. This improvement daily increased, and

when the salivation ceased, the patient was able to move his arm in every direction, though he felt it still weak. — While salivating he had not left his room and had only made use of the waters for gargling and for cleansing his mouth. Perhaps it was owing to this proceeding, that the ulcerations on the gums never gained such an extent as might have been expected from so profuse a salivation. He began drinking the waters again August the 28th, and the douchebaths, which I now ordered him, contributed much to strengthen his arm. At the end of one week the patient had so far recovered, that he could write with a steady hand, and even shave himself. He left September the 10th.

To all persons suffering in consequence of mercury, it is important to increase perspiration, and I therefore recommend vapourbaths to almost all of them, though without neglecting the other modes of employing the waters. These patients generally bear the waters very well, even in large quantities. The strongest doses which I gave to a patient and which were persisted in for an unusually long time, were taken in the following case of a most painful hypertrophy of the tongue caused by mercury.

Mr. B., an English gentleman, aetat. 36, of a very strong constitution, had taken enormous doses of mercury for a syphilitic affection which he had caught twelve years before. He had been cured from syphilis, but the salivation brought on by the mercury had left a swelling of the tongue. Unfortunately this affection was looked upon as of a venereal kind, and the patient was repeatedly submitted to courses of mercury, which only made him worse. When he arrived here July the 11th 185*, I found his tongue very large and thick with deep impressions of the teeth on its edges. He complained of horrible pain in his tongue,

Case II.
Mercur. swelling
of the tongue.

and declared that for years he never had felt free from it for one hour. Digestion and appetite were good. The patient was not able to think of anything but his unfortunate condition, and was constantly brooding on his ailment, its causes and the medicines which he had taken. He was advised to drink the sulphureous water and to take simple sulphureous, as well as vapourbaths. The dose of the water to be drunk was gradually increased to about four pints, but as soon as the patient began to perceive a little change for the better, he increased his allowance on his own account, and I was obliged to warn him repeatedly against too strong doses. The improvement was constant but slow, and the patient had perseverance enough to continue his course till all remains of the disease had disappeared. The treatment which was only interrupted by a few short excursions, which I now and then advised the patient to make, was continued until May of the following year, when the patient found himself perfectly well. He had taken a hundred and fortyseven simple sulphureous baths and seventy-one vapourbaths. It is fortunate that few patients are in need of so long a treatment, as such perseverance may seldom be met with.

Indications
for the springs
in syphilis.

The cases of syphilis which indicate the use of the Aix-la-Chapelle sulphureous springs, are especially those which have not been relieved by mercury, whether given alone or followed by a course of iodide of potassium. It seems that some forms of syphilis and some constitutions do not bear the use of mercury, and it is almost generally admitted, that even those affections which yield to mercury, when properly employed, are aggravated by its injudicious use or by carelessness on the part of the patients when under its influence. We must especially point out the cold air to which they expose themselves as the source of the serious

and obstinate sufferings which, but too often, follow a course of mercury.

These sufferings become worse and worse when the medical attendant instead of discontinuing this medicine, persists in its use. The illness then frequently appears under such symptoms, that it is difficult to tell whether we have to do with a syphilitic or with a mercurial complaint. In some other cases the symptoms are so very slight, that the medical attendant is lead to attribute the repeated complaints of a sometimes troublesome patient, to imagination.

Under these circumstances the Aix-la-Chapelle waters are of the greatest service. For, if the patient is only labouring from the consequences of mercury, the waters effect a speedy cure, whereas, when there is syphilis still in the system, though not manifesting itself by distinct symptoms, it becomes apparent through the use of the waters.

Mr. C., a Russian officer, came to Aix-la-Chapelle in the summer of 185*. Two years before this time he had contracted a chancre, followed soon afterwards by secondary symptoms, a roseola, and sores in the throat, from which he was freed by a mercurial treatment. Since that time he constantly complained of a disagreeable sensation in the throat. He consulted a great many members of the profession, who all declared to him, that they could not discover the slightest affection, and that the sensations in his throat were only owing to his fears. At last he was directed to try the Aix-la-Chapelle waters, as a test of syphilis. On his arrival here, the physician whom he consulted, could not discover the slightest affection in the throat nor anywhere else. The patient drank a good quantity of the waters and took simple sulphurous and vapourbaths. But, though the patient still went on complaining about his throat, his medical

Case III.
Latent syphilis.

attendant did not find any thing wrong. Under these circumstances I was requested to meet his doctor in consultation, but neither could I perceive any morbid symptoms in the throat. So we agreed that the patient should go on with his course, and that we should visit him again a week later. At this second visit we noticed a sore on the right amygdala, which bore all the characteristic symptoms of a venereal ulcer. Being convinced, now, of the true nature of the complaint, we did not delay any longer to submit the patient to a strict antisymphilitic treatment, by which he was completely cured in seven weeks.

Case IV. Mr. *D.*, a Russian gentleman, aetat. 38, arrived
Latent syphilis. here in June 185*. He had frequently suffered from venereal affections, both primary and secondary and had taken large doses of mercury and of iodide of potassium. His constitution was strong and his general health good, except that he had been suffering for several years from urticaria, which, especially at night, was very troublesome and disturbed his sleep. He employed the waters both internally, and externally but felt no relief at first. Eighteen days after the beginning of his course, two small boils appeared on his right arm, which gradually began to show the characters of true syphilitic ulcers. I therefore did not delay prescribing iodide of potassium, which he took in the dose of four grains twice a day in a tumbler of eight ounces of sulphureous water for four weeks, at the end of which his urticaria as well as his ulcers were perfectly cured.

Case V. Mr. *E.*, an English gentleman, aetat. 25, arrived
Diagnosis of sy- here April 29th 185*. Three years previously he had
philis confirmed caught a chancre, in consequence of which various
by the waters. symptoms of secondary and tertiary syphilis had shown themselves. After having gone through several courses of various mercurial preparations and having taken

iodide of potassium, he felt himself free from affections of the bones, and all ulcers but one were healed. This one, situated on the back of his left leg, just above the heel, obstinately resisted all exertions to cure it. When he arrived at Aix-la-Chapelle, this sore was of the size of a sixpence, was flat with lacerated edges, and discharged a light yellowish serous liquid in a small quantity.

The patient began his course directly by drinking and bathing. After one week's treatment the sore gained a more healthy appearance, but this improvement made no further progress, on the contrary, three weeks after the patient's arrival the sore became larger and exhibited, now, a real syphilitic character. The patient having a great objection to iodide of potassium, which he pretended had done him harm before, could only be prevailed upon to take it in very small doses — two grains twice a day — each dose in eight ounces of sulphureous water. — Besides these sixteen ounces of water combined with iodide of potassium, he took several tumblers of pure sulphureous water, and went on bathing. This treatment, showing immediately its good influence upon the sore, the daily dose of iodide of potassium was increased to six grains. The improvement went on progressing and the patient left at the end of June perfectly cured. I have ascertained that he is still enjoying perfect good health at the present moment. By this virtue of the Aix-la-Chapelle waters to serve as a test to latent syphilis, confirmed as it is by numberless observations, a great many persons are induced to try these springs, who, though perfectly well, are desirous to obtain a certainty, whether their systems are free from syphilis or not. As syphilis sometimes remains a long time in the system without showing itself outwardly, a certainty about their real state of health, is often of great im-

Inveterate
syphilis cured by
the waters.

portance to individuals who, formerly, were infected, especially to those who wish to enter into matrimonial bonds.

Besides thus assisting us in forming a sure diagnosis in dubious cases, the Aix-la-Chapelle waters are also a great auxiliary in the cure of inveterate complicated syphilis.

Before the effects of iodide of potassium in syphilitic affections were known, it was considered necessary to submit the patient to a new mercurial treatment, as soon as it was ascertained that he was still labouring under syphilis, and several cases are recorded, in which mercury then employed, either alone or simultaneously with the water, was of the greatest service. In the latter case the effects of the mercury were not neutralized by the waters, as, on chymical principles, one might be tempted to suppose. On the contrary, mercury proved highly beneficial, its administration with the waters, at the same time, being free from those disadvantages which, but too frequently, accompany its employ when given alone. Since the iodide of potassium has become known as an antisiphilitic medicine, I have almost always had recourse to it, when I considered the waters by themselves insufficient to eradicate the disease. The iodide of potassium is, by itself, a powerful medicine in syphilis which has not yielded to mercury, but it is still more efficacious when combined with the Aix-la-Chapelle waters. I have treated, in the last twenty years, a great number of patients who had taken iodide of potassium in *large doses*, previously to their coming to Aix-la-Chapelle, without deriving any benefit from it, but who were completely cured by the simultaneous use of the waters and the iodide of potassium in *small doses*. I generally prescribe a dose of three to four grains to be taken in eight ounces of mineral water, which,

according to circumstances, is to be repeated once or twice in twenty four hours. The patients almost always bear this mixture without any inconvenience. The affections of the mucous membranes of the nose and throat, which are frequently brought on by iodide of potassium, when given alone, are very seldom observed, when this medicine is taken with the waters. I can not speak highly enough of the results of this treatment, and the reader will no doubt concur in this favourable opinion, after the perusal of the following pages.

Mr. F., aetat. 26, a Belgian merchant, caught a venereal infection in February 1841, for which he took mercury. Some time afterwards secondary symptoms appeared under the form of a roseola occupying chiefly the chest, the arms and legs. Mercury was taken again followed afterwards by iodide of potassium, but the case became worse and worse. So he came to Aix-la-Chapelle in the month of June. He first consulted a physician, who had settled at Aix-la-Chapelle but a short time before, and who happened to be a great advocate of mercury. This gentleman declared to the patient, that the Aix-la-Chapelle waters could but do him harm as the syphilitic virus was still existing in him, and that he could only be cured by mercury. The pills of corrosive sublimate, which he accordingly prescribed and which were taken for four weeks, proving to be of no avail, and the symptoms gradually becoming worse and worse, the doctor declared, that the corrosive sublimate was apparently too weak a preparation, and advised mercurial frictions combined with starving diet. But the patient happening to become acquainted with a case similar to his own, in which I had effected the cure without mercury, left his medical attendant and requested my advice. I found the chest, arms and legs covered with an

Case VI.

Syphilitic psoriasis cured by the waters with iodide of potass.

Case VII.

Excessive cure by the waters and iodide of potass.

immense number of red spots, varying in size from the circumference of a sixpence to that of a half-crown. On most of the spots thin brown scales had formed, but there was no ulceration. The general health of the patient was good, his digestion and sleep excellent. — I advised him to drink the waters and to take common sulphureous baths and sulphureous vapourbaths on alternate days. A nourishing diet was ordered. The patient began his course July the 10th, and but a few days afterwards some improvement was already perceptible. But this improvement made but slow progress and, at last, came to a perfect standstill, so that on the 26th I prescribed two doses, of four grains each, of iodide of potassium, to be taken daily in sulphureous water. The progress now became so rapid, that all the spots had completely disappeared by the 20th of August, when the patient left Aix-la-Chapelle in perfect health. I saw this gentleman again eleven years afterwards, in 1852. He then came here to be cured of a chronic rheumatism, which he had contracted in the autumn before, when travelling in Russia. Since his cure in 1841 he never had been troubled by any symptom of syphilis. After a few weeks, stay at Aix-la-Chapelle, he left free from his rheumatism and in perfect health.

Case VII.
Exostosis cured
by the waters
and iodide of po-
tassium.

Mr. G., surgeon to a man of war, caught a chancre when on station in the East-Indies in 1845. He took mercury, but before the cure was finished, the ship made sail, and the patient, anxious to conceal his complaint, continued his treatment but very irregularly. A few weeks later a syphilitic roseola appeared, for which, after his arrival in Europe, he underwent a regular course of mercury. The eruption faded away, but some months afterwards the patient was alarmed by the sudden appearance of a node on his left tibia accompanied by nocturnal pain. He now took iodide

of potassium and was soon relieved of his swelling and freed from pain. But the next following year a relapse came on, the exostosis reappeared with more severe pain than ever. This time the iodide of potassium procured but little relief, which induced the patient to obtain leave to go to Aix-la-Chapelle. After having taken the waters a fortnight, without being benefitted by them, he called on me. The gravity of his sufferings was painted in his sickly look. He was suffering constantly from pain in the left tibia and in the right ulna, which became so intense towards evening as to be almost unsupportable. On the left tibia I found an exostosis of the size and form of a pigeon's egg. His appetite was good, his digestion regular and the circulation normal. I advised him to take three doses of iodide of potassium a day, of four grains each, in eight ounces of mineral water, and vapour-baths alternately with simple sulphureous baths. The patient had scarcely undergone this treatment for five days, when the pains were greatly mitigated. Going on with it for three weeks longer, during which the improvement made constant progress, he found himself at last perfectly free from pain and from his exostosis, and left in perfect health. According to the last news, which I had from him in 1855, his health had not been disturbed since his departure.

Mr. *H.*, a Belgian merchant, aetat. 36, had taken strong doses of mercury for various secondary affections without benefit, but was afterwards, according to appearances, cured by iodide of potassium. But this cure did not last long, and, about a year afterwards, a swelling appeared on the sternum, which resisted all attempts to cure it. He therefore came to Aix-la-Chapelle in June 1841. The swelling was of the size of a small walnut and showed fluctuation. The bone around the tumour formed a rough prominent

Case VIII.

Caries cured by the waters and iodide of potassium.

wall, and was beyond doubt affected with caries. It was important to prevent the swelling from bursting, and I ventured to prescribe directly vapourbaths and the internal use of the waters combined with iodide of potassium. Though of a lymphatic constitution and already much debilitated, the patient bore this treatment very well, and as I perceived a decrease of the swelling from the first beginning of the course, I went on with it, and the patient took a vapourbath every day. After a lapse of thirty-two days, during which he had taken as many vapourbaths, the swelling had entirely disappeared without leaving a trace behind. The patient enjoyed perfect good health, looked very well, and, what may perhaps surprise some of my readers, notwithstanding the profuse perspiration caused by the vapourbaths, his weight had increased by four pounds since his arrival *).

*) The patient having told me, that when weighing himself just before leaving home, he had found his weight greatly diminished, I had requested him to weigh himself again before he left Aix-la-Chapelle. It may not be uninteresting to add, that when the use of vapourbaths is truly indicated, they very seldom weaken. The patients very frequently gain flesh while taking the Aix-la-Chapelle sulphureous vapourbaths.

An English gentleman, attended by me in 1857 and 59, took the following notes about his weight while taking vapourbaths:

„In 1857 Mr. X. came to Aix-la-Chapelle and after taking the baths (vapour) and drinking the waters for two or three weeks, weighed himself and his weight was found to be 7 stone 13 pounds. In a fortnight, from that time, he gained 5 pounds, and in another fortnight 4 more, his weight being then 8 stone 8 pounds. He shortly afterwards left Aix-la-Chapelle. In 1859 Mr. X. came again to Aix-la-Chapelle and took the baths (vapour) as before, viz. every other day. On the 22th of July, the day after he arrived he weighed 126 pounds or 9 stone. On the 6th of August his weight was 9 stone 4 pounds. On the 17th of August he weighed 9 stone 9 pounds.“ The patient left on the 18th of August.

Mr. J., an English gentleman, aetat. 32, of an athletic constitution had suffered for a long time from syphilis, for which he had taken mercury first, and large doses of iodide of potassium afterwards, without deriving the slightest benefit from these medicines. He arrived here October the 4th 185*. His head appeared almost totally bald; nearly the whole of the upper surface was covered with thick and hard crusts of a blackish grey colour, bearing a close resemblance to oystershells, leaving but very few and small interstices between. A yellowish liquid of a most offensive smell oozed from beneath the edges of the crusts. The whole exhibited all the characters of a genuine syphilitic rupia. At the lower extremity of the left tibia was an exostosis of the size of a large almond, the seat of violent nocturnal pain. The patient declared to have latterly lost very much of his strength. Digestion, appetite and circulation were satisfactory. I prescribed four grains of iodide of potassium, this dose to be taken three times a day in eight ounces of mineral water, besides some other tumblers of pure mineral water. Vapourbaths alternated with plain baths. Rags of old linnen, wetted with the mineral water, were applied on the sores during several hours in the day. In the intervals the sores were dressed with cerat upon lint. This treatment was followed by a speedy and fortunate result, for eight days later the pains had ceased. The crusts having fallen off in less than a fortnight, flat ulcers, almost confluent, were seen covering nearly the whole top surface of the head, with a greyish inert base without granulations, secreting a sero-sanious liquid. From this time I could perceive a change for the better gaining more and more ground from day to day. The basis of the ulcers gradually gained a more lively colour, the secretion became healthier and the progress was so rapid, that

Case IX.
Rupia
and exostosis
cured by the wa-
ters with iodide
of potassium.

Case X.
Rupia, the
ulcers and exos-
tosis cured by
the waters and
iodide of potas-
sium.

the patient could leave the 2^d of December, completely cured. Though he felt perfectly well, he returned to Aix-la-Chapelle in the June of the following year, wishing to consolidate the effects of the first treatment by a second course. This time no other medicine but the mineral water was prescribed. He took the waters for one month, and his course went on regularly without being troubled by any incident. According to the last news I had from him four years later, he was still doing perfectly well.

Case X.

Rupia, fistula and exostosis cured by the waters and iodide of potassium.

Mr. K., an officer in the English army, aetat. 26, had caught a chancre in 1852. He was attended by eminent medical men, who made him go through several courses of mercury and prescribed afterwards iodide of potassium. But all treatments seemed to fail, and in the course of two years his disease attained a frightful degree. At last he was directed to go to Aix-la-Chapelle, where he arrived on the 13th of July 1854. The patient was greatly emaciated, looked very pale and was so very weak, that he could scarcely walk for a few minutes. His pulse weak, 90 in the morning, 100 in the evening. There was no disposition to pulmonary diseases in the family. The upper surface of the head was covered with a thick rupia similar to that described in case IX. There was also an other rupia on the lower lid of the left eye covering, as it became evident some weeks afterwards, a lacrymal fistula with swelling of the lacrymal bone, and a third rupia on the left ala nasi going down over the lip to the angle of the mouth and spreading to the width of about four lines. On the right collarbone a large hard node was found, which caused violent nocturnal pain.

I began with *one* grain of iodide of potassium, to be taken twice a day in three ounces of mineral water. The patient being unequal to the fatigue of walking, was advised to drink his morning dose in

bed, and his evening dose sitting in an armchair. Sulphureous baths of an agreeable temperature, of 15 minutes, were taken. The sores were frequently washed with mineral water and dressed with simple ointment. Nourishing diet. The patient bearing this treatment very well, the dose of the medicine and of the waters was gradually increased, till, at the end of three weeks, he daily took six grains of iodide of potassium and two pounds of mineral water and remained half an hour in the bath. This treatment was continued for three months on the same plan, with the only alteration, that as soon as his increasing strength permitted it, he took the waters at the fountain, and that in the last four weeks of his stay, he occasionally took a vapourbath. When he left on the 15th of October, the node on the collarbone had entirely disappeared, and all ulcerations were healed up except the one on the eyelid, of which a small part was not yet healed, but which closed entirely about a fortnight after his departure. The patient had gained his strength again, and looked quite healthy. At the end of November Mr. K. felt so strong, that he could leave England to join his regiment in the Crimea. Though he remained there during the whole winter 1854 to 55, the following summer and autumn, and had a full share of all the fatigues of the Crimean war till the fall of Sebastopol, he never fell ill, and came back to England in perfect health. He was still enjoying good health in the summer of 1858, when I last heard from him.

Mr. L., an English gentleman, aetat. 30, arrived here on the 14th of December 185*. Three years before he had caught a primary ulcer, which soon afterwards was followed by secondary symptoms. These were subdued for a time by mercury, but soon reappeared to a greater extent. In the last six months previous to his coming here, several sores had appeared

Case XI.
Ulcers and caries cured by the waters with iodide of potassium.

on his body and in the face, a large swelling on the frontal bone and an ulcer on the palate. In spite of repeated courses of mercury, iodine, *Donovan's* liquor, prescribed to him by eminent members of the profession in England, his case became worse and worse. By the advice of a friend, whom I had cured here before of the same disease, the patient decided on coming here. He was a strong looking middle sized man, though he looked pale and bore the signs of syphilitic cachexia. His pulse was low; his skin of an earthy colour. Digestion good, sleep sound. There were three small ulcers just before the right ear, deeply excavated with lacerated edges formed by the reddened, thickened and hardened skin. The secretion was an unhealthy looking matter, forming thin crusts of a dirty yellowish colour. On the right side of the nose a few lines below the inner angle of the eye, a deep ulcer was seated with hardened lacerated edges, and an other ulcer occupied the right ala nasi, which, just one day before his arrival, had been so perforated by it, that it was perfectly divided in two triangular flaps. The edges of this sore were hard and lacerated. On the chest and on the back five ulcers were seated, varying in size from the circumference of a shilling to that of a crown. Just in the centre of the soft palate an ulcer formed a fissure, extending forwards a few lines under the union of the horizontal parts of the two ossa palati. Besides these sores there existed on the top of the forehead a large oval ulcer 15 lines high and 12 lines broad, showing the frontal bone on this spot denudated and rough. — I prescribed iodide of potassium, four grains to be taken three times a day in eight ounces of mineral water, sulphureous baths both plain and vapour. The wounds were dressed with simple ointment and washed with mineral water. Plain nourishing diet. The patient who had taken

lodgings in a bathhouse did not leave his room otherwise than for the purpose of going into the bathing cabinet.

This treatment was followed by a rapid and complete success, for all the sores healed up in less than three weeks, except the one on the frontal bone, which, however, continued progressing so favourably, that January the 7th — the 23^d day since the commencement of the treatment — the greater part of the morbid bone, a fragment of twenty lines in length and ten in breadth, could be removed. A few small fragments of carious bone came out on the following days, and now the healing process went on so rapidly, that the wound was perfectly closed on the 22^d of January. The patient left February the 6th perfectly cured. I saw him again in August of the same year, when he came to stay a few days in Aix-la-Chapelle with a relation of his. He was then in perfect health and required no further treatment.

Prince M., a Russian, aetat. 34, arrived here June the 15th 185*. For several years he had suffered from syphilis, which had resisted all mercurial treatments and the repeated use of iodide of potassium in strong doses. On the pharynx I observed five small syphilitic ulcers. A thin watery liquid was constantly running from his nose, so that he needed, from five to six pocket-handkerchiefs a day. The nose was reddish, painful and tender to the touch. By probing the nose, I could not discover any morbid bone. The patient began his course on the 16th. He took four grains of iodide of potassium, twice a day, in eight ounces of mineral water, besides some other tumblers of pure mineral water, and a simple sulphureous and a vapourbath on alternate days, and later, after his strength had increased, a vapourbath in the morning and a simple bath in the evening. Nour-

Case XII.

Ulcers, ozaena cured by the waters with iodide of potassium.

ishing diet. The ulcers on the pharynx healed completely in one week; the affection of the nose required a longer time, though the secretion diminished very soon after the beginning of the treatment. An abundant eruption of acne iodata, with slight irritation of the conjunctiva, appearing on the 15th day of the treatment, I diminished the dose of iodide of potassium to two grains bis p. d. On the 6th of July, the 21st day of the treatment, when blowing his nose, he discovered a small bone in his handkerchief, which I found to be part of the lacrymal bone. From this moment the morbid secretion from the nose gradually ceased, and the patient could leave the 9th of August perfectly cured. He had become much stronger, and looked perfectly healthy. Still, as he wished to gain still more strength, I directed him to go for some weeks to Spa, which he did. From Spa he went to stay for some months for his amusement at Paris. I saw him again when he passed through this place in the last days of October on his return to Russia. He declared to be perfectly well.

I could record a *greater* number of similar cases cured by the same treatment, but it will be sufficient to state, that I have obtained, through it, great success in syphilitic affections of the sternum, of the ribs, of the arm-bones, of the tibia and femur, of the scull, in several cases of chronic syphilitic iritis and in skin diseases of more or less extent and under various forms; and that this treatment was of great avail in two cases of large venereal swellings of the liver, of which I treated one in 1857 and the other in 1858, though in one case of syphilitic swelling of the liver, treated in 1856, it failed. Most of the patients whom I was fortunate enough to cure by this treatment, had taken iodide of potassium in larger doses, than prescribed by me, previously to their coming to Aix-la-Chapelle. Though I cannot speak highly enough of

the results of this treatment, it is but fair to admit, that in a few cases it produced but a temporary relief, and that I was then obliged to have recourse to other medicines. This will not be surprising to those, who know that it is the common lot of all, even the safest and the most powerful medicines, to meet with some exceptional cases, which offer an obstinate resistance to their salutary action. Fortunately in these cases, in which this treatment fails, we can, generally speaking, ascertain by what circumstances the failure is caused; and hence are led to adopt an *other plan of effecting the cure*. Before entering into the subject, I wish it to be clearly understood, that the use of iodide of potassium combined with the Aix-la-Chapelle sulphureous water is not followed by a permanent result, when prescribed to those patients who, either had not taken mercury before, or upon whose constitutions mercury had not made sufficient impression. So I have generally found, that where mercury had brought on a diarrhoea, or where salivation had come on too suddenly, the iodide of potassium with mineral water does not effect a complete cure. In such cases I was obliged to have recourse to mercury again, and I have ascertained, by repeated observation, that mercury given during a course of sulphureous waters, *maintains all its specific power in syphilis*, being at the same time free from all disagreeable or injurious consequences. In cases of this sort I generally ordered the patients to drink the waters (either pure or, according to circumstances, with iodide of potassium) and to bathe in the morning and take mercury in the evening. The patients with whom this course of treatment was adopted, were cured without salivation. Having succeeded in most cases of inveterate syphilis by the combined use of the waters and iodide of potassium, I have,

consequently, been but very seldom obliged to have recourse to mercury; but the results of the latter treatment, whenever I was forced to resort to it, were so remarkably favorable, that I now consider myself justified in establishing it as a general rule, that where iodide of potassium combined with the waters fails to effect a cure, mercury should be employed.

Case XIII.
Ulcers, plaques
muqueuses cured
by the waters and
mercury.

Mr. N., aetat. 26, a Dutch merchant, arrived here August the 5th 185*. Fifteen months before he had caught a chancre, which was soon followed by secondary symptoms. He was then submitted to a course of mercurial frictions, and the symptoms disappeared. But though the frictions had been continued for nearly eight weeks, a few months afterwards symptoms of syphilis reappeared. This time iodide of potassium in large doses was resorted to, and the patient was apparently cured. But the cure did not last, and in summer 185* plaques muqueuses on the lips and ulcers in the throat appeared. These symptoms obstinately resisting all treatment, the patient was sent to Aix-la-Chapelle. He had a good constitution, though he showed symptoms of anemia. His digestion was good, his sleep sound. On both lips, as well as on the inner side of the cheeks, there were several large plaques muqueuses and two syphilitic sores on the pharynx. I advised him to drink the waters and to bathe and take plain but nourishing food. When, after one week's treatment, I saw no improvement, I prescribed iodide of potassium to be taken with the waters. This directly made a good impression upon the sores, which gained a more healthy appearance. But this improvement did not last very long, and when I was satisfied that this treatment would have no result, I changed it. The 28th August the iodide of potassium was discontinued, and the patient had to undergo the following treatment. In the mor-

ning he drank the waters and bathed — alternately a plain sulphureous bath and a vapourbath — and in the afternoon he took mercury in small doses. Though the dose of mercury was gradually increased, no salivation nor any other disagreeable accident from the medicine occurred. The nourishing diet, chiefly animal, was continued. This treatment answered so well that, three weeks afterwards, the patient was completely cured. The dose of mercury was now gradually diminished and the treatment was continued up to the 15th of October, when the patient left in perfect good health. Not only all symptoms of the disease had vanished, but the patient had gained strength, and looked perfectly well. I am informed that his health has not been impaired since.

Mr. O., a French gentleman, aetat. 31, had been infected several times, but had been free from all symptoms of syphilitic disease, when all on a sudden in January 185* several nodes on both tibias and on the left ulna appeared, which were accompanied by excessive nocturnal pain. He was submitted to a treatment of protoiodide of mercury and to the use of iodide of potassium. The patient was greatly relieved, for though the swellings did not completely disappear, the pain ceased for some months. But this relief did not last very long, for, towards the end of May, the nodes became tender again and increased in size. So he was sent to Aix-la-Chapelle, where he arrived June the 5th. I found his general health unimpaired, and no other symptoms of any disease but two large nodes on the right tibia, one on the left, and a large node on the left ulna, accompanied by violent nocturnal pain. I prescribed iodide of potassium to be taken in mineral water and plain sulphureous baths alternately with vapourbaths. This treatment answered so well, that all the nodes completely disappeared, and the

Case XIV.

Exostos. ulcers,
plaques
muqueuses cured
by the waters
with mercury and
iodide of potas-
sium.

Case XV.

Exostos. ulcers,
plaques
muqueuses cured
by the waters
with iodide of
potassium and mer-
cury.

patient left on the 16th of July apparently well. But he had scarcely been at home a week, when sores appeared on the lips and in the throat, and a node formed on the left ulna. These symptoms growing worse and worse, he came back to Aix-la-Chapelle August the 7th. I found three plaques muqueuses on the lips, a flat syphilitic ulcer on the soft palate, a similar one on the pharynx and a gummatous swelling on the ulna. I prescribed, for the morning, a dose of iodide of potassium in a tumbler of mineral water, followed by several other tumblers of pure mineral water, afterwards a bath (alternately plain and vapourbath) and, three hours after breakfast a second dose of iodide of potassium in mineral water. In the evening he took small doses of mercury. During this treatment, which proved highly beneficial, the dose of mercury was first gradually increased, and when the sores had begun to heal, diminished. The recovery made rapid progress, so that the patient, who had felt quite well for more than a week, left on the 10th of September. It was contrary to my wishes that he should leave so soon, but he could not prolong his stay, and I must confess that I maintained great fears for the ultimate result. Fortunately my apprehensions were unfounded, for, as I heard about three years later from the patient himself, who paid me a visit when passing through Aix-la-Chapelle, his health had not since been disturbed in any way.

Case XV.
Ulcer, ozaena,
exostoses cured
by the waters
with iodide of
potass. and mer-
cury.

Mr. P., an American gentleman, aetat. 30, came to Aix-la-Chapelle in September 185*. The year before he had contracted an infection, which had been followed soon afterwards by constitutional syphilis. He took mercury several times, but irregularly, but neither this medicine nor the iodide of potassium which he took afterwards, was of any avail to him, and his case became worse and worse. After his ar-

rival in Europe he was advised to try the Aix-la-Chapelle waters. — The patient had a good constitution and there was no hereditary disposition to pulmonary affections in his family. His digestion and circulation were good, but his strength had given way, so that he could scarcely walk for a few minutes. He had a large exostosis on each tibia, and a similar one on the right ulna. All the affected bones were excessively painful, especially at night time, so as to entirely deprive the patient of sleep. A thin reddish liquid of a most offensive smell, constantly oozed out of his right nostril, and by the probe introduced into the nasal cavity, I discovered the back part of the horizontal portion of the right palatebone and several parts of the conchae to be attacked by caries. On the right side of the hard palate, almost in its centre, a small ulcer was visible, forming an aperture of the size of a pin's head, which allowed of the introduction of the probe into the right nasal cavity. On the pharynx a large ulcer was seated, about ten lines in width. Its longitudinal dimensions could not be ascertained, as its upper and lower edges were without the reach of sight. Notwithstanding this immense ulceration, deglutition was not very difficult. — The patient was advised to take iodide of potassium with the water, twice a day, and to alternate with simple and vapourbaths. An improvement was visible even after the first week; the osseous swellings diminished in size and became less painful, and the ulcer gained a more healthy appearance. This change for the better went on incessantly for about four weeks, but then, all on a sudden, all improvement stopped. I then prescribed small doses of mercury, to be taken after the last meal, the patient continuing to take the waters and the iodide of potassium before dinner. This new treatment proved so successful, that about the end

of December all swellings of the bones had completely vanished, the ulcer on the pharynx was healed, and even the small aperture in the hard palate was closed. A few carious bones from the nose, had come off, but a small necrotic fragment of the horizontal part of the right palatebone still remained. When he left, in January, to go to the south of France, he enjoyed perfect general health, and looked admirably well. He came back to Aix-la-Chapelle eight months afterwards and, though no trace of the former disease was left, — the fragment of the palatebone had been thrown off long ago — took the waters again for three weeks, at the end of which he left in perfect health.

Having obtained so much success in following the methods just described of treating inveterate syphilis, viz. by the combination of the waters 1) with iodide of potassium, 2) with mercury and 3) with mercury and iodide of potassium, I consider myself justified in regarding them as most efficacious and, as offering the greatest guarantee against relapses and, in preferring them to all other methods of treatment. Still, a few words are to be said about two other medicines, which, under certain circumstances, may be resorted to, either the *iodide of iron* in combination with the waters, or the *Zittmann* decoction as a preparatory treatment to their use.

Iodide of iron.

The *iodide of iron* is an excellent medicine to begin with, where syphilis is complicated with great anemia, but its efficacy in syphilis is by no means to be compared to that of the iodide of potassium. For, whenever, to anemic patients, I prescribed iodide of iron either in pills or in syrup, I was always afterwards, notwithstanding, obliged, to have recourse to iodide of potassium, for the iodide of iron never effected a complete cure. Therefore I am of opinion,

now, that its use should be limited to a small number of exceptional cases.

The *Zittmann decoction* is considered by many physicians to be a powerful antisyphilitic medicine. I myself, formerly, entertained a high opinion of its efficacy, but later experience has taught me, that it is far from being a sure medicine in syphilis. There is no doubt, that the *Zittmann* treatment stops the progress of the disease, when rapidly proceeding on its destructive path, but it will seldom effect a complete cure, and it ought therefore, to be considered only as a preparatory treatment. Accordingly I prescribed it to several patients who arrived here with frightful phagadenic ulcers, but even when I succeeded in arresting the rapid and dangerous progress of the disease, I was frequently obliged to have recourse to other means afterwards in order to effect a complete cure.

Aix-la-Chapelle, March, 1860.

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The Zilman decoction is considered by many physicians to be a powerful antisyphilitic medicine. I myself, formerly, entertained a high opinion of its efficacy, but later experience has taught me, that it is far from being a safe medicine in syphilis. There is no doubt, that the Zilman treatment stops the progress of the disease, when rapidly proceeding on its destructive path, but it will seldom effect a complete cure, and it ought therefore, to be considered only as a preparatory treatment. Accordingly, I prescribed it to several patients who arrived here with frightful phagedenic ulcers, but even when I succeeded in arresting the rapid and dangerous progress of the disease, I was frequently obliged to have recourse to other means afterwards in order to effect a complete cure.

Aix-la-Chapelle, March, 1860.

Books of the same author on the Aix-la-Chapelle waters :

A description of the Mineral Springs of Aix-la-Chapelle and Borcette with some account of the curiosities of both places and the environs, by *L. Wetzlar*, M. D., physician at Aix-la-Chapelle. — London, John Churchill. 1842.

Dr. *Wetzlar* has given a description correct, scientific and popular. *Lancet*. 1842.

Dr. *Wetzlar's* book on the springs of Aix-la-Chapelle has afforded us valuable information on this subject. It was needed; and will be found very useful to the visitors of the Spa, where the author so judiciously exercises his talents.

British and Foreign Medical Review. 1842.

Traité pratique des propriétés curatives des eaux thermales sulfureuses d'Aix-la-Chapelle et du mode de leur emploi par *L. Wetzlar*, M. D., médecin aux eaux d'Aix-la-Chapelle, membre de plusieurs sociétés savantes. Bonn, Henry & Cohen. 1856.

Ce traité est un exposé, très sagement conçu et très nettement présenté d'une station thermale importante.

Rapport de M. Durand-Fardel sur cet ouvrage dans la séance de la société de l'hydrologie médicale de Paris du 5 Janvier 1857. Voir les annales de la société. Tome troisième.

La brochure de M. le docteur *Wetzlar* constitue un véritable traité des propriétés médicinales des eaux d'Aix-la-Chapelle etc.

Gazette hebdomadaire de médecine et de chirurgie. Juin 1856.

Ein flüchtiger Einblick in diese Schrift thut dar, dass hier der practischen Methode der Anwendung eine Aufmerksamkeit gezollt ist, wie in wenigen Badeschriften, dass die Krisen und die Nachwirkung ausführlich besprochen und erörtert worden sind, dass die zur Behandlung kommenden Krankheiten, mit Beziehung auf die dortigen Quellen, hinreichende Würdigung erhalten haben, und dass das Buch viel ganz Neues enthält, wie die Behandlung der progressiven Muskelatrophie durch die Quellen, die specielle Würdigung der Hautkrankheiten, der Paralysen, die Behandlung in-

veterirter Lustseuche durch die Quellen in Verbindung mit Jodkalium. Dabei ist der Autor nicht in Uebertreibungen gerathen, etc.

Allgemeine Medicinische Central-Zeitung. 28. Mai 1856.

Diese Schrift hat in unsern und gewiss auch in den Augen aller practischen Aerzte einen um so höhern Werth, da die Leistungen der Bäder, auf gute Beobachtungen gegründet, mit epikritisch bearbeiteten Krankengeschichten belegt werden . . . Uebrigens dürfen wir nicht unerwähnt lassen, dass der Verfasser der rühmlich zu erwähnenden Schrift sich alle Mühe nahm, den Werth und die Leistungen der Aachener Bäder vorurtheilsfrei und unparteiisch darzulegen.

Recension von Herrrn Professor Löschner in der Vierteljahrsschrift für die practische Heilkunde, herausgegeben von der medicinischen Facultät in Prag. Jahrgang 1857. — 53ster Band.

The contents of this book entirely accord with the title. The details of numerous interesting cases illustrate the doctrines which the author promulgates, and give to the latter a more definite character than is always met with in the writings of balneologists . . . To this brief summary of the indications and counter-indications for the therapeutic employment of the Aix waters, we would add our hearty commendation of the tone which pervades Dr. Wetzlar's book. Medical men anxious for information on the subject, will find it a useful and trustworthy guide.

British and Foreign medico-chirurgical Review. Octob. 1856.

Reviews or extracts are given also: in *Journal de médecine et chirurgie pratiques* 1856; in *Union médicale* 1857; in *Medicinische Aehrenlese* 1856; in *Schmidt's Jahrbücher der gesammten Medicin* 1858 etc.