

## IS INJECTION SAFE ?

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Some Homœopathic practitioners—mostly beginners—confronted with difficult cases and finding the choice of Homœopathic medicine not easy, take themselves to allopathic injection, in the hope that patients will be cured in no time and at the same time they will earn a reputation and credit that will help in widening their practice. They read a book or two on Allopathic injections in Vernacular, compiled by some unscrupulous author, where a list of medicines are given for numerous diseases, and they indiscriminately use them in their practice. It is not improper to say that one should have complete belief in Homœopathy for curing complicated cases and make use of it to the best of his ability.

Here I shall present to the readers the harmful effects resulting from the unwarranted use or misuse of injections by Allopathic Doctors (What to speak of Homœopaths) as cited by an eminent allopath, Dr. P. L. Deshmukh, M.D. (Bomb.), D.T.M.H. (London), P.C.P.S. (Bomb.), F.A.C.C. (U.S.A.) of Sasson Hospital & D.T. Medical College, Poona. The said Doctor contributed an article, entitled "Modern medicine and the welfare of the patient", to the allopathic monthly "Antiseptic", Madras, in the July issue of 1956, from which the following instructive excerpt is made :—

"The harmful effects resulting from unwarranted use or misuse of Anti-biotics are becoming increasingly frequent. The injection therapy holds great attraction to Doctors and patients alike in modern medicine—very wonderful results are promptly achieved with (injection) it. But at the same time it must be noted that its thoughtless use has added greatly to the....., discomfort and risk to the patient".

The learned doctor cites instances after instances from his 25 years' practice, illustrating the dangers of injection. In one place he advises qualified allopathic practitioner not to give quinine injection intravenously as a routine treatment, as the method is likely to cause the death of the patient even before the doctor leaves his bed.

He goes on to say "It may be noted that even injections of common drugs like Liver Extract, Calcium Gluconate, Colloidal Iodine, Insulin have caused serious after-effects and even fatalities after careful use".

Here the doctor says about the injection of Arsenic Drugs.—"Arsenic is another drug which demands eternal caution and careful consideration, before administering by oral or parenteral routes.....But even intramuscular arsenicals like Acetylarsan, Sodium Cacodylate, etc., should be given with some caution and consideration. I shall relate my experience in 1930 with a case to whom I gave Sod. Cacodylate. He was alright for about 5 minutes and collapsed. He was brought about with great effort but by that time I had lost about a gallon of water from my system, through perspiration, and was myself on the brink of collapsing.....I have not used Sodium Cacodylate since then. It should be remembered that intramuscular as well as oral use of Arsenic is just as capable of producing grave toxic arsenical effect as its intravenous administration. I have seen fatal encephalitis appearing after one or two doses of Acetylarsan and optic atrophy develop after a few days of treatment with Carbarsons. Of course individual idiosyncrasy to the drug must also be reckoned with as an important factor in the development of such toxic manifestation."

The learned doctor very aptly says—"The life of the patient is entrusted to medical care only in the hope that bodily suffering of the individual will be relieved and comfort and well-being promoted. Therefore the doctor must exercise the greatest care to see that the life is not lost, as a result of his overenthusiasm".

Though the above counsel of perfection has been addressed to allopathic doctors, yet it is more appropriate for Homœopathic practitioners, who use injections to advance their reputation,—though it is doubtful, without regard to the discredit that will be brought to the great science of Homœopathy. Why not give up this "hazardous procedure?;" as Dr. Deshmukh has put it.

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