Studies on the Influences of Mapharsen on Fixed Neoarsphenamine Eruptions.

Preliminary Report.

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It has been pointed out that severe side reactions are not so common with mapharsen as with neoarsphenamine. But as to the specificity in allergic cutaneous reactions, the difference between these two drugs has not been thoroughly studied. In connection with this aspect the author made following clinical and histological examinations on five cases of fixed neoarsphenamine eruptions.

All these reacted to injections of neoarsphenamine with appearance of erythema and increase of pigmentation at the site of former eruptions, while the administration of mapharsen remained entirely without effect except in one case who showed similar reactions not only to mapharsen but also to dichlorophenarsine oxide.

In harmony with the mentioned findings, histological examination revealed what follows: According to Naegeli and Quervain, sections from the site of fixed eruptions were soaked in 1% solution of neoarsphenamine, 0.6% solution of mapharsen and in physiological saline solution separately and skin pieces from normal persons as controls were also treated in a like manner. After 24 hours they were fixed and stained by the usual method. Histological damages in the form of degeneration of vascular endothelial cells in dermal layer and vacuole formation in epidermal cells were detected only in specimen that had been taken from the patients and soaked in neoarsphenamine solution.

In short, many cases of fixed neoarsphenamine eruptions exhibited strict specific reactivity to neoarsphenamine, and mapharsen, which is closely related in chemical structure, gave rise to no clinical and histological changes nearly in all cases.

The details will be accounted for in a later issue of this Journal.