

It might also be mentioned that sometimes the patient spontaneously indicates the feeling of restored comfort even before the objective signs are manifested. In Cases 4, 5, 6, and 7 such a sensation was noticed.

It was already mentioned that a sufficient theoretical explanation on this behalf is still lacking. Nevertheless, the effect of emetine is not a strictly bactericidal one. In patients with widespread peritonitis a favorable reaction to emetine does not exclude the possibility that harmless residual abscesses might make their appearance afterward. As sequelae of septicemia those mitigated suppurations can, for instance, develop at places where injections, even of emetine, had been made. A characteristic example for this is seen in Case 4, where a small abscess still containing staphylococcus followed the acute furuncular infection.

The dosage of emetine hydrochloride is, for the adult, 0.03 Gm. twice daily up to 0.05 Gm. twice daily. Also when a full effect is obtained, the medication must be continued to the total amount of about 0.4 to 0.9 Gm. or even 1.0 Gm., for if interrupted too early recurrence of the infection can take place. When correct dosage is used, cardiovascular difficulties, as sometimes observed in dysentery cases, are not to be expected. In any case, the combination with a slightly stimulating drug might be recommended as a prophylactic measure.

CONCLUSION

Eight cases of malignant lip furuncles are reported. All of the patients recovered, mostly without any surgical interference, by mere use of emetine. The effect of the drug is generally a striking one. Even under the worst conditions, that is, when septicemia is already present, quick and complete recovery can be obtained. Emetine, which has given similar satisfactory results in numerous nonamebic septic infections of different types, can therefore be regarded as an important agent for the treatment of malignant lip furuncles.

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Erratum

In the article by Reynolds and Young, Jr., entitled "The Use of the Roux Y in Extending the Operability of Carcinoma of the Stomach and of the Lower End of the Esophagus" in the August, 1948, issue of the JOURNAL, the sentence beginning in the fourth line, page 260, "Whole blood administered at a rate of 1 liter an hour . . ." should read ". . . at a rate of ½ liter an hour . . ."