# THE INTENSIVE TREATMENT OF SYPHILIS & LOCOMOTOR ATAXIA BY AACHEN METHODS

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The Intensive Treatment of Syphilis & Locomotor Ataxia by Aachen Methods by Reginald Hayes

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## **REGINALD HAYES**

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# THE INTENSIVE TREATMENT OF SYPHILIS & LOCOMOTOR ATAXIA

BY

# AACHEN METHODS

(WITH NOTES ON SALVARSAN)

REGINALD HAYES, M.R.C.S., ETC.

THIRD EDITION, REVISED

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### PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION

1

MEDICAL practice is continually supplying confirmation of the maxim, 'All that is true is not new; all that is new is not true.'

This is aptly exemplified in the use of inunction in the various manifestations of specific disease for which the administration of mercury may be considered necessary.

That this method, if properly applied, yields better results than are obtained by any other mode of giving the drug—and this without danger or pain—I shall endeavour to show in the following pages.

Let me emphasize at the outset that inunction of mercury must not be regarded as in any way a rival to the injection of salvarsan (or other trustworthy arsenical preparations). Each has its appropriate sphere, and its inevitable limitations.

I wish, above all, to lay stress upon the importance of the proper carrying out and careful supervision of the rubbing, for upon these very largely depends the success of the treatment which it is the purpose of the following pages to describe.

Unskilled or haphazard methods of application lead to that uncertainty of results which is undoubtedly responsible for the fact that in this country inunction does not to-day hold the position to which it is justly entitled.

Though seemingly superfluous, the words 'and locomotor ataxia' have been added to the title, because, while both the diseases named are due to the same organism, the respective details of treatment present many points of contrast.

The present edition varies little from the first, written four years ago; but as modern research points to the advantage of methods still more intensive, shorter intervals between the salvarsan injections than those originally suggested are here advised. The illustrative cases have also, where possible, been brought up to date, and the composition of the unguent has been given.

Four illustrations have been inserted to show approximately the position assumed by patient and rubber during treatment.

Although in these the patient is, for the sake of clearness, shown as partially or wholly unclothed, in actual practice the parts usually protected by clothing are kept well covered, except when being rubbed. I desire to acknowledge the courtesy of the editors of The Lancet, The British Medical Journal, The Practitioner, and Guy's Hospital Gazette, in permitting me to make use of articles of mine which have appeared in the columns of their journals.

REGINALD HAYES.

93, CORNWALL GARDENS, S.W. 7, November, 1918. 100 (i)



## The Intensive Treatment of Syphilis and Locomotor Ataxia by Aachen Methods<sup>1</sup>

### MODERN ALTERNATIVES TO MERCURY.

In spite of many competitors during several centuries of use as a remedy for venereal disease, mercury (provided that it be adequately administered) may safely be said to remain the most generally satisfactory agent for the treatment of syphilis and of so-called 'parasyphilitic lesions'; for that diseases of the latter class are directly due to the presence of the Spirochata pallida, or to some phase of its life-cycle, has now for some time been clearly demonstrated. Of all drugs, ancient or modern, that have challenged the supremacy of mercury as an antisyphilitic, none can compare in efficacy with the newer class of arsenical derivatives, of which the Ehrlich-Hata preparation, salvarsan, was the

<sup>1</sup> By Aachen methods I mean the inunction of a 33½ per cent. mercurial ointment by the bare hands of a skilled rubber, under proper medical supervision, and in addition the use of sulphur water internally and externally, as administered at Aachen. This is the essential thing, or foundation on which treatment is based, adjuncts being used if so indicated.