

*The Use of Benzedrine Sulphate in Post-Encephalitic Parkinson's Disease.* (*Journ. Amer. Med. Assoc.*, vol. cviii, p. 1765, May 22, 1937.) Solomon, P., Mitchell, R. S., and Prinzmetal, M.

Twenty-eight patients with post-encephalitic Parkinson's disease, 10 patients with arterio-sclerotic Parkinsonism and 22 patients with psychoneurosis exhibiting asthenia were given benzedrine sulphate for periods varying from 4 weeks to 16 months. The dose varied from 10 mgrm. to 160 mgrm. orally per day, either alone or in combination with scopolamine or stramonium. The study was controlled by the substitution of inert pills in 19 of the patients, and the effect of ephedrine was compared with that of benzedrine in 12 cases.

The results in the post-encephalitic group which signify benefit, derived from benzedrine alone or in combination with scopolamine or stramonium, were as follows: Subjectively increase in energy in 25 out of 26 who complained of lack of energy. Disappearance of drowsiness in 23 out of 24. Increased feeling of strength in 19 out of 26. Decreased or abolished tremor in 7 out of 15. Subjectively decreased muscular rigidity in 20 out of 26. Disappearance of oculogyric crises in 6 out of 8, and greatly diminished frequency and severity in the other 2. Increased ability to work in 22 out of 28. The effect of benzedrine alone was not equal to that obtained with stramonium or scopolamine. Benefit obtained with ephedrine was equal to that of benzedrine in only 3 out of 12 cases. None of the arterio-sclerotic patients was benefited by benzedrine, and there was improvement in only 2 out of 22 among the psychoneurotics. The following untoward symptoms are mentioned as having occurred, especially in the arterio-sclerotic and psychoneurotic groups: insomnia, dizziness, light-headedness, excitement, agitation, nausea, anorexia, vomiting, dryness of the tongue and hallucinations. T. E. BURROWS.

*The Stimulating Action of Benzedrine Sulphate.* (*Journ. Amer. Med. Assoc.*, vol. cviii, p. 1770, May 22, 1937.) Davidoff, E., and Reifstein, E. C., jun.

Benzedrine sulphate in doses of 10 to 30 ngrm. daily, was given to a number of individuals representing each of the following five groups: normal, self-absorbed organic, self-absorbed dementia præcox, depressed manic-depressive and depressed psychoneurotic. None of the subjects except two of the normal group were acquainted with the nature of the medication. Of 10 normal individuals, 7 showed elevation of mood, 7 over-talkativeness, 10 increased motor activity, and 10 increased general efficiency. Five exhibited increased irritability and 3 complained of fatigue. Two suffered from lassitude after the medication was discontinued, and 2 others requested continuation of the drug.

A great variety of other symptoms, mostly unpleasant, are reported, including fatigue, malaise, anxiety, dizziness, aggressiveness and confusion. Of 10 patients in the organic group, 5 exhibited elevation of mood, 7 over-talkativeness, 8 increased motor activity, 8 increased general efficiency, and 3 irritability.

The most consistent improvement was noted in alcoholic and traumatic cases. In the group of 25 cases of dementia præcox, 4 manifested elevation of mood, 7 over-talkativeness, 11 increased motor activity, and 9 increased general efficiency. Five showed increased irritation. Three diagnosed as catatonic were improved and paroled. There was no change in the structure of the psychosis in any of the cases.

Of the depressed manic-depressives 2 showed elevation of mood, 6 over-talkativeness, 6 increased motor activity, 6 increased general efficiency, and 6 increased irritability. One patient became more depressed and attempted suicide. In the group of 10 psychoneurotics, 3 showed elevation of mood, 4 increased motor activity, 2 improved general efficiency and 6 became talkative. The psychoneurosis in each case remained unchanged. T. E. BURROWS.

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