

SULPHANILAMIDE THERAPY IN BACILLARY DYSENTERY.

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(Received July 1, 1939.)

SINCE sulphanilamide has been shown to be of value in the treatment of infections due to a variety of organisms, it was thought that it might be efficacious against bacillary dysentery.

The experiment of adding dilute quantities of sulphanilamide to plates containing a growth of *B. Flexner* on MacConkey's media was first tried. The inhibition of growth was plainly visible as compared with plates made at the same time from the same specimen of fæces to which sulphanilamide had not been added.

As a result of the above, sulphanilamide was given to 21 cases of dysentery, caused by *B. Flexner*, which occurred in the month of December, 1938, and since. As soon as clinical diagnosis was established, two .5 grm. tablets were given three times a day for two days, followed by one .5 grm. tablet three times a day for two days, making a total of eighteen tablets. In all cases treated there was definite fever, toxæmia, abdominal pain and tenesmus. The diagnosis of each case was confirmed bacteriologically: the *B. Flexner*, mostly of the "W" type, was isolated. In each case within 24-48 hours following the first dose the temperature fell to normal; shortly after this the passage of stools containing blood and mucus ceased, to be followed by the passage of formed motions from which *B. Flexner* could not be isolated.

The value of the drug in the treatment of acute cases of bacillary dysentery appears, therefore, to be established. An attempt is now being made to investigate its effect upon chronic carriers—a matter of some difficulty, and for which repeated examinations will be necessary.

Thanks are due to Dr. N. R. Phillips, the Medical Superintendent, who allowed this investigation.