

A NEW CHAULMOOGRA DERIVATIVE

To the EDITOR:

In a recent issue of the JOURNAL [3 (1935) 237] there is a news item referring to a new chaulmoogra derivative which leads us to believe that the product referred to is phenylethyl hydnocarpate, which we have prepared experimentally.

It was pointed out to us that some patients appeared to be extremely sensitive to ethyl esters of hydnocarpus oil, and that for such cases it was desirable to have a product of minimum irritation. A number of esters were made with different alcohols, using a fraction of *H. wightiana* acids from which the specially irritant oxidation products had been eliminated [the JOURNAL 2 (1934) 149]. These were tested pharmacologically and the phenylethyl hydnocarpate proved to be one of the least irritating.

It was hoped that it might also be useful for oral administration to patients unable to tolerate chaulmoogra and hydnocarpus oil by mouth, and preliminary trials have indicated that it is well tolerated.

In England it has been tried in cases of lupus with, we understand, promising results in a fair proportion of cases, and we are informed that results of one of these trials will be published shortly.

We have so far not felt justified in issuing this preparation as one of our regular products, because so few trials have been made with it, but we have maintained a small stock for sale to leprologists who may care to experiment with it. It should be understood that it is not suitable for large scale treatment of leprosy, being more expensive than ethyl esters, but it appears to be worth trial for specially sensitive cases of the type already referred to.

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