

## A NEW HYDNOCARPUS PREPARATION

BY F. G. ROSE, M.D. (CAMB.) M.R.C.P. (LOND.)

*Medical Superintendent, Leprosy Hospital  
Mahaica, British Guiana*

In 1935 I was given for trial, by Messrs. Bayer and Co., Hamburg, a quantity of a hydnocarpus preparation called "Hoechst 4828a." It was said to be suitable for intramuscular injection, causing little pain or irritation.

As the oil and esters prepared here by our own methods cause little or no pain or irritation and are well borne even by small children, it was decided to try this preparation in place of esters for intradermal injection. Employed in this way it was found to give little pain, as a rule, either at the time of injection or after, and to cause the subsidence of cutaneous nodules and thickened areas more rapidly than any other preparation hitherto used.

From August, 1935, to March, 1936, twenty-seven patients were treated. The preparation was gently warmed in the flame of a spirit-lamp, being then quite easily expressed; 0.2 to 1 cc. were injected into each area at a time at intervals of not less than one month. The quantities given in each case varied from 0.2 to 28.5 cc. Intramuscular injections of oil and esters were continued in each case concurrently.

The site of injection in most cases was the face, but upper limbs, lower limbs, trunk and ears were also sometimes chosen. Where a single nodule or perhaps two or three isolated ones are present, excision is undoubtedly the most effective and quickest procedure. In cases of long standing repeated injections are necessary before results are apparent. Where nodules are numerous and widespread, it has not been possible, with our limited staff, to use the method altogether, but isolated nodules treated respond satisfactorily.

The method is most useful (a) for lesions of the face, where repeated application of trichloroacetic acid causes a discoloration of the skin which is very persistent and results in noticeable disfigurement afterwards, and where solid carbon dioxide also leaves a noticeable scar or hypopigmentation. (b) for thickened, discolored areas of skin; and (c) in recent cases.

A careful record has been kept of all the sites injected, the dates of injection, and the quantities given on each occasion. Six cases have shown complete subsidence in eight months of treatment, eight marked though not complete subsidence, seven slight subsidence, in three the nodules were subsequently excised, one has been lost sight of, and in the remaining two little change has up to the present been apparent.