

FURTHER NOTE ON THE TREATMENT OF RHUS POISONING.

O. P. TERRY, Purdue University.

To this Academy, in 1921, was reported¹ a thorough treatment for Rhus poisoning. Since this report was made many cases have been treated successfully by the treatment. The average length of time required for a cure has been about eight days from the date of appearance of the dermatitis. No cause for criticism has been found with the treatment except that recovery is relatively slow.

In September of this year the author's attention was called² to another drug which has been successfully used by a local physician³, now retired. Such marvelous cures were reported following its use that the writer has prescribed it in three cases,—all that have presented themselves for treatment since learning of it.

In these few cases recovery has been rapid, averaging about four days, without even much discomfort attending the dermatitis.

The treatment as now prescribed consists of the following steps. The first two are the same as formerly used.

(1) Thoroughly wash the exposed skin with a heavy lather of laundry (strongly alkaline) soap in warm water, using a soft brush.

(2) Immediately mop off the skin with cotton saturated with ethyl alcohol (denatured with phenol is preferable).

(3) Apply a wet dressing composed of cheesecloth saturated and kept wet with a 10 per cent decoction of Verbena (blue Vervain) leaves. This is to be continued until the skin returns to normal. No other applications are necessary.

This method of treatment of a common condition is here given in the hope that some of you (if so unfortunate as to get poisoned) will try it and report your results. The complete success of the method cannot be vouched for, because of the few cases so far treated, but it seems promising.

¹ Terry, O. P. Proceedings of Indiana Academy of Science, 1921, p. 141.

² Zufall, C. J. Purdue University, *in litt.*

³ Wetheril, R. B., Lafayette, Ind.

