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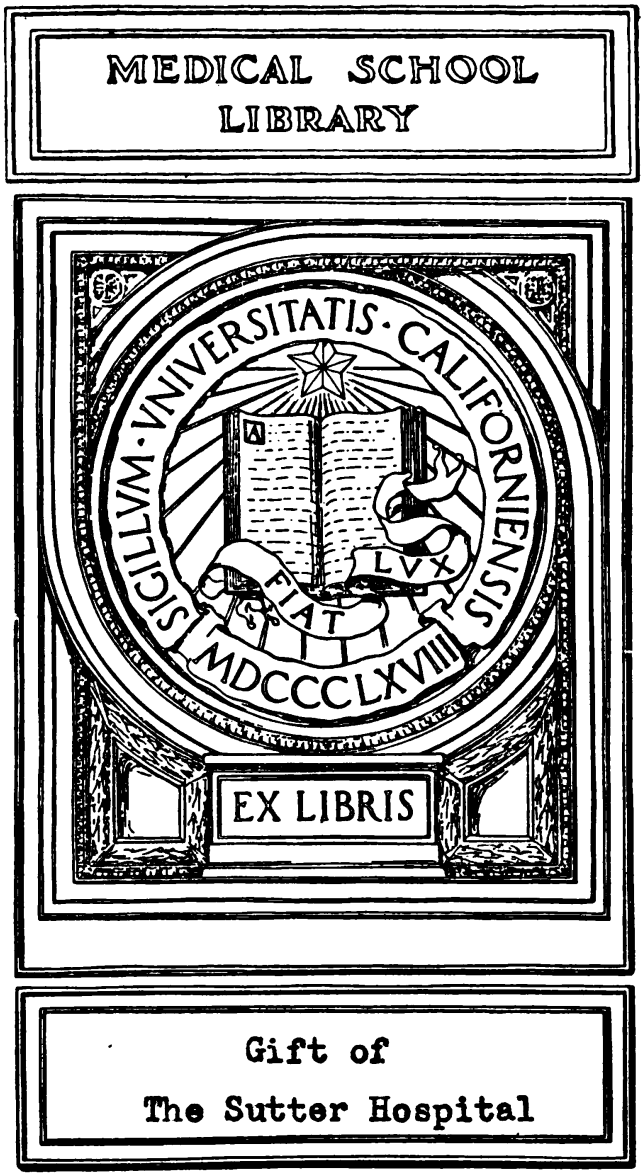

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SPECIFIC MEDICATION

AND

SPECIFIC MEDICINES.

BY

JOHN M. SCUDDER, M. D.

PROFESSOR OF THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF MEDICINE IN THE ECLECTIC MEDICAL INSTITUTE; AUTHOR OF "THE PRINCIPLES OF MEDICINE," "THE ECLECTIC PRACTICE OF MEDICINE," "THE ECLECTIC MATERIA MEDICA AND THERAPEUTICS," "A PRACTICAL TREATISE ON THE DISEASES OF WOMEN," ETC.

CINCINNATI:
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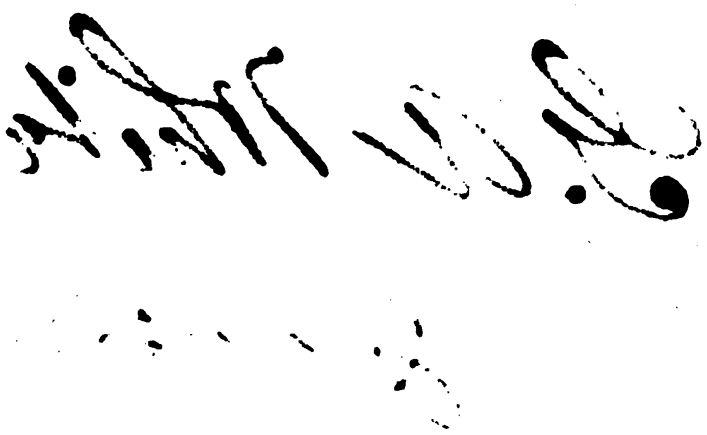

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PREFACE.

For some hundred years or more, there has been a pretty uniform agreement in the statement, so frequently repeated—"there are no specifics in medicine." To have a good reputation for professional acquirements and standing, this was a fundamental article of belief. Whatever might be the certainty in Anatomy, Physiology, Chemistry, and the arts of the Obstetrician and Surgeon, it was essential to believe that the practice of medicine was a great uncertainty.

That it was a great uncertainty, as commonly followed, we are well assured. The records of disease, the mortality tables, and the resultant lesions from the mal-administration of medicines, abundantly testify to this.

This stands confessed in the writings of the most prominent men in the medical profession to-day, who unite in deprecating the use of the older treatment of disease, and the greater safety of the *expectant* plan—which is really diet and rest.

Must we give up medicine entirely? Are there no agencies opposed to processes of disease, that we can employ with certainty? These are the questions of the day, and in answering them, we will decide either for no medicine, or for specific medication.

To determine which of these shall be chosen, the reader will have to refer to his own experience of the action of medi-

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cines, and be guided by it. All will admit the uncertainty of medicine, as now used, but no one will be willing to confess that he really knows nothing in therapeutics. I think it will be safe to assert that every practitioner will have the knowledge of some antagonism of medicine to disease, that is clear, definite and uniform. If he has but one such, it is positive proof there are others, and the evidence that direct or specific medication is a possibility.

Specific medication requires specific diagnosis. We do not propose to teach that single remedies are opposed to diseases according to our present nosology. These consist of an association of functional and structural lesions, varying in degree and combination at different times, very rarely the same in any two cases. To prescribe remedies rationally, we are required to analyze the disease and separate it into its component elements, and for these we select the appropriate remedy.

The writer has had a sufficiently extended experience in the treatment of disease, to say that he knows absolutely that remedies have this direct antagonistic action to disease, and in many instances he is able to define it so that the reader can readily determine its truth. Still the field of investigation is a broad one, it has been but little cultivated, and there are few careful observers, so that much of the work remains for future investigation.

The tendency of medicine in all schools, however, is in the one direction. The giving up of the old uncertainty is the first step, then follows the careful study of individual remedies, and their use to accomplish certain well defined objects. One need not be a prophet to forecast the future in this respect. The medicine of the future will very certainly be *direct*, or as we have chosen to term it, "Specific Medication."

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The object of the author has been to make the subject as plain as possible, and not to obscure it with useless verbiage. The first intention was to tell only what he knew—then this small volume would have been but a pamphlet. But on further consideration it was deemed best, to point out the lines of investigation with the larger number of our indigenous medicines, that they might be thoroughly tested.

No apology is offered for its shortcomings. It has been compiled in considerable part, from monthly articles in the Eclectic Medical Journal, and is presented to the profession as a guide in part, but especially as an incentive to the re-study of the Materia Medica.

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SPECIFIC MEDICATION

AND

SPECIFIC MEDICINES.

THE THEORY OF SPECIFIC MEDICATION.

I take it for granted that the reader will concede that all agents employed as medicines act either upon function or structure, and that this action to be curative must be opposed to the processes of disease. This proposition seems so plain that it requires no presentation of facts in proof, yet it is well to give it careful consideration, and arrange such facts as may have come under the reader's observation in its support.

If the action of a remedy is to oppose a process of disease, evidently its selection will depend—first, upon a correct knowledge of the disease, and second, upon a correct knowledge of this opposition of remedies to it.

It is a law of the universe, "that like causes always produce like effects," or to reverse it, "that like effects always flow from like causes." Therefore, if we can determine the opposition of a remedy

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to a process of disease in any given case, we have determined it in all like cases. And, to make use of this knowledge subsequently it is only necessary that we be able to determine the *exact* condition of disease, when we very certainly expect to obtain the same curative (opposing) action from the remedy.

In describing this action to another, it is necessary—first, that we so observe and group the signs and symptoms of disease, that he may get the exact idea of the pathological condition to be opposed. The skill required is in diagnosis, and necessitates a very thorough re-study of pathology, ignoring to a great extent, our present nosology. To facilitate this study, the author has published a work—"The Principles of Medicine"—which embodies his views, and will serve as a basis for specific or direct medication. Much that might be deemed necessary in this monograph, will there be found in its proper connection, and we have not deemed it desirable to separate it and reproduce it here.

Many persons are in error in regard to *our* use of the term *specific*. They think of a *specific medicine*, as one that will cure all cases of a certain disease, according to our present nosology, as pneumonitis, dysentery, diarrhœa, albuminuria, phthisis, etc.; and a person looking at the subject in this light, and guided by his experience in the use of remedies, would at once say there are no specifics.

We use the term *specific* with relation to definite pathological conditions, and propose to say, that

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certain well determined deviations from the healthy state, will always be corrected by certain specific medicines.

A disease, according to our present nosology, may be formed of one, or of a half-dozen or more distinct pathological changes, bearing a determinate relation to one another. We do not propose to reach all of these by one remedy, except in those cases in which one lesion is primary, and the others result from it. But on the contrary, we propose a remedy for each pathological feature, using the remedy for that first which is first in the chain of morbid action, and that second which stands second, and so on.

As an example, we analyze a case of fever, and find it to consist of a lesion of the circulation, a lesion of innervation, a lesion of secretion, a lesion of the blood, and a lesion of nutrition; each of these is regarded as a distinct element of the disease, but in the order named,—the one depending upon the other to a certain extent. A remedy that will rectify the lesion of circulation, will sometimes be sufficient to arrest the entire chain of morbid phenomena—as we notice in the simple fevers. Or a remedy that will correct the lesion of the blood—this being primary and the cause of the various morbid processes,—will be a *specific* for all, as when quinine arrests an intermittent or remittent fever.

But in the severer types of disease, we find it necessary to use a remedy or remedies for each pathological feature. Thus, we employ one to correct the lesion of circulation, one to correct the lesion

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of innervation, special remedies to increase secretion, to correct the lesion of the blood, etc. Instead of one remedy to arrest the disease, according to the ordinary use of the term specific, we employ a number of different agents, which are none the less specific, for they meet distinct features of the diseased action.

To employ remedies in this way, it is requisite that we analyze the disease according to what we know of pathology, determining definitely the elements that go to form it, and their relation to one another.

And secondly, that we know the direct influence of remedies upon the human body, both in health and disease; that we use them singly or in simple combinations; that we do one thing at a time: that first which is first, that second which holds the second place, and so on.

If one expects to obtain the advantages of *specific* medication, he must not associate it with *indirect* medication. The direct sedatives, with free podophyllin catharsis — veratrum in pneumonia, with nauseants, blisters, etc., are incompatible. Success comes from one or the other alone. If I use *direct* medication I use it alone, and if I use *indirect* medication I use it alone. If we propose to treat a case of croup with Aconite, we do not use nauseants; if we propose to cure a case of cholera infantum with Ipecac and Nux Vomica, we do not want astringents.

But we go further into the analysis of diseased

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action as expressed by symptoms, than many suppose. The success of direct medication comes from the definiteness of diagnosis—determining the *exact* condition of a function or part.

To illustrate, it is not sufficient in selecting a sedative to know that the pulse is frequent, using alike Veratrum, Aconite, Digitalis, Gelseminum, or Lobelia. Frequency is but one element of the lesion: and we have to determine in addition the strength or weakness of the circulation, the degree of obstruction of the capillary circulation, and the condition of the nervous system that controls this function. Thus, where there is strength with frequency we employ Veratrum; feebleness with frequency, Aconite; excitation of the nervous system with strength and frequency, Gelseminum; atony of the nervous system and tendency to stasis of blood, Aconite and Belladonna; feeble impulse from the heart, without capillary obstruction, Digitalis, etc.

It is not sufficient to know that the tongue is coated, indicating an impairment or arrest of digestion. We make this secretion give us the history of blood lesions, as well as of gastric and intestinal derangements. We learn that *pallid* mucous membranes with white coat demand alkalies; that *deep* red mucous membranes and brown coat call for acids; that a dirty-white, pasty coat requires the alkaline sulphites, etc. It is not necessary to continue this illustration further, for the reader will see by the above that the *specific medication* requires *spe-*

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cific diagnosis, and that it will be successful just in proportion as we become skilled in this.

It is true that almost any one can use Veratrum and Aconite successfully, for the conditions are so prominent that they can not be mistaken; or any one may successfully prescribe Aconite in sporadic dysentery from cold; Ipecac in the diarrhœa of children; Collinsonia or Hamamelis for hemorrhoids; Collinsonia for ministers' sore throat; Cactus for heart disease; Pulsatilla for nervousness; Staphysagria for prostatorrhœa; Eryngium Aquaticum for cystic or urethral irritation; Apocynum Canabinum for dropsy, etc., etc. These remedies have an extra value attached to them, because the conditions indicating them are so easily determined.

Yet the reader will learn with surprise that ten years since, with but one exception, not one of these agents were used for the purpose named. In 1860, 10 lbs. of the crude root of Collinsonia supplied the market for a year; now one house gets in 10,000 lbs. for the year's supply.

SPECIFIC DIAGNOSIS.

We have already insisted upon the necessity of specific diagnosis if we are to expect definite curative action from medicines. This is a very important element of specific or direct medication that many physicians do not seem to understand. When we speak of specific medication they get the idea of an absolute cure for disease according to our

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present nosology, and say there is no such thing as a specific medicine. They expect to guess at the name of a disease, and find a remedy that will fit their guess-work. To suit such, a medicine must be like a blunderbuss, scattering its shot all over the field, giving a probability that some will reach the mark.

Direct medication, on the contrary, requires *specific diagnosis.* We must know exactly what the departure from health is, and knowing this we may select a remedy which will correct it. As was remarked before, the physician must have first a thorough knowledge of *healthy* life, and be able to recognize it, or any departure from it. Thus Anatomy and Physiology are the true basis of direct medication, for if we do not know the healthy structure and function, it is not possible that we can *know* the diseased structure and function.

We have a very simple rule for measuring the departure from health, and it is easily applied. It is in one of three directions—*excess*, *defect*, or *perversion*—above, below, or from. If we can measure disease in this way, the desired remedial action is at once suggested—if in excess it is to be diminished, if defective it is to be increased, if perverted it is to be brought back to the normal standard. In a majority of acute diseases, we will find these departures so clearly marked that the diagnosis and treatment are very easy.

But as there are many elements that go to make healthy life in man, so there are many that go to

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make the sum of disease. These will be found in varying combination, yet in most cases there are certain prominent lesions which may be regarded as standing first in the chain of morbid phenomena and upon which the others rest. If we can find remedies which will reach and correct these, the disease is at an end, and the natural restorative power of the body soon gives health.

The most simple form of specific medication is where a single remedy is sufficient to arrest the process of disease. As when we prescribe Collinsonia for ministers' sore throat, Drosera for the cough of measles, Belladonna for congestive headache, Macrotys for muscular pains, Hamamelis for hemorrhoids, Phytolacca for mammary irritation, Cactus for functional heart disease, Staphysagria for prostatorrhœa, etc. This use of remedies gives great satisfaction in the treatment of many diseases, and we are led to wish that the practice of medicine could be resolved into the giving of such specifics.

Not quite so simple, but yet very plain is the second form of direct medication, illustrated by the following examples. A heavily loaded tongue at base, with a bad taste in the mouth and fullness in the epigastric region, demanding an emetic. A uniformly yellowish coated tongue from base to tip, relieved by Podophyllin or Leptandrin. A pallid tongue, coated white, calling for a salt of soda. A pallid large tongue, with a moist pasty coat, demanding the alkaline sulphites, say sulphite of soda. The deep red tongue and mucous membranes with

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brownish coatings, demanding the use of acids, say muriatic acid.

Quite as plain, but not so easily and directly reached by medicine, is the need of a good condition of the intestinal canal for digestion and blood making, and associated with it the recognition of the need of certain restoratives that may be necessary to normal nutrition and functional activity. These are essentials in the treatment of every form of disease. In acute cases, it is required first to rid our patient of functional disease before we can fully establish digestion and nutrition, but in chronic disease it will many times stand first, and must always be associated with treatment for local lesions.

The complement of this is, treatment to increase the removal of old and word-out tissues, and thus relieve the solids and fluids of material that must necessarily depress functional activity. Probably we have as little positive knowledge of remedies that increase retrograde metamorphosis, as of any other class, still they are being studied, and in time we will be enabled to use them directly. Remedies that increase excretion are in common use, and form a very important part of our practice. From the earliest periods of medicine, the fact that disease is destructive has been recognized. Destruction of the material of our bodies, necessarily leaves the debris either in solids or fluids, and experience has shown that it can not remain in the body with safety. Hence the common use of those agents

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that stimulate excretion from skin, kidneys and bowels.

But there has been a failure to appreciate the true nature of these processes, and from this has flowed a very great deal of bad practice. These processes are strictly vital processes, carried on by delicate organisms under the control of the nervous system. As they are the basis of life, we may well suppose that nature has guarded them on all sides, and that they are the true centre of life. The doctor of the olden time has looked upon them as mechanisms to be powerfully influenced by remedies. He powerfully excites the stomach and intestinal canal as a means of derivation, and works upon the skin and kidneys as if secretion from them were a purely physical process. Thousands of lives have been and are being destroyed in this way. Any one who will take up Huxley's Physiology, and read the clear and simple description of this apparatus for digestion and waste, upon which our lives rest, can not but be satisfied that the common practice of medicine is a very great wrong. A man lives, because he has the power of renewing his life day by day. Take away this power and he will die in a brief time; take it away in part, and you have lessened his power to that extent; take it away for an hour, for a day, or for a week, and his power to live is weakened to that extent.

When we regard these processes as strictly vital processes, in highly developed organs, under the control of a most delicately adjusted nervous system,

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we will be in a position to use remedies to aid vital action. Studying the condition of the stomach and intestinal canal in this light, we will see how a direct stimulant, or tonic, an alkali, an acid, a remedy that will relieve nervous irritation, or one that will give increased innervation, will in different cases be an aid to digestion. Looking farther, we will see the necessity, in one case of histogenetic food, in another of calorifacient, in one of iron, in another of phosphorus, etc. It is just as much *specific medication* to be able to select the proper food for the sick as it is the proper medicine.

One or two examples of this may not be out of place. The past winter I was called in consultation, in a case of continued fever in the third week. The treatment, so far as medicine was concerned, had been very judicious, but the food had been starchy, and for a week the patient had been able to take very little. He was failing fast, and stimulants and tonics were used without advantage. The most striking features of the disease to me were: the feebleness of the heart's action, the want of respiratory power, and the evidences of a general failure of muscular power—in all other respects the patient was in good condition. I advised enemata of beef-essence, and its internal administration in small quantities frequently repeated, and a suspension of all medicine. The effect was marked in twenty-four hours, and the patient speedily recovered. In the early part of my practice I had occasion to call Dr. William Judkins in consultation, in

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the case of a lady who had incipient phthisis developed from menstrual irregularity. She was very feeble, and I had been giving her freely of the bitter tonics, stimulants and animal food. The old Quaker remarked, if thee will stop the medicine and stimulants, and give her *fatty* matter she will recover—and the result justified the old doctor's skill in diagnosis. I have had to take this advice twice in the past eighteen months, from other parties, when I should have recognized it myself; in both it was the one thing necessary to success.

With regard to excretion, we must be thoroughly impressed with the fact that it is *wholly* a vital process, and not a process of straining. When we come to understand that a secreting organ is continually growing secreting cells, and that these withdraw from the blood the worn-out materials of our bodies, we will be in a position to use remedies with better success. Evidently it is possible to so over-stimulate or over-work an excretory organ, that this function of cell-production will be very much diminished or altogether arrested. Just in this proportion must secretion be impaired or wholly arrested. The best remedies to increase secretion are those that act mildly and stimulate vital function.

Thus far direct medication is very plain sailing. All can succeed with it, yet successes will be in proportion to the physician's acuteness of observation, and to some extent upon his knowledge of remedies. But beyond this we have a field that requires a very thorough knowledge of vital processes, accurate ob-

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servation, and an extended knowledge of remedies. We study not so much the grosser manifestations of disease, but the more delicate shadings and combinations, and our therapeutics requires that we have a most intimate knowledge of the influence of remedies upon the human body. In this field of study the physician will find a beauty and certainty in the practice of medicine that will give zest to investigation, and as it is pursued he will find greater and greater success.

DIFFERENCE FROM HOMŒOPATHY.

The question has been asked, "In what does your theory of specific medication differ from Homœopathy?" The question is a pertinent one, and I will endeavor to answer it briefly.

The law, *similia similibus*, upon which the Homœopathic practice is based, is defined in two ways. One contends that the drug, used for cure, "produces the essential morbid condition" when proven in health. The other, "that it produces similar symptoms," but not the exact pathological condition.

The truth in this law of *similia similibus*, is, that certain agents, called medicines, act on particular organs, parts, and functions of the human body in a uniform manner. They act equally on the organ, part, or function, in health and disease; and thus acting in health, they produce such change in the phenomena of life as to render the action sensible

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to the person—symptoms. If an agent directly and uniformly produces an influence upon a particular part, it is more likely to be used as a remedy in disease of that part than another which does not influence the part at all.

Remedies are, therefore, those agents which directly and uniformly influence an organ, part, or function. The question then comes up, are they remedies because "they will produce a similar state of disease," or because they are opposed to diseased action?

The Homœopaths will not admit any explanation of their law of *similia*. The remedy is a remedy *because* it will produce the exact diseased condition, or at least the exact symptoms of such condition.

I contend that a drug is a specific remedy: first, because it influences uniformly and directly the part or function diseased; and second, because it *opposes* such diseased action. I would, therefore, write the law of cure *opponens opponenda*, instead of *similia similibus*.

I find a late authority in Homœopathy agrees with me in this. Dr. v. Grauvogl, in his "Lehrbuch Der Homœopathy," says:—"The conception of a specific remedy expresses the mutual relation existing between it and parts of the organism, which has to be ascertained empirically by physiological provings of drugs. For some part of the organism is in a relation of immunity, for other parts of attraction, for others again one of repulsion, and always *vice versa*. For instance, there is a spe-

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cific form of fever and ague which, for these very reasons, is cured by Quinine, a dose or quantity of Quinine being given which corresponds to the intensity of the attack."

Again with reference to the dose of medicines: "All we have to do is to determine, independently of all subjective persuasions and incomprehensibilities, what quantity of a substance is necessary in order to produce in any morbidly affected part of the organism a chemical or physical counter-movement of equal intensity, and in an opposite direction to the movement originated by the morbific cause, with a view of arresting, or at least, retarding this latter, and finally discontinuing it altogether by repeating the dose. * * * The problem is simply to determine what remedial movement quantities will antagonize as their equivalent the movements that had been excited by the morbific agent; for the measure of the force is the effect, nothing else. To solve this problem we have the natural law according to which quantity contains the measure of the movement and counter-movement; consequently for therapeutic purposes, the correct dose consists in a quantity of force of the indicated quality which is equal to the quantity of force of the morbific agent, and in its movements runs in a contrary direction to the quality of the latter."

In ordinary practice, whether it be Old School or Eclectic, there is no *principle* or *law* of cure. Remedies are not given because they are opposed to or

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agree with diseased action, but simply because they have been previously used with reputed good success. It is, in fact, pure empiricism. The old dogma of phlogosis and antiphlogistics, and the new doctrine of impaired vitality and restorative medication, guides the empirical use of remedies in the one or other direction.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINES.

We may lay it down as an *axiom*, from which it is never safe to depart, that—*No medicine should be given, unless the pathological condition and the indications for its use are clearly defined.* It is much better to employ a *placebo*, than run the risk of doing harm by medication.

Good nursing is an essential element in the successful practice of medicine, and always requires direction by the physician; keeping the stomach in good condition for the reception of food and medicine, is of first importance, and requires attention. Following this is the selection of proper food, its preparation, and the time for its administration. These alone very well repay the careful attention and thought of the physician, even if he can not see an indication for the employment of remedies.

When we recollect that the cause of disease is always depressing, and a source of constant renewal, we will see that the removal of the cause from the patient or the patient from the cause, or the antagonism of remedies to remove the cause, is a proper

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field for our efforts. If we can see clearly that the condition of disease is one of depression—that in proportion as a man is sick, his vitality is lessened, such means as will increase the power to live, or the resistance of the body to death, will be suggested.

As we have stated before, we make an analysis of the disease and divide it into its component parts, before making a prescription of medicine. There are certain *basic* functions or conditions upon which all others rest, and which are essential to life. These demand our first consideration. Thus the *circulation of the blood*, the *temperature*, the *condition of the nervous system*, *waste*, *excretion*, the *condition of the blood*, *blood-making* and *nutrition*, are examined separately. Determining the lesion of these, we prescribe such remedy as antagonizes it, and brings the function toward the healthy standard. Some one of them will stand first in the series of pathological changes, and will serve as a basis for others, and this will receive first attention. Thus we prescribe at the other lesions, in the order in which they seem to be arranged.

As a rule, *it is best to do one thing at a time.* We prescribe first for that lesion which *is* first in the chain of morbid action. Then maintaining the influence obtained by a continuation of the remedy, we do that second which is second, and that third which is third, and so on.

In the cure of disease *time* is an important element, and it is never best to be in a hurry. Here,

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the old proverb "haste makes waste," is a very true one. As a rule, the severer the disease, the slower its development; the slower the departure from health the greater the impairment of function and structure, and necessarily the slower its restoration.

The manifestations of life in man are from a highly developed organism, the perfection of which is a work of time. Every manifestation of life necessitates a continued renewal of structure, requiring an expenditure of that force we know as vital. Therefore, when the manifestations of life are abnormal (disease), we must necessarily allow time for the development of the organism, increased because the vital force is impaired.

As a rule, *it is best to change the manifestations of diseased life slowly*, giving sufficient time for the organism to adapt itself to the change, and gain increased strength as it returns to the condition of health. It will never do to suppress a process of disease at the risk of suppressing the organism upon which natural function depends.

As a rule, *it is best to effect these changes insensibly, or without shock to an organ or to the entire body.* In this, as in all other things, it is the slow but continued application of an opposing force, that accomplishes the greatest results. Many thousands of sick have been hurried to their graves by the sudden and forcible efforts of the physician to remove disease. This is one of the most prominent

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errors of the old practice, and will require considerable effort to avoid.

As a rule, *it is best to employ remedies singly, or in simple combination of remedies acting in the same way.* The reasons for this rule are obvious. It prevents random or scattering prescriptions. We either know a *single* remedy that will accomplish the object, or we know nothing and have no right to make a prescription. There can not be anything in a combination that is not in the individual articles composing it, and in some one of them *par excellence:* this is the remedy to use. In direct medication we want no modifying influences; we want the plain and constant action of a simple remedy.

THE FORM OF MEDICINE.

The common action of many medicines obtained in the old practice is the poisonons action. The agent is given in such large doses and is so *nauseous*, that the human body in self-preservation is forced to act upon and expel it. Thus, an emetic forces the stomach to an act of expulsion, and we have emesis; a cathartic influences the intestinal canal in like manner and we have catharsis; and so with diaphoretics and diuretics. A different class, which may be represented by mercury, antimony, and arsenic, obtain entrance to the blood, and depressing this, they depress every manifestation of life until they are finally slowly removed.

If we desire to obtain these grave influences of

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medicine, the form is not particular, neither is the size of the dose—if the patient can stand it. But if we desire that slow, insensible, but direct action that I have spoken of, we want our remedies in such form that they will be kindly received and have a kindly action upon the organism.

We have also to take into consideration the preservation of the article, uniformity of action, pleasantness to the sick, portability, and ease of prescription. These hold a secondary place, yet are very important.

A class of remedies may be regarded as chemicals, and these we desire in greatest purity, and only purchase such as bear the names of the best manufacturers. Such are Quinia, Morphia, Sulphite of Soda, Phosphate of Soda, the Bromides, etc.

The largest class is obtained from the vegetable world, and are products of nature's laboratory. These we wish unchanged by art, as nature has prepared them, simply reducing the bulk, and using a vehicle to preserve them.

Very certainly the best menstruum for all vegetable remedies is alcohol and water in varying proportion. There is no vegetable product that does not yield its medicinal properties to these, in a very concentrated form, the alcohol being in sufficient proportion for preservation. Not only so, but with modern apparatus for percolation, the fluid may easily represent the strength of ounce for ounce, giving sufficient concentration to make it portable.

The tincture thus prepared is miscible with water,

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which is undoubtedly the best vehicle for the introduction of a remedy into the blood. In using a hypodermic injection, we employ water as a vehicle for the medicine, and not simple syrup, syrup of lemon or ginger, an extract of quassia or other nasty substance, and so in introducing remedies into the circulation we will find water decidedly the best vehicle.

Remedies in *pura naturalibus* are not offensive, it is the covering them up, and mixing them that makes them unpleasant. Doctors' potions are proverbially nasty, and the public mind has been cultivated to believe that a mixture in a bottle must be an offence to smell, taste and stomach. The thoughts of such medicines are enough to make some sick.

My prescriptions are uniformly made with water as a vehicle, the tincture being added to it in such proportion that the dose will be a teaspoonful. If the tinctures are carried in the pocket case, we add them to a glass of water in proper proportion, and renew the medicine at each visit that it may be fresh.

In the treatment of diseases of children this extemporaneous dispensing is especially desirable. Children are naturally adverse to anything unpleasant, and one ordinary drugging is sufficient to "put them against medicine." It is very unpleasant to be required to force medicine upon a child against its wishes, still more to throw it down, hold it forcibly, and grasping its nose make it swallow the

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mixture. No wonder parents turn from such practice to Homœopathy.

It has been my practice to have the little patient see all the operations of preparing the medicine. It sees the pocket case, inspects the bottles, and is convinced that everything is clean and there is nothing objectionable. The glass of water is placed before it, and the few drops of medicine added, and to the request, "My dear, taste this and see if the medicine is not good," it offers no objection, is satisfied, and you have obtained the little patient's confidence, and will never lose it until you abuse it.

THE DOSE OF MEDICINE.

As a rule, *the dose of medicine should be the smallest quantity that will produce the desired result.* The proper dose, or that which gives the best result, is very much smaller than one who has been used to the large doses of indirect medicine would suppose possible. Yet it is not infinitesimal, as our Homœopathic friends would have us believe. It is difficult to state what the dose should be as yet, but I believe those named in connection with the remedies are the *maximum.*

A few examples may serve to illustrate this. In the olden time we thought the dose of a strong tincture of Macrotys was from half to one teaspoonful, repeated every two or three hours, until "the head felt like bursting." I now find the remedy much more certain in the proportion of ℥j. of the

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tincture to water ℥iv. a teaspoonful every two hours. The common directions for using Veratrum (Norwood's Tincture) were to commence with a dose of three drops every three hours, increasing one drop each hour, until its full effect was produced. Now the dose is always less than one drop. Aconite was formerly given in doses of drops, now in fractions of drops.

The dose will vary in different cases, and with different practitioners. If it falls below the grass or poisonous action of the drug, it will have specific influence, and the diagnosis being right, will accomplish the object of the prescriber. I am satisfied that the size of the dose does not make such difference as has been thought, and that the essential element of success is to get the *right* remedy.

THE PREPARATION OF REMEDIES.

The majority of physicians will prepare but few remedies themselves, yet it is just as essential that they know how they should be prepared, as if they made them all. With an intelligent understanding of the simpler processes of pharmacy, he will have a much better knowledge of the physical properties of medicines, and be enabled to judge somewhat of their purity and efficiency when purchasing.

The general drug trade has been a miserable fraud upon the profession. Whether selling crude or manufactured articles, the chances were ten to one that they were adulterated, and not what they

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were represented, (Morphia, Quinia, and some of the common chemicals, have been exceptions.)

So far has this sophistication been carried that all certainty in medicine, even in gross drugging for indirect effect, has been lost. Solid or fluid extracts are found of all degrees of strength, from the highest named in the pharmacopœia to nothing. In many cases they are prepared from old and worthless crude material, that has partly or wholly lost its medicinal properties, yet it is sold in the same packages and at the same prices, as if good.

There is but one safe plan for the physician in procuring remedies, and that is by personal experiment to satisfy himself that a *good* remedy can be readily prepared, and learn to know it when he sees it. Deal with houses that claim to prepare remedies from recent crude material, of full strength, without heat, and return every package that does not come up to the full standard of strength and excellence.

It is well to adopt a simple nomenclature for fluid medicines. Let them be called *tinctures*, as they are prepared with alcohol, and specify the strength ounce for ounce, of crude material to fluid preparation.

I insist that all vegetable remedies should be prepared from the *recent* crude material obtained at its proper season. In some cases the remedy does not materially deteriorate within the year, and may be kept in stock until the next season for gathering. But in all cases it is better if prepared at once after gathering, and in many the preparation should be

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from the *fresh* article before any dessication. The reasons are obvious—the medicinal properties are found in the juices of the plant, or stored in its cells, principally of the bark. In both cases drying removes the medicinal principle, to a greater or less extent. The medicinal principles of plants are to a considerable extent complex and unstable organic bodies, and time, with its constant processes of change and decay, changes, deteriorates, and finally destroys them.

Strength of Fluid Remedies. — As before remarked, a remedy is desirable in proportion as it is easily carried and dispensed, (leaving out of the question its medicinal action), hence concentration becomes an important element of pharmacy. A skilled manufacturer who has the proper appliances, has no difficulty in removing all the medicinal properties from vegetable products, so that one Troy ounce of crude material will be contained in one fluid-ounce of the tincture.

This may be accomplished by the simple process of percolation, in most cases. In some pharmacies this is supplemented by powerful pressure; in other cases, the hydraulic press being employed with advantage. In other establishments, the new process of percolation under atmospheric pressure, has been adopted with great advantage. Either of these methods if carefully and honestly conducted will give reliable and uniform remedies. If we can make up our minds that it is quality, rather than quantity, that we should look after, slight variations

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of strength will make but little difference. I do not wish to be understood, however, as admitting that there can be any great variation of medicinal strength, if recent crude material is used, and the product represents ounce for ounce, and the pharmaceutical processes have been skillfully conducted.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF FLUID REMEDIES.—The fluid preparations should possess the exact physical properties (intensified), as regards odor and taste, of the fresh crude material. It will have the color of the chlorophyll of the article, but should be clear and transparent, and give no sediment, or muddiness when shaken. These may seem like minor matters, yet we will find it profitable to give them attention. Skilled pharmacy gives fine looking remedies, and they are likely to be good. Unskilled pharmacy gives dirty-looking preparations, and they are likely to be inferior.

We may judge to a considerable extent of the goodness of chemicals in the same way. If we find our Sulphate of Quinia and Morphia presenting the clear white silky or feathered crystals, we are satisfied that we have good remedies. But if it is dull, discolored, crystals faint, broken, or amorphous, we want none of it. So in the purchase of the Bromides, Iodides, Salts of Potash and Soda, Iron, etc., we expect to find the highest physical qualities, associated with purity and efficiency. If a salt is discolored, or in any wise deficient in its appearance, we want none of it.

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OFFICE PHARMACY.

There are good reasons why every physician should have such knowledge of pharmacy, that he can perform or direct all the simpler operations for preparing medicines. Without this knowledge, his education is deficient, in that he has not that knowledge of his *tools* which is so essential to good work. He is in a condition to be imposed upon by imperfect and worthless remedies, and must surely lose confidence in medicine, except given in large doses, for its gross effects.

In country practice, a knowledge and practice of office pharmacy is an important element of success. The preparation of a remedy gives an interest in it that leads to thorough study and careful use. We learn what a good preparation is, and its advantages over the common stock in the drug trade, and we will afterward use more care in making our purchases. It economizes time, saves money, and cultivates habits of thrift, all of which are deficient in the medical profession.

It is not only an excellent school for the physician himself, but is also an admirable school for the student. It is a study of the Materia Medica, that gives a practical knowledge of remedies, and impresses the mind through the organs of sense, leaving lasting impressions.

I do not wish to be understood as advising the preparation of *all* medicines; or keeping the office

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dirty and unsightly with the refuse of roots, barks, and herbs. This is the opposite of what we desire; skill is associated with neatness and cleanliness. I know some pharmacists that are so slovenly and dirty in person and surroundings, that I should not like to take their medicines. (The only one who ever offered an objection to office pharmacy, had these faults in excess.)

A half dozen neat tin percolators of the capacity of two to ten pounds, hung in a closet or cupboard, with a large mortar, comprises the apparatus. The alcohol is kept in stock, and the crude material is procured at proper seasons and used fresh, or in some cases is ordered of the wholesale druggist when obtaining other medicines.

The process of percolation is a very simple one. The crude material requires to be as finely comminuted and as closely packed in the percolator as possible. It is then covered with alcohol, and allowed to stand for forty-eight hours, when the tincture is drawn off. Filter it through paper, and you have a fine looking remedy, that will give satisfaction whenever used.

In office pharmacy I have advised the strength to be ℥viij. of the crude material to the pint of alcohol, because it is more easily manipulated by one who is not expert. All the formula in this work are of this strength, for every remedy named may be prepared in the office.

The physician in the country will probably prepare only those remedies that are indigenous, and

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at the proper season the year's supply. It is not very difficult to find some one to gather the crude material, and the preparation comes at that season when there is least to do.

CLASSIFICATION OF REMEDIES.

I have been in doubt in regard to the best plan of arranging the remedies in this study. Evidently the old classification will not serve our purpose, for it deals with indirect action; and the influence of remedies in poisonous doses. We have not advanced far enough to make a new classification; at least, to make one that would facilitate our study. I have, therefore, concluded to take up the different articles in alphabetical order, and so far as possible make a brief review of our entire Materia Medica.

When a remedy has no especial value, it will be named so; and when it seems to have a specific action, not fully determined, this will be pointed out for future experiment. Self-deception is a very unprofitable pursuit, and great care will therefore be employed to insure accuracy, and no statement made unless pretty thoroughly proven.

The best preparations, and the best process for office manufacture will be given, also the form in which we deem it desirable to use them.

When we have thus given the Materia Medica a review, we will be better able to make a classification.

Some suggestions, however, as to the general in-

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dications for treatment, and use of remedies, may not be out of place, and will serve as a further illustration of our idea of specific medication.

In all acute, and most chronic diseases, our examination of the patient and our therapeutics will take this order: 1. With reference to the condition of the stomach and intestinal canal—bringing them to as nearly a normal condition as possible, that remedies may be kindly received and appropriated, and that sufficient food may be taken and digested. 2. With reference to the circulation of the blood, and the temperature—obtaining a normal circulation as regards frequency and freedom, and a temperature as near 98° as possible. 3. With reference to the presence of a *zymotic* poison, or other cause of disease—which may be neutralized, antagonized or removed. 4. With reference to the condition of the nervous system—giving good innervation. 5. With reference to the processes of waste and excretion—that the worn-out or enfeebled material may be broken down and speedily removed from the body. 6. With reference to blood-making and repair—that proper material be furnished for the building of tissue, and that the processes of nutrition are normally conducted.

These are general outlines for the study of disease, and the action of remedies in antagonizing it, and may aid in giving direction to our study, and enable each one to make a classification of remedies for himself. A brief consideration of each one, with examples of the application of remedies,

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though it will be a repetition, may be of advantage to the student.

1. The condition of the stomach is of first importance in the treatment of disease. It must be in such condition that it will receive remedies kindly, and permit their speedy absorption, in order that they give us the desired results. Surely, it is not difficult to see the necessity of this, if we take no further view than to obtain the curative action of remedies. If the stomach does not receive a remedy kindly, is irritated by it, we can not expect ready absorption, or the complete curative action. If the stomach throws out its juices, which digest or decompose a remedy, we can not expect its curative action. If the stomach is secreting mucus in large quantity, if it is in that condition in which it is but a receptacle or retainer, then we can not expect the ready absorption of remedies, and will not get their curative action.

We are accustomed to specify two conditions of the stomach, which may be tolerably easily determined by constant symptoms, and which should always be corrected. These are:—

Irritation of the stomach, marked by a reddened (bright) tongue, elongated and pointed, with sometimes reddened and erect papillæ. It is accompanied with unpleasant sensations of constriction, and tenderness on pressure over the epigastrium. There may be nausea, retching, or vomiting; and in the severer cases, when prolonged, an irritation

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of the sympathetic, and finally of the spinal and cerebral nervous systems.

Its treatment takes precedence of everything else, for until removed we can not expect the kindly or definite action of remedies.

The remedies employed for its removal are: minute doses of Aconite; small doses of Ipecac or Lobelia; Hydrocyanic Acid, or better, a preparation of the bark of the Peach tree; Rhubarb; Bismuth. These may be aided by the external use of the cold pack, hot fomentations, or rubefacient application, and sometimes an enema to remove the torpor of the lower bowel. From twelve to forty-eight hours, is usually the time required to effect it.

But, the reader may ask, why if remedies are *specific*, name so many for the relief of so simple a pathological condition as gastric irritation? The question is pertinent, and we will endeavor to answer it. Each of these remedies has a direct action in this condition, and each may be relied upon as a remedy. We choose the remedy, however, with reference to the association of diseased action, and in some cases one will be found best, in others another.

b. The *atonic* stomach, with increased secretion of mucus, and sometimes with considerable accumulations. It is marked by the broad tongue, heavily coated at its base, bad taste in the mouth, and feeling of weight and heaviness in the epigastrium. The symptoms are distinct, and can not be mistaken.

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When the condition is pronounced, in severer forms of disease, there is no means which will reach it so directly and speedily as an emetic. It needs to be prompt and thorough in action, not producing debility or leaving the organ irritable. If not requiring this, we may accomplish the same object by the use of the Alkaline Sulphites, followed by Nux Vomica.

We have many minor lesions that can not be classified under these, to which we will find single remedies specific. Thus in simple nausea and vomiting, without irritation, we prescribe Nux Vomica. In typhoid disease, with tumid mucous tissues, the Baptisia. Increased mucous secretion with irritability, Oxide of Zinc. Imperfect gastric secretion, Hydrastis. Increased mucous secretion with impaired functional activity, minute doses of Podophyllin, etc.*

2. We recognize the fact, *that just in proportion to the variation of the circulation and temperature from the normal standard is the severity and activity of disease.* The more frequent the pulse, and the higher the temperature, the more active a zymotic poison, the more rapid the progress of local or general disease, and the less able the body to protect itself, or expel the cause of disease. The rule here is absolute, and there is no variation from it.

In therapeutics we find—*that just in proportion as the circulation and temperature can be brought to, and*

*See Practice of Medicine, page 27.

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maintained at the normal standard, just in that proportion are the processes of disease arrested, and vital processes re-established.

These facts must surely have been noticed by observers, and we can only wonder that they have never been clearly stated, and practiced upon.

If we take as an example a case of fever, we will find that remedies that will reduce the pulse to a normal frequency, giving freedom to the circulation, will reduce the temperature, and that just in proportion as this is accomplished, the febrile symptoms disappear, and the various vital functions are re-established. If we maintain the circulation and temperature at this point, the fever must certainly cease.

In acute inflammation, the rapidity of the local disease and destruction of tissue, is in the ratio of frequency of pulse and increase of temperature. Just in proportion as we get a normal circulation with reference to frequency and freedom, and diminished temperature, just in that proportion the inflammatory process is arrested.

In *asthenic* inflammation we find another element in the pathology of the disease—a want of vital power, either in the whole or in the part. This must be antagonized by appropriate remedies. In others there is a zymotic or animal poison, which must be antagonized, destroyed, or removed.

In chronic disease the law is just as absolute as in the acute. Given, any disease of function or structure, with a pulse maintained constantly above

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100 beats per minute, and a temperature above 100°, and the patient must die. The disease, as a general rule, will run its course rapidly to a fatal termination just in proportion to the extent of this deviation.

Recovery from chronic disease never takes place until the circulation and temperature approximate a normal standard. In any given case, the probabilities of cure are as the possibility of bringing and maintaining the circulation and temperature at the standard of health. The first evidences of amendment are announced by a diminution of frequency of pulse and a better circulation of blood, and by an equal temperature of the body, approximating 98°. These seem like dogmatic statements, and many will be inclined to dispute them, because opposed or not named by the common authorities on medicine, but it only requires observation without prejudice to prove each position.

We may claim then, that remedies influencing the circulation and temperature, toward the normal standard, are the most important of the Materia Medica.

In very many cases the lesion of the circulation is a *basic* lesion, upon which others arise and are continued. When this is the case, the remedy that gives us normal circulation removes all the diseased processes which rest upon it. Thus we will find that arrest of secretion and excretion, lesions of innervation, of waste and nutrition, as well as the intensity of zymotic causes, are in proportion to the

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rapidity of the circulation. Conversely, as the pulse comes down to the normal standard, and the blood circulates freely, just in that proportion we have a restoration of the secretions and excretions, better innervation, better digestion and blood-making, and a more active waste and repair.

Have we remedies that influence the circulation directly, giving a free and equal circulation, with diminution of frequency? Many of our readers will have asked this question before this, and answered it in the negative. Certain remedies will have been recommended to them as *special sedatives*, which they have used without the good results named and expected. How is this? It is a common failing with physicians to expect a desired result too soon, and endeavor to force it by large doses of medicine. This has been a common cause of failure in the use of Veratrum and Aconite. Others have purchased worthless medicines, which will readily account for the failure. Taking the article of Veratrum alone, and excepting Norwood's Tincture, nine-tenths that has been sold was wholly worthless as a medicine.

The theory with regard to the action of the class of special sedatives was erroneous. They were regarded as *depressants*, and diminished frequency of pulse was supposed to depend upon their depressing influence upon the heart. It was the common error of large doses and poisonous action. All of these remedies are active poisons in large doses, and death occurs in all by *cardiac syncope*. In the cases

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of Veratrum, Digitalis, Lobelia and Gelseminum, slowness of pulse is a prominent symptom of the poisonous action. In the case of Aconite, extreme frequency of pulse is produced by the poisonous action.

In medicinal doses (small), the influence of these remedies is that of a cardiac stimulant, and is undoubtedly through the sympathetic system of nerves, which controls the entire circulation of the blood—not only the action of the heart, but of all the blood-vessels to the most minute capillary. I contend that this influence removes obstruction to the free circulation of the blood, as well as gives power to heart and muscular fibre of arteries. As obstruction to free circulation is removed, it requires less effort to move the blood; as the power of moving the blood is increased there is less necessity of frequency of contraction upon the part of the heart.

As a rule, the time required to effect sedation will bear a distinct relation to the time required for the development of disease, and its average duration. Thus in an acute fever or inflammation from cold, the influence of the sedative may be promptly obtained, and the disease speedily arrested. In continued fever, the accession of the disease (in most cases), is slow in proportion to its duration and severity. Here there are grave lesions of function, possibly of structure, and we expect to obtain the influence of the sedative slowly.*

*See Principles of Medicine, pp. 219, 264. The Eclectic Practice of Medicine, page 94.

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Whilst each of the remedies named as arterial sedatives, Aconite, Veratrum, Digitalis, Gelseminum, Lobelia, exert a direct influence in this direction, they are not equally valuable in all cases. The two first are pre-eminently the sedatives, their action being more definite and stronger, and adapted to a larger number of cases. The special adaptation of each to special forms of diseased action is named in the description of the remedy.

The temperature bears such a constant relation to the frequency of pulse, and general condition of the circulation, that a remedy which will correct the one will also correct the other. Thus we find in practice that just as we bring the pulse to the normal standard by the use of an arterial sedative, in the same degree we reduce the temperature. This is the case in chronic as well as in acute disease. For instance, in a case of phthisis we find a temperature of 101° associated with a pulse above 100 beats per minute; if it is possible to bring the pulse down to 80 the temperature comes down to 98° and a fraction. If this can be maintained we find a cessation of tubercular deposit, and a reparative process set up in the lungs.

We have some special means to influence the temperature, outside of the remedies acting upon the circulation. A full description of them would be out of place here, but may be found in my Principles of Medicine, p. 40.

3. The field of therapeutics embraced in our third proposition is very large, and will well repay careful

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study. Whilst zymotic causes have been recognized in many of the severe acute diseases, but little has been done to determine their character, or the means to antidote them. Possibly the observations of Prof. Polli, with regard to the influence of the Alkaline Sulphites, was the first important step in this direction.

The presence of such blood poison is readily detected, and we have advanced so far in our knowledge of remedies, that in many cases we can select the antidote with much certainty. I do not wish to be understood as claiming that we have any remedies that will immediately unite with all of a zymotic poison in the blood, destroy it, and at once restore health. Such an influence could not reasonably be expected. But we have remedies which, introduced into the blood, will antagonize the zymotic poison, as it comes in contact with it, arresting its septic influence, or wholly destroying it. In some cases they act rapidly, in others slowly, but in all, if properly selected, with great certainty.

The principal remedies of this class are the Alkaline Sulphites, (Sulphite of Soda being in most common use) and the mineral acids. The rules for the selection of the one or the other of these are quite simple, and very definite:

In any given case presenting a pallid tongue, with white, or dirty-white, pasty coating, use the Alkaline Sulphites.

In any given case presenting a deep-red tongue with brownish coatings, or deep-red glossy tongue,

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and dark sordes, use mineral acids. In some cases we employ Sulphurous Acid, but in the majority, Muriatic Acid.

Of our indigenous Materia Medica we have but one remedy that markedly possesses these properties, and it possesses it in high degree. This remedy is the Baptisia Tinctoria, which may be used in either of the cases named, but is especially valued in the last.

The reader will bear in mind that the activity of a zymotic poison is in exact proportion to the departure from normal function. With a rapid pulse, high temperature, and arrest of secretion, its development is rapid and its devitalizing influence marked. Or in the rare opposite case of congestive intermittent and cholera, as the circulation is enfeebled, and the temperature lowered, its progress is rapid.

Hence, in order to antagonize a zymotic process, it is necessary, so far as possible, to obtain a normal circulation and temperature. This proposition can not be too strongly insisted upon. In a given case, the circulation and temperature being favorably influenced by Aconite and Veratrum, Sulphite of Soda exerts an immediate and marked controlling influence over the fever poison. Whilst if it had been given without such preparation it would have had no influence at all, or but slight influence.

Some causes of disease are destroyed and removed by remedies that increase waste and excretion. Preparations of Potash and Soda, especially the alka-

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line diuretics act in this way. There are some organic remedies that exert a direct influence upon causes of disease, modifying or destroying them, as may be instanced in the action of Phytolacca in diphtheria. This action, however, in the majority of cases, is feeble.

Causes of disease acting in and from the blood, are frequently removed by stimulating the excretory organs. Some are removed principally by the skin, others by the bowels, others by the kidneys.

The cause of periodic disease, whatever it may be, plays a very important part in the diseases of some localities. Antagonize this cause, and the disease ceases, or at least is very much modified. Hence in the treatment of the diseases of the West, antiperiodics become the most important remedies.

Quinia is a true specific, and may be taken as the type of these remedies. It fails frequently, possibly it is administered nine times where its specific action is obtained once. But it is not the fault of the remedy, but of the doctor. If the diagnosis is correctly made, and the system is prepared for its administration, it will rarely fail, even when given in a single sufficient dose.

I am satisfied that the study of the direct antagonism of remedies to causes of disease, must advance the progress of rational medicine. It is possible, and I deem it probable, that such research will give us remedies controlling all zymotic disease in its early stage.

4. The human body is a complex structure, united

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in functional activity by a nervous system. As this exerts a controlling influence, we should expect that its lesions would form a very important element of the study of pathology. This has not been the case, however, and we find pathologists and therapeutists giving it but very little attention. It is a wide field for study, and its cultivation will greatly advance medical science.

A few suggestions may not be out of place here:

Those functions which we have been accustomed to speak of as *vegetative*, are associated together, and to some extent governed by the ganglionic or sympathetic nervous system. It comprises digestion, blood-making, the circulation of the blood, nutrition, and secretion and excretion—these are the essentially vital functions, in the performance of which man has life. If they are properly performed, he has healthy life, if there is an aberration in either of them, one or more, he has diseased life. Is it possible to have disease, without a lesion of one of these? I think the reader will say it is not. If this be so, then this ganglionic system of nerves must play an important part in every disease.*

Control and association of these vital processes being in the ganglionic system of nerves, we would naturally expect it to furnish the readiest means of reaching them and correcting their lesions. If there are remedies then that influence the ganglionic nerves directly, and through them the vital

*See Principles of Medicine, page 306.

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processes of the body, they must become our most direct and important therapeutic means. It is in this way that a large number of specific remedies act, as I believe. The sedatives, Aconite, Veratrum, Gelseminum, Lobelia and others, as Cactus, Belladonna, Eryngium, Phytolacca, Hamamelis, Pulsatilla, etc., very certainly produce their effects through it.

The association of the spinal-cord with the sympathetic brings vital functions in relation with our conscious life, and through its superior expansion the brain, adds suffering from disease. Conversely, mal-conditions of conscious life are reflected through this association and influence vital processes.

Whilst, therefore, it is very important to reach lesions of vegetative life directly through the ganglionic system of nerves, it is no less important to control any disease producing influence that might be extended from the cerebro-spinal centres.

5. Lesions of waste and excretion are elements of every disease. In some they form a principal part, in others in less degree, but in all they require to be estimated in diagnosis and therapeutics. They range themselves under the common classification of excess, defect, and perversion, and usually it is not difficult to determine their character, and select means that exert a direct influence.

Constant waste is a necessity of life, as is constant removal of this waste. If the materials of the body are not broken down and removed as they have served their purpose, the body is old, imperfect, and

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has lost functional power to this extent. If the material is broken down and removed to the blood, but not carried out by the excretions, we will have an impairment of life from its presence in the blood. I have given this subject full consideration in my Principles of Medicine, pp. 116 to 185, to which the reader is referred.

Too rapid waste of tissue is sometimes an important element of disease, requiring care in diagnosis and the application of remedies.

A perversion in waste and excretion is a common element of disease. In the breaking down of a protean body, it passes through many phases, and in its metamorphosis, it assumes forms that are noxious to life, if they have any degree of permanency, or are in any considerable quantity. Lesions in *retrograde metamorphosis* are therefore to be estimated, and remedies which influence it become important.

We have already noticed that many causes of disease act in and from the blood. They are zymotic poisons, or animal matter undergoing change, and influence the blood and life in different degree, in proportion to their quantity, and especially in proportion to their activity in setting up the septic process. These may be antagonized or destroyed in many cases; in others the natural process of retrograde metamorphosis is stimulated, and they are transformed into urea and other innocuous bodies fitted for excretion by kidneys, skin and bowels. Means that increase the activity of these excretions

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are frequently sufficient for the removal of such causes of disease.

6. The necessity of regarding the nutritive processes during the progress of disease, is now admitted by all advanced physicians, and insisted upon by such writers as Chambers, Anstie, Bennett and others. Experience has conclusively proven that proper food with good condition of the digestive apparatus, without medicine, give a success in the treatment of the graver acute diseases, that was never obtained by any other method of treatment.

As we have already seen, the condition of the stomach and digestive apparatus is of *first* importance in all forms of disease, and its lesions demand *first* attention in our therapeutics. We have shown that this was essential to the successful administration of remedies, it is no less necessary that the patient may take and appropriate proper food.

The administration of remedies that increase functional activity of the digestive apparatus, or aid in the digestive process, are sometimes important means. The selection of appropriate food, and the use of restoratives is supplemental to this. The object is to place the digestive organs in good condition to receive and prepare food for admission to the blood; to furnish such material to the blood as may be necessary for its perfect organization, and for the renewal of tissue.

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ABIES CANADENSIS.

(HEMLOCK.)

This agent has been employed in medicine for a long time—the bark in decoction as an astringent, the foliage in hot infusion as a diuretic and diaphoretic, and the oil as a stimulant local application. It undoubtedly possessess valuable properties. The following properties and uses are suggested to those who live where it may readily be obtained:

1st. A tincture of the recent *inner* bark in diluted alcohol; use in general asthenia with pallid mucous membranes, and feeble digestion: also, in diseases of the respiratory mucous membranes.

2nd. A tincture of the foliage in dilute alcohol; use in irritation of the urinary organs, and in disease of the skin.

ÆSCULUS GLABRA,

(BUCKEYE.)

Preparation.—Whilst the bark possesses medicinal properties in considerable degree, and may be used, a tincture of the nuts will probably be the best preparation.

Take of the recent nuts, fully ripened, four ounces; bruise them thoroughly, and cover with alcohol 76° one pint; let it stand for two weeks; strain and filter.

Of this tincture add from one to two drachms to four ounces of water—the dose being one teaspoonful.

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The buckeye has been used to but a limited extent in medicine, yet its activity is such (as a poison), that it will probably prove very valuable when thoroughly studied. In my boyhood, I well remember persons carrying "buckeyes" in their pockets as a sovereign cure for "piles," and at a later period as a remedy for rheumatism. Doubtless this suggested the first use of the Æsculus in medicine.

It has been used in the treatment of hemorrhoids with much success, and I am satisfied that in some forms of the disease it is the most certain remedy we possess. I have also given it in a few cases of diseased uterus with good results—cases in which the entire organ was enlarged, the cervix tumid, with too frequent recurrence of the menstrual flow.

The marked influence of the Æsculus on the nervous system would suggest a line of experiment likely to lead to the development of valuable properties. It has already been employed as a stimulant to the nervous system in some cases of paralysis.

We may reason in this way: a remedy that cures hemorrhoids must exert a powerful influence upon the circulation; whilst its poisonous action, often witnessed — vertigo, diminished sight, wry neck, fixed eyes, paralysis, convulsions, etc., show its influence upon the nervous system.

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ÆSCULUS HIPPOCASTANUM.

(Horse Chestnut.)

Preparation.—Take of the recent nut, fully ripe, four ounces, bruise it thoroughly, and cover with alcohol 76° one pint; let it stand fourteen days and filter.

Dose, two to four drops, in water.

The bark of this variety has been employed to a limited extent as a tonic, and possesses feeble anti-periodic powers. Quinine being employed to break the chill, this agent was sufficient to prevent its recurrence. The pulverized kernel has been used as a sternutatory for the relief of headache and facial neuralgia. The nuts were also thought to possess some special influence over hemorrhoids and rheumatism.

The influence upon the nervous system is similar in kind to the buckeye, though not so active. This probably will be its best field of action, standing midway between Belladonna on the one hand and Nux Vomica on the other.

It exerts the same influence upon the circulation as the Æsculus Glabra, and has been successfully employed in the treatment of hemorrhoids. It will doubtless be found to improve the circulation generally, and may be employed whenever there is want of power in the heart, capillary stasis, or tendency to congestion.

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ACIDS.

There is a *specific* use for acids in the treatment of disease, which we wish to study carefully. In any form of disease we may have an excess of the alkaline salts of the blood. This may be the basis of diseased action, or but a complication rendering it more intense, but whether the one or the other, it needs to be recognized and have direct treatment.

The indications of excessive alkalinity are very plain, and need not be mistaken by the youngest practitioner. The color of the mucous membranes is *deep red*, especially of mouth and tongue; the coating of tongue, sordes, or any exudative material, has a dark color, usually brownish. It makes no difference what the diseased action is, in its totality, or what it is called, the *deep red*, somewhat *dusky* color always demands the administration of acids.

There is but one exception to this, and that is a rare one, in which the excess is of Soda, but with a defect of Potash. In this case the administration of a Salt of Potash will answer a better purpose than the Acid, or may be combined with it.

The Muriatic Acid is preferable in most acute cases, and should be used so diluted, and in such quantity, as to be pleasant to the patient, and until the indication for its use is removed. Lactic Acid is sometimes preferable with children, and in some

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cases of chronic disease, especially when associated with indigestion. The vegetable Acids may be used in acute disease, but are not so good as those named.

ALKALIES.

It is well to consider the *specific* use of alkalies in this relation; as they are the opposite of acids. We may say of these, as of acids, that their deficiency is found as a constituent element in all forms of disease—in some cases being the basis of a morbid action, in others but a complication; but, whenever found, an important element and demanding direct treatment.

The symptoms of deficiency of these salts of the blood are very plain, and, using the language of the Prophet, "He who runs may read." The tongue is pallid and broad, its coating pasty and white, or yellowish white. The mucous membranes are uniformly pallid. As these evidences are absolute and readily determined, it is not necessary to name others not so constant.

Whenever we find this deficiency of the alkaline salts we will observe, as the result: loss of power in the stomach, enfeebled digestion and slow absorption, impairment of the circulation, arrest of nutrition and waste, and enfeebled innervation. These will correspond in degree to the deficiency.

So marked are these results, that I have long regarded the diagnosis, with regard to excess or deficiency of the alkaline salts, as of the highest im-

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portance. Indeed in some forms of disease, especially of a typhoid character, it is the principal element upon which a successful treatment is based.

Soda is the natural salt of the blood, and exists in the body in the largest proportion. Whenever, therefore, we have the evidence of deficiency of the alkaline salts, and no special symptoms indicating others we will give a Salt of Soda. In many cases I order Bicarbonate of Soda in water, in such quantity that it will make a pleasant drink, and let the patient have it freely.

If, at the same time, we wish an antiseptic influence, we may give the Sulphite or Hoposulphite of Soda or the Chloride of Sodium.

I am satisfied that I have seen patients die from deprivation of common salt during a protracted illness. It is a common impression that the food for the sick should not be seasoned, and whatever *slop* may be given, it is almost innocent of this essential of life. In the milk diet that I recommend in sickness, common salt is used freely, the milk being boiled and given hot. And if the patient can not take the usual quantity in his food, I have it given in his drink. This matter is so important that it can not be repeated too often, or dwelt upon too long.

The most marked example of this want of common salt I have ever noticed has been in surgical disease, especially in open wounds. Without a supply of salt the tongue would become broad, pallid, puffy, with a tenacious pasty coat, the effusion

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at the point of injury serous, with an unpleasant watery pus, which at last becomes a mere sanies or ichor. A few days of a free allowance of salt would change all this, and the patient would get along well.

A Salt of *Potash* is indicated where there is feebleness of the muscles to greater extent than can be accounted for by the disease. Occasionally such want is expressed in a marked manner by feebleness of the heart.

Ammonia will, occasionally, prove the best salt for temporary use, especially where there is great debility. But when so used, it should be followed by the free use of common salt, or some salt of soda.

ACHILLEA MILLEFOLIUM.

(YARROW.)

Preparation.— Prepare a tincture of the recent herb, ℥viij. to Alcohol 50° Oj. Dose, gtts. v. to ℥ss.

This agent, though feeble in its action, is much better than many in common use. It acts directly on the urinary apparatus, and the reproductive organs of the female. I have used it to allay irritation of the kidneys and vesical and urethral irritation. In these cases its influence is somewhat similar to Buchu and Uva Ursi. It is employed with advantage in atonic amenorrhœa, menorrhagia, and vaginal leucorrhœa.

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ACONITUM NAPELLUS.

(ACONITE.)

Preparation.—A tincture of the root (imported from Germany) is the strongest and most uniform preparation. It should be prepared by percolation, the strength being ounce for ounce; though, if constantly made in the office, it will be easier to make it ℥viij. to the pint, the dose being proportionately increased.

The medium dose two-thirds of one drop, and the form of administration: ℞ Tincture of Aconite Root, gtts. xx; Water, ℥iv.; a teaspoonful every hour in acute disease, every two or three hours in chronic disease. To a child two years old the proportion is gtts. v. to Water ℥iv.

Aconite is a stimulant to the sympathetic system of nerves, and increases the power of the heart to move the blood, at the same time that it places the blood-vessels in better condition for its passage. It will be recollected that the same system of nerves governs the movements of the heart and of the entire system of blood-vessels. What will influence one, therefore, will influence the other in the same manner.

But Aconite is said to be a sedative; and by a sedative we are to understand a remedy that diminishes the frequency of the pulse. How can Aconite, therefore, be a stimulant and a sedative?

There is no doubt but that Aconite is one of the most certain remedies we have to reduce the fre-

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quency of the pulse in certain conditions of disease. And the condition is that in which there is a want of power on the part of the heart, and a like want of innervation to the capillary system of blood-vessels. Aconite in small doses lessens the frequency of the pulse, because it removes obstruction to the free flow of blood in the vessels, and gives greater cardiac power.

We employ it in all forms of fever, to control the circulation, and diminish the temperature. Used in the doses named, it gives greater freedom to the circulation, at the same time that it diminishes the frequency of the pulse. It seems to remove obstruction to the free circulation of the blood, at the same time that it removes irritation of the cardiac nerves, and gives increased power to the heart.

Its action in inflammation is as pronounced as in fever. It directly antagonizes inflammatory action, and in the early stage will arrest it speedily—if this is the sedative indicated.

There are some diseases of an inflammatory character to which Aconite is *specific*, that deserve mention. The first of these is Tonsillitis, in which we employ it by internal administration, or better by the use of the steam atomizing apparatus. In some forms of mucous croup, with enfeebled circulation, in muco-enteritis, and in simple colitis or dysentery from cold, I never think of making any other prescription.

To point out the special indications for the use of Aconite I can not do better than reproduce the

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editorial in September *Journal* of 1868 on the "Differential Therapeutics of Veratrum and Aconite:"

To determine which of a class of remedies is applicable in a given case, is the most difficult task of the physician, and any information in this respect is of much value. I doubt whether any one using the two remedies named, would be willing to risk giving this estimate. Many may have an empirical intuition in regard to it, but most could venture nothing but a guess.

In general terms, Veratrum is the remedy in sthenia, Aconite in asthenia; but there are too many exceptions to this to make it a safe rule for our guidance.

Veratrum is the remedy where there is a frequent but free circulation. It is also the remedy where there is an active capillary circulation, both in fever and inflammation. A full and bounding pulse, a full and hard pulse, and a corded or wiry pulse, if associated with inflammation of serous tissues, call for this remedy.

Aconite is the remedy when there is difficulty in the capillary circulation, a dilatation and want of tonicity of these vessels, both in fever and inflammation.

It is the remedy for the frequent, small pulse, the hard and wiry pulse (except in the cases above named), the frequent, open and easily compressed pulse, the rebounding pulse, the irregular pulse, and

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indeed wherever there is the evidence of marked enfeeblement of the circulation.

It is the sedative I associate with Belladonna in congestion, especially of the nerve centers, and to relieve coma. Whilst I would use Veratrum with Gelseminum in determination of blood to the brain, and in active delirium.

Veratrum acts more efficiently upon the excretory organs; indeed I believe it to be one of the most certain remedies we have to increase excretion. Hence it is employed with great advantage for those purposes usually called alterative.

Aconite controls excessive activity of the excretory organs, whether of the bowels, kidneys or skin. Thus it is our most certain remedy in the summer complaint of children, associated with Belladonna in diabetes insipidus, with the bitter tonics and Strychnia in Phosphuria and Oxaluria, and with the mineral acids in night sweats.

ACTÆA ALBA.
(White Cohosh.)

Preparation. — Two preparations may be used: first, a tincture of the recent root, ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj.; second, a tincture of the dried root in the same proportion, but using Alcohol of 98°. Let the dose range from one to twenty drops.

The White Cohosh has had but a limited use in medicine, yet it possesses such properties that it will undoubtedly prove useful when studied. The direction of experiment will be to determine its in-

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fluence on the functions of waste and nutrition, and its special action on the reproductive organs of the female.

BLOOMINGTON, ILL., Sept. 30.

DR. SCUDDER: I intended to have written to you, in regard to one specific property of the *Actæa Alba*. As you have reached it in your order, you can do as you wish in regard to inserting this. It is specific in controlling after-pains. There is probably no remedy known that equals it. Make a tea of it, and drink freely. This power in controlling after-pains, suggests that it will prove invaluable in congestion and neuralgia of the womb.

W. FULTON, M. D.

AGAVE AMERICANA.

(CENTURY PLANT.)

The only report we have of this agent is from Dr. Penn, U. S. A., in the treatment of scurvy: "Every case has improved rapidly; the countenance, so universally dejected and despairing in the patient affected with scurvy, is brightened up by contentment and hope in two days from the time of its introduction. The most marked evidences of improvement were observable at every successive visit. From observing the effects of the Maguey in the cases which have occurred in this command, I am compelled to place it far above that remedy which, till now, has stood above every other—lime juice. The manner in which I use it is as follows: The leaves are cut off close to the root. They are placed

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in hot ashes until thoroughly cooked, when they are removed, and the juice expressed. The expressed juice is then strained, and given in doses of ʒij. to ʒiij. daily."

I should be glad if some of our southern readers would try a tincture of the recent leaves, made by cutting them in small pieces and covering with alcohol. We want to determine its influence on the circulation and on the nervous system. The dose would be about ten drops.

AGRIMONIA EUPATORIA.

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh herb ʒviij. to Alcohol 50° Oj. Dose from gtts. j. to ʒss.

Agrimonia exerts a slight stimulant influence upon all the vegetative processes, and under its use we find an improvement of appetite, digestion and nutrition.

It exerts a specific influence upon mucous membranes, checking profuse secretion, and giving tone. Thus it has been employed with advantage in cases of chronic bronchitis, phthisis with increased secretion, and humoral asthma.

But it is especially useful in chronic catarrhal disease of the kidneys and bladder, and will frequently prove curative. It gives tone and strength to these organs, and may well replace the more common tonic diuretics in many cases.

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ALETRIS FARINOSA.

The Aletris is a gastric stimulant and improves digestion. It has also proven a valuable tonic in uterine diseases. It is deserving a thorough examination, which I hope some of our readers will give it and report. Prepare a tincture from ℥viij. of the root to Alcohol 76° Oj. The dose would be from two to ten drops.

ALNUS RUBRA.
(Tag Alder.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the recent bark ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose gtts. j. to xx.

We may employ the Alnus in infusion, or in the form of tincture with dilute alcohol; the first being preferable if we wish its greatest influence.

It exerts a specific influence upon the processes of waste and nutrition, increasing the one and stimulating the other. It is thus a fair example of the *ideal* alterative, and is one of the most valuable of our indigenous remedies.

Its special use seems to be in those cases in which there is superficial disease of the skin or mucous membranes, taking the form of eczema or pustular eruption. In these cases I have employed it as a general remedy, and as a local application with the best results. It does not seem to make much difference whether it is a phlyctenular conjunctivitis, an ulcerated sore mouth or throat, chronic eczema,

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or secondary syphilis presenting these characteristics, it is equally beneficial.

ALOES.

The use of Aloes in medicine should be quite limited, but still it has a place. I believe that in small quantity and in combination with other agents that act upon the upper intestinal canal, it proves a good cathartic, as in the following: ℞ Podophyllin, grs. x.; Leptandrin, grs. xxx.; Aloes, grs. xx.; Extract of Hyoscyamus, ʒss. Make thirty pills. One of them at night will prove an excellent laxative, and those who employ cathartics freely will like the formula.

But it is not for this purpose that I would recommend Aloes, but for one that may seem very singular. In small doses it exerts a direct influence upon the waste and nutrition of the nervous system. In cases of feeble innervation, especially in persons of gross habit, it will be one of our best agents. I have usually prescribed it with Tincture of Nux Vomica or with Tincture of Belladonna. The dose of a strong tincture being from two to ten drops.

In some cases it will prove serviceable when associated with the bitter tonics, as in this: ℞ Extract of Nux Vomica, grs. vj.; Aloes, grs. xv.; Hydrastine, ʒss. Make thirty pills. One may be given three or four times a day.

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AMMONIUM, BROMIDE OF.

The Bromide of Ammonium is a stimulant to the nerve centers; increasing waste and improving nutrition.

I have employed it principally in epilepsy, in some cases of which it is undoubtedly a *specific.* I do not think I can point out the exact cases in which it is likely to prove curative, as the evidences of pathological states in this disease are very obscure. Its use, therefore, will have to be empirical.

I have used it now for some ten years, and it has given excellent satisfaction. But whilst it has effected permanent cures in a large number of cases, it has only proven of temporary benefit in some, and has wholly failed in others.

We not unfrequently meet with disease, in which there is disordered innervation, manifesting itself as epileptiform, partially spasmodic, or in other ways, but in which there is undoubtedly the same enfeeblement of the cerebro-spinal centers. In these cases Bromide of Ammonium is the remedy.

In diseases of children, I have been accustomed to employ this remedy in convulsions, following the first influence obtained by Lobelia or Gelseminum, and with marked success. When a child is subject to repeated attacks of convulsions from slight causes, the Bromide of Ammonium may be used to remove the predisposition.

In some cases of whooping cough it exerts a

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direct action, as it does in many cases of nervous cough in both child and adult.

I have used it in this proportion: ℞ Bromide of Ammonium, ʒss.; Water, ʒiv. A teaspoonful four times a day.

AMMONIUM, IODIDE OF.

Iodide of Ammonium increases retrograde metamorphosis at the same time that it exerts a stimulant influence upon the nervous system, especially the sympathetic system. Thus it can be employed with less risk than Iodide of Potassium, when the nutritive powers are feeble, as is the case occasionally in secondary syphilis.

It has been employed in certain cases of persistent headache with excellent results. They are those in which the eye is dull, the face expressionless, the circulation feeble, the patient being of a full habit. The dose will be: ℞ Iodide of Ammonium, ʒij.; Water, ʒiv. A teaspoonful every four hours.

AMPELOPSIS.

The Ampelopsis comes under the general classification of alteratives. It is a feeble agent in this direction and will have but a limited use. It would be well to have it thoroughly tested, and for this purpose I would suggest a tincture of the fresh bark, in doses of from one-fourth to one teaspoonful.

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AMYGDALUS PERSICA.
(PEACH TREE.)

Preparation.—Thus far we have employed an infusion of the bark of the young limbs of the Peach Tree; and, to a limited extent, a tincture of the recent bark with dilute Alcohol. The first will be found preferable in cases of acute gastric irritation; but for ordinary office use, I would suggest the following:

Take of the green bark of the young limbs (suckers), a sufficient quantity, and cover with Alcohol 50°, one pint to each eight ounces: let it stand for fourteen days, and express—a press of some kind will be an aid. The dose will be from five to thirty drops.

The infusion or tincture, as above prepared, has a direct influence in quieting irritation of the stomach and upper intestinal canal. It is also a mild tonic, improving the functions of digestion. For these purposes it is one of the most valuable articles in the Materia Medica.

It also exerts an influence upon the circulation, and upon the nervous system, which deserves investigation.

ANAGALLIS ARVENSIS.
(RED CHICKWEED.)

This agent possesses active properties, but has not been studied. It has been extolled in hydrophobia,

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delirium, mania, epilepsy, etc., which will suggest the line of experiment.

The best preparation, probably, will be a tincture of the recent *Chickweed* in dilute Alcohol (50°), ℥viij. to the pint; dose quite small—coming within one or two drops.

ANEMONE NEMOROSA.
(Wood Anemone—Wind Flower.)

This is also an active agent, and will probably repay careful study. It influences the functions of waste and repair, but acts directly upon the nervous system. Belonging to the same family as the Pulsatilla, its action will be somewhat analogous.

The preparations best adapted for study will be a tincture of the recent plant, made in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj.; using pressure to remove the fluid. It will be well to commence with the fraction of a drop as a dose, say—℞ Tincture of Anemone, gtts. x.; Water, ℥iv.; a teaspoonful every two to four hours, gradually increasing as we feel our way.

APOCYNUM CANNABINUM.
(Indian Hemp.)

Preparation.—The preparation I prefer is, an alcoholic fluid extract, representing the crude article ounce for ounce. Of such fluid extract, the dose

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will vary from the fraction of one drop to ten drops, as the maximum. If the physician prepares his tincture, it should be from the recently dried root, in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj.

It is probable that the Apocynum Androsæmifolium possesses identical properties, and as the distinction is recognized with difficulty, even by those most conversant with botanic medicines, they have been used indiscriminately.

The Apocynum is a true *specific* for that atonic condition of the blood-vessels, that permits exudation, causing dropsy. I have employed it in my practice for some eight years, and it has not failed me in a single case, where the diagnosis was well made.

It is a positive remedy for dropsy, whether it takes the form of œdema, anasarca, or dropsy of the serous cavities, where there is no obstruction to the circulation, and no febrile action. We would not expect it to effect a cure in dropsy from heart disease, or ascites from structural disease of the liver, neither would we where there was a frequent, hard pulse, and other evidences of febrile action. Still in these cases, if we can partially remove the obstruction in the first case, and after an arrest of febrile action in the second, the Apocynum will remove the deposit.

It is not worth while to inquire how it removes dropsical accumulations. It seems to strengthen the circulation, and as absorption takes place there is an increased flow of urine.

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I have also employed the Apocynum in cases of passive menorrhagia with advantage. It may be especially recommended in those cases in which the flow is constantly too profuse, too long, and too frequently repeated. I use it with water, in the following proportion: ℞ Fluid Extract of Apocynum, ʒj. to ʒij.; Water, ℥iv.; a teaspoonful every three hours.

ARALIA HISPIDA.
(Dwarf Elder.)

The Dwarf Elder has been extensively and successfully employed in dropsy. The infusion has usually been employed, and given freely.

I would suggest a tincture of the recent bark, in dilute Alcohol, in the proportion of ℥viij. to the Oj.; dose gtts. x. to ʒj.

I have employed it to but a limited extent, yet with good results. It has a very positive influence on the circulation, and upon secretion. Does it not act on them through the *sympathetic nervous system?* and may we not influence all the vegetative functions with it, as we do with some others? It is deserving thorough investigation.

ARNICA MONTANA.
(Arnica.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the recent flowers, ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose, the fraction of a drop.

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It is not necessary to refer to the common local use of this agent, or discuss the question whether a tincture of Arnica is preferable to Alcohol alone as a local application. Every one has employed it in this way, and each has formed his own opinion. I think its local use valuable, but greatly over-estimated.

Can it be employed as an internal remedy with advantage? I am satisfied that it can. It is a valuable stimulant in many grave diseases where a stimulant is most required. But if used as a general stimulant, like Alcohol, it would be as apt to do harm as good.

It is a *specific* stimulant to the spinal nervous system, and will be found useful where there is want of innervation from this. I have seen most marked benefit from it in advanced stages of disease, where there was feeble respiratory power; difficulty of sleeping from impeded respiration; want of control over the excretion of urine and feces, etc.; evidences of impairment of spinal innervation. In such cases its beneficial influence may be noticed in a few hours.

I have frequently prescribed it for lame back, back-ache, and feelings of debility, soreness, etc., in the small of the back. It is only useful in those cases where there is feebleness, with deficient circulation; but in these the influence is direct and permanent.

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ARTEMESIA ABSINTHIUM.
(WORMWOOD.)

Preparation.—For experiment, I would suggest a tincture with dilute Alcohol, 76°, in the proportion of ℥viij. to the pint; vary the dose from one drop to one drachm.

This agent has been used principally as a vermifuge, but lately it has given place to the Chenopodium, and to Santonine. It possesses very decided medicinal properties, however, and deserves a thorough examination. It influences the nervous system, especially the sympathetic.

ARTEMESIA SANTONICA.
(WORMWOOD.)

We only wish to consider the crystallizable principle—Santonine—here. Its principal use has been as a vermifuge in cases of ascaris lumbricoides, for which it has been found quite efficient. But in using it for this purpose many have noticed that it exerted a peculiar influence upon the brain, and upon the eyes—rendering objects blue, yellow, or green; and that it passed off in the urine, giving it a peculiar color.

It exerts a *specific* action upon the bladder and urethra, stimulating contraction of the first, and allaying irritation of the second. It is especially valuable in cases of retention of the urine in children during protracted disease; in doses of half to

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one grain, it is prompt and certain. I have also employed it to relieve irritation of the urethra, especially in women suffering from uterine disease, and with good success.

Its influence upon the nervous system needs to be studied. I judge it to be a nerve stimulant, and have employed it for this purpose to a limited extent.

ASCLEPIAS.
(SILKWEED.)

Preparation. — The best preparation for experiment will be a tincture of the recent root, in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj.; note its effect in small as well as large doses.

The A. Incarnata, A. Syriaca, etc., deserve a careful investigation. In weak infusion they all prove diaphoretic, and to some extent diuretic. It is claimed by those who have made considerable use of them, that they stimulate all the secretions.

ASCLEPIAS TUBEROSA.
(MILKWEED.)

Preparation.—Whilst I prefer a tincture made as above, I have used the alcoholic fluid extract of the dried root, made to represent ounce for ounce; the dose being from one drop for a child two years old, to ten drops for an adult.

It is especially a child's remedy, being feeble in action, though quite certain. When given freely,

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it is one of the most certain diaphoretics we have, providing the pulse is not frequent, and the temperature increased. Even in the small dose of one drop, following the use of the special sedatives, it will markedly increase *true* secretion from the skin.

Recollect that there is a difference between sweating and secretion. There may be a profuse exudation of water, the surface being bathed in perspiration, and yet but little secretion. Excretion by the skin is a vital process, and takes place by means of secreting cells. It goes on best where the skin is soft and moist, and not when covered with drops of sweat.

I employ Asclepias in diseases of children, believing that it allays nervous irritability, is slightly sedative, and certainly increases secretion from the skin. I use it with Veratrum and Aconite, in febrile and inflammatory diseases, and in mild cases, very frequently give it alone. Bear in mind that it is a feeble remedy and too much must not be expected.

ASPIDIUM FILIX MAS.
(MALE FERN.)

This agent is only used as a vermifuge, especially for the removal of the tapeworm. For this purpose the Ethereal Oil is used in doses of twenty drops to one drachm.

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ASAFŒTIDA.

Whilst I think but little of the fœtid gum as an antispasmodic, I regard it as a valuable gastric stimulant, and also as a nerve stimulant. In nervous dyspepsia, especially, it will be found valuable. The following is a good form: ℞ Asafœtida, ʒss.; Hydrastine, ʒss.; Aloes, grs. x. Make thirty pills, and give one three times a day. As a nerve stimulant I have used: ℞ Extract of Nux Vomica, grs. x.; Aloes, grs. xl. Make twenty pills, and give one at night.

ATROPA BELLADONNA.

(Belladonna.)

Preparation.—Whilst for some purposes a solution of the Alkaloid Atropia will prove the best preparation, I prefer for general use an Alcoholic fluid extract of the recent plant, representing the crude article ounce for ounce. Of this the maximum dose will be one drop, but frequently one-fifth to one-half of this will serve a better purpose.

For hypodermic use, we employ a solution of Atropia, in the proportion of one grain to the ounce of distilled water. The dose would be five to ten drops. This is also the best proportion for use to dilate the pupil. As a collyrium, we would add ʒj. of this solution to ʒj. of distilled water.

The *specific* use of Belladonna is as a stimulant to the capillary circulation, especially of the nerve

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centers—a remedy opposed to congestion. My attention was first drawn to it by an article from Brown-Sequard, giving the results of his experiments with the drug, stating that with the microscope he had seen marked contraction of the capillaries following its use. It at once suggested itself to me, that if it would cause capillary contraction, it would be *the* remedy for congestion; and I at once commenced experimenting with it in this direction.

I well recall my first marked case: a boy about eight years old, suffering from malignant rubeola. The entire surface was swollen and dusky; the eyes dull; the pupils dilated; the face expressionless; breathing labored, and wholly unconscious for forty-eight hours. The administration of Belladonna alone (in small doses) was sufficient to restore consciousness, and a free circulation, with good appearance of the eruption, in twenty hours.

The evidences in its favor rapidly accumulated, so that in eighteen months I used it with a feeling of almost certainty for this purpose.

Whilst it exerts the same influence on all persons, and at all ages, the true pathological condition being determined, it is especially valuable in treating diseases of children. In the young, the immature nervous centers suffer more severely, and we find the opposite conditions, of irritation with determination of blood, and atony with congestion.

The symptoms calling for the use of Belladonna are usually very plain: the patient is dull and stupid—and the child drowsy, and sleeps with its

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eyes partly open; the countenance expressionless; the eyes are dull, and the pupils dilated, or immobile; whilst, as it continues, respiration becomes affected, and the blood imperfectly aerated.

In these cases I prescribe Belladonna: in the adult, in the proportion of gtts. x. to gtts. xx., to Water ℥iv.; in the child gtts. v. to ℥iv.; in each a teaspoonful every hour. As these are mostly febrile cases, or at least have a feeble, frequent circulation as an element, I give Aconite in the usual doses.

Belladonna is also a *specific* in incontinence of urine. Not that it will cure any case, but those in which an enfeeblement of the pelvic circulation is the principal cause. Probably a lesion of the spinal cord has also much to do with it. Of course, it gives no relief where the incontinence arises from vesical irritation. The dose in this case will be the same as above named, but only repeated four times a day.

Belladonna is also a *specific* in *diabetes insipidus;* even a Belladonna plaster across the loins being sufficient in many cases for its arrest.

Belladonna is undoubtedly a *prophylactic* against scarlatina, as I have thoroughly proven in my practice. Recollect, however, that it is only prophylactic in small doses; in doses sufficient to produce dilatation of the pupil, it has no such influence.

Belladonna has other special uses, but they may be briefly summed up: if in any case there is an enfeebled circulation, with stasis of blood, Belladonna is the remedy. Of course, acting upon some

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parts more directly than others, its influence will be more decided, but there is no case, with condition as above, in which it will not be beneficial.

I may say in conclusion, that we want a *good* preparation of the recent herb; and then it *must* be used in small doses to obtain the influences named. The doses given are the *maximum*. As we have had occasion to say before, the druggists care little about the quality of medicines sold; they are simply articles of merchandise, and there is little, if any, professional *esprit* with them, to aid us in having them good. Therefore every physician must be on his guard when purchasing, and had better buy of first hands, and of those of proven honesty.

APIS MELLIFICA.
(Honey Bee.)

The Honey Bee possesses marked medicinal properties, but from a prejudice against such remedies, has been but little employed.

An infusion of twelve to twenty Honey Bees in a pint of boiling water, is one of the most certain diuretics I have ever employed in cases of suppression of urine from atony. It is also a very efficient remedy in retention of urine, and in some cases of irritation of the urethra.

I have used a tincture for the same purpose, and also for inflammation of subcutaneous structures, with tensive and lancinating pains, and in irritation of the skin. I have prepared my own tincture, in

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the proportion of ℥j. to Alcohol 98° Oj. Dose one to two drops.

AGARIC.*

HISTORY.—This is obtained from various fungus plants of the mushroom tribe. These plants afford a great diversity of form and structure, being in their simplest character little articulated filaments, composed of chains or cellules, as in the mildew of the rosebush, and in moldiness, *mucor*; again, they may present an even and imperforate surface, and another separated into plates or cells, in which the sporules are deposited. They absorb a great amount of oxygen with evolution of hydrogen and carbonic acid gas, and contain considerable proportions of nitrogen. They are destructive to nearly all organic matter upon which they grow. According to Dr. M. A Curtis, of N. C., the genus boletus, as now constituted, includes only fleshy species, with a hymenium composed of *sporable tubes*. Those species formerly included in Boletus, and whose hymenium is composed of *pores*, now form the genus Polyporus."

The *Polyporus Officinalis* (*Boletus Laricis*), known by the name of *White Agaric*, *Purging Agaric*, etc., is procured from Asia, Corinthia, Russia, Central America, and the Rocky Mountains, where it is found growing upon the Larch. It is in masses,

*The following is taken from the new edition of King's American Dispensatory.

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varying from the size of an ordinary apple to that of a large nutmeg-melon; its shape somewhat resembles a horse's hoof; it is reddish-gray or yellow externally, whitish internally, and of a spongy, friable consistence; *hymenium* concrete; *substance of the pileus* consisting of subrotund pores, with their simple dissepiments; *pileus* corky-fleshy, ungulate, zoned, smooth; *pores* yellowish; it has a feeble odor, and a bitter, acid, somewhat sweetish taste. Braconnot found in it 72 parts resinous matter, 2 bitter extractive, 26 of a nutritious animalized principle, which he termed *fungin*. Benzoic acid and several salts have likewise been found in it. It is collected in August and September, deprived of its outer covering, and then dried and placed in the sun.

The *Polyyorus* (*Boletus*) *Ignarius*, *Agaric of the Oak*, is a fungus found on the oak, cherry, willow, plum, and other trees; when young it is soft, but gradually becomes hard and woody. In shape it somewhat resembles the preceding; its upper smooth surface is marked with dark circular ridges, and its under is very porous, and of a yellowish-white color. It is tasteless and inodorous. The *Polyporus* (*Boletus*) *Fomentarius*, growing on similar trees with the *P. Ignarius*, when cut in slices, beaten, soaked in a solution of nitre, and dried, forms an inflammable substance, known as *Spunk*, *Amadou*, or *German Tinder*. The *Polyporus Pinicola* grows upon the pine, birch, tamarac, fir, and similar trees; with absolute alcohol the fresh fungus forms a dark-red,

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intensely bitter tincture. A white amorphous powder, called *laricin*, is obtained from some of these plants. It has a bitter taste, is soluble in alcohol and oil of turpentine, forms a paste with boiling water, and has the formula $C_{14}H_{12}O_4$.

PROPERTIES AND USES. — The dust of the *Larch Agaric* is irritating to mucous surfaces, causing tears when it enters the eyes, and sneezing, cough, and nausea, when the nostrils are exposed to it. It has been used in half-drachm or drachm doses as a purgative; in larger doses as an emetic. In doses of from three to ten grains, gradually increasing to sixty grains in the course of the twenty-four hours, it has been found efficacious in arresting the nocturnal perspiration of consumptives. Externally, it has been used, together with the *Agaric of the Oak*, as a styptic, and said to restrain not only venous but arterial hemorrhages, without the use of ligatures. It does not appear, however, to possess any real styptic power, or to act otherwise than dry lint, sponge, or other soft applications. Prepared with nitre, as for tinder, it has been used as a species of moxa.

The *P. Officinalis* and the *P. Pinicola*, in doses of from three or four grains of the powder, repeated every three or four hours, or of the concentrated tincture in doses of five drops, have both been found valuable in the cure of obstinate and long standing intermittents, and other diseases common to malarial districts; as, obstinate bilious remittent fever, chronic diarrhœa, chronic dysentery, periodical neu-

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ralgia, nervous headache, ague cake, and increased flow of urine. They have likewise proved useful in long standing jaundice, and in the chills and fever common among consumptive patients.

The tincture of Boletus exerts a marked influence upon the spinal and sympathetic nervous system, in certain cases of disease. It has been successfully employed in the treatment of epilepsy and chorea, and to check the rapid pulse with hectic fever and night sweats in phthisis. It has also been recommended in insanity where there is a feeble cerebral circulation and imperfect nutrition. And, also, in neuralgia, with similar symptoms.

BAPTISIA TINCTORIA.

Preparation.—The Baptisia has been principally employed in infusion, and I am well satisfied that this is the best preparation for general use. Still, as it will be inconvenient in many cases, I would recommend in addition, a tincture by percolation, using ℥viij. of the ground bark to Oj. of Alcohol of 76°. Of an infusion of ℥j. to ℥iv. of boiling water, the dose is one teaspoonful; of the tincture as named, ℥ij. to Water, ℥iv., dose, a teaspoonful.

With some the Baptisia has been a favorite remedy for sore mouth and sore throat, using it locally, and for this purpose it is one of the most valuable remedies we have. I judge, however, that if you should ask, in what particular variety of sore mouth

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or throat it was found best? you would have difficulty in getting an answer.

It is in those cases in which there is enfeebled capillary circulation, and tendency to ulceration, that it is *specific*. That is, the condition is one of atony, with tendency to molecular death and decomposition. The remedy is, therefore, stimulant and antiseptic.

It may be employed with the greatest certainty in any form of sore mouth or throat presenting the characteristics named. Especially in stomatitis ulcerata, or cancrum orris, in cynanche maligna, and in the sore throat of scarlatina maligna; but it is not only a good local application in these cases, but a most valuable internal remedy.

It is *specific* to the condition upon which such sore mouth and throat is based, whether it is manifested in this way, or in ulceration of Peyer's follicles in typhoid fever. Thus I have employed it with very marked advantage, in all cases showing putrescency, and tendency to softening and breaking down of tissue.

It is not a remedy for acute inflammation, whether erythematous or deep seated, and in ordinary stomatitis or cynanche, it is not a remedy. In diphtheria presenting acute inflammatory symptoms, it is worse than useless. But in diphtheria with swollen and enfeebled mucous membranes, dusky or livid discoloration, or blanched appearance, with tendency to ulceration and sloughing, there is no remedy more certain.

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I have successfully employed the Baptisia in *typhoid* dysentery, as have others. But as will be seen, this is but the condition named above for its specific action. So long as there is an acute inflammation, with stools of blood or pure mucus, this is not beneficial, but when the discharges resemble "prune juice, the washing of meat, or are muco-purulent," with general symptoms of an analogous character, then it becomes one of our most certain remedies.

BENZOIC ACID.

I prefer to use Benzoic Acid in solution in Alcohol, ℥j. to the Oj. to the tincture of Benzoin, though the latter will answer the purpose. The dose will vary from ten to sixty drops, according to the effect desired.

Its first use is in irritable bladder, with deposits of uric acid or triple phosphates; in either case its use will prove beneficial.

Its second use is in irritation of the sympathetic and spinal system of nerves, with uric acid deposits.

Its third use is as a stimulant to the brain in cases of exhaustion with Phosphuria. I have used it in this case alternated with a preparation of Phosphorus—either the Phosphuretted Oil or the Tincture—with advantage. These are usually cases of exhaustion from over-exertion of the mind, as frequently met with among our business men.

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BERBERIS VULGARIS.
(BARBERRY.)

A tincture of the recent bark, in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj., is suggested. Dose varying from ten drops to one drachm.

Will some of our Eastern practitioners give us their experience with this agent; or if it has not been employed alone, will some one test it thoroughly. Evidently it has an influence upon the gastro-intestinal mucous membrane, and probably on associate viscera.

BEBEERINÆ SULPHAS.

This is not the so-called Berbeerin from the Berberis Vulgaris, but a well-defined salt from the Nectandra Rodiæi. As found in commerce, it is in glittering scales of a brownish-yellow color, and when triturated forms a yellowish powder.

It exerts a specific action upon the uterus, but thus far it has been principally employed in cases of menorrhagia. In this case its influence is very marked, controlling the hemorrhage, and preventing its recurrence. As we have other remedies for the milder cases, its use might be confined to those in which there is profuse discharge at each menstrual period, and where they recur too frequently. The dose will be from two to three grains every three or four hours.

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BISMUTH.

We employ Bismuth in two forms. The sub-nitrate in doses of from one to two grains; the liquor Bismuth (solution of Citrate of Bismuth), in doses of from gtts. x. to ʒj.

The first use of Bismuth is to allay irritation of the gastro-intestinal mucous membrane; and for this purpose it has been extensively employed. Usually the sub-nitrate in impalpable powder, is employed in small doses frequently repeated for gastric irritation, and in doses of five to ten grains for intestinal irritation, with diarrhœa.

The second may be called its *specific* use, for chronic gastro-intestinal irritation, or dyspepsia with diarrhœa. Here I employ the Liquor Bismuth in doses of from a half to one teaspoonful four times a day. In inveterate cases, not amenable to treatment, and of years duration, I have had the happiest results.

I have omitted to name the common use of Bismuth for water-brash, in some cases of which it is very effectual.

The powdered sub-nitrate is also the most effectual local application for irritation of the skin—*chafing*—either in the infant or adult. For this purpose the part is thoroughly dusted, and it is repeated as often as necessary to keep it dry.

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BROMINE.

Bromine is not employed as an internal remedy, though its salts have been used largely within the last ten years. It may be employed with advantage as an inhalation in croup and diphtheria, and as a stimulant in phthisis. For croup it has been used in the proportion of ten drops to two ounces of water.

BROMIDE OF POTASSIUM.

Bromide of Potash is a very greatly overestimated remedy. When I commenced practice it was only used in cases of spermatorrhœa to relieve sexual irritation—now it is recommended for every nervous ill that flesh is heir to.

I think it has one *specific* use, and that is as a remedy for epilepsy when associated with irritation of the reproductive organs, or especially in irritation of the cerebellum. In such cases I have used it with much success. The dose will be about twenty grains three times a day.

I only use it in spermatorrhœa, in those cases in which the person is of a plethoric habit, with great venereal excitement — cases approximating satyriasis, rather than spermatorrhœa. In these I administer it in doses of thirty to sixty grains at bedtime.

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BIDENS BIPINNATA—CONNATA—FRONDOSA.
(SPANISH NEEDLES.)

Preparation.—Prepare the tincture from the recent herb, in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj., using pressure. Dose from five to thirty drops.

The different varieties of Bidens deserve investigation. Reference to the Dispensatory or Materia Medica will give the direction it should take. I am especially interested in the action of the B. Frondosa on the heart and circulation.

BRYONIA.

This remedy is extensively employed by the Homœopaths; and, as I think, greatly overestimated. They use it in rheumatism, pneumonia, and other diseases of the chest; in typhoid fever, and many other affections. It may be recommended for investigation—℞ Tincture of Bryonia, ℥ss.; Water, ℥iv.; a teaspoouful every one or two hours.

BRAYERA ANTHELMINTICA.

This agent is only employed as a remedy for tapeworm; and when of good quality it is very efficient.

CALENDULA OFFICINALIS.
(MARIGOLD.)

A tincture of Calendula has been employed by the Homœopaths as a local application in wounds; but without any advantage that I have been able to see.

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CALX.
(LIME.)

Lime is used for the ordinary purpose of an antacid, and in some cases is preferable to any other alkali. This is especially the case in indigestion, with the formation of lactic acid from decomposing food. Here there is not unfrequently an excess of the normal salts of the blood, and we can not use the salts of soda and potash to neutralize gastric acidity. It may be stated, as a general rule, that it will be found beneficial in cases of infantile dyspepsia, and in dyspepsia of the adult, with acid eructations during digestion.

Its *specific* use is in cases of furunculus or boils, and other inflammations of cellular tissue, terminating in suppuration. Why it has this specific influence I do not propose to say, but the fact I have proven in scores of cases. Given a case in which boils are being continually developed, the use of lime water will effect a radical cure. It is given in doses of a wineglassful three or four times a day.

CAMPHOR.

Camphor in small doses is a stimulant, in large doses a sedative, to the nervous system. I do not regard it as having a very extended use in medicine, though for the purpose named, it may sometimes be employed with advantage. In low forms of disease, with insomnia and restlessness, I have used it

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alone, and in combination with stimulant doses of Opium or Morphia, and Quinine.

As a topical stimulant, it may be employed with advantage, when the integrity of the part is threatened from enfeebled circulation.

CANNABIS SATIVA.
(Hemp).

The tincture of Cannabis should be prepared from the recent wild plant whilst in flower, but as we can not get this, we use a tincture prepared from the *churrus*, a species of extract from the recent plant, imported from India. The dose will vary from one to five drops.

In small doses it is stimulant to the cerebro-spinal centers; in large doses it produces intoxication, and finally arrest of function. It exerts an influence upon the urinary and reproductive apparatus that may be rendered available in practice, and also to some extent upon the skin.

I have employed the Cannabis *specially* to relieve irritation of the kidneys, bladder and urethra. It will be found especially beneficial in vesical and urethral irritation, and is an excellent remedy in the treatment of gonorrhœa.

I do not like it as a remedy for intemperance, (chronic alcoholism), so well as a combination of Nux Vomica and Iodine, with a bitter tonic; though in some cases it may be used with marked advantage, and the habit finally broken up by its use.

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CANTHARIS VESICATORIA.
(Spanish Fly.)

I object to the use of the blister, as a means of counter-irritation, and going further than this, I object to counter-irritation as a means of cure, when it can possibly be avoided, and I think it may be avoided in nearly all cases.

As an internal remedy, Cantharis will have but one use—as a stimulant to the urinary apparatus, especially the bladder. For this purpose it may be employed in small doses.

CACTUS GRANDIFLORUS.
(Night-Blooming Cereus.)

Preparation.—We prepare a tincture from the recent plant, in the proportion of ℥iv., to Alcohol 98° Oj. The dose will vary from one to ten drops.

The influence of Cactus seems to be wholly exerted on the sympathetic nervous system, and especially upon, and through the cardiac plexus. It does not seem to increase or depress innervation, (neither stimulant, nor sedative,) but rather to influence a regular performance of function. I am satisfied, however, that its continued use improves the nutrition of the heart, thus permanently strengthening the organ. It has a second influence, which is of much importance to the therapeutist. It exerts a direct influence upon the circulation and nutrition of the brain, and may thus be employed with advantage in some diseases of this organ. We can see very

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readily how this may be. The cardiac nerves are derived from the upper part of the sympathetic, and judging from the anatomy of the part, the first cervical ganglion being the principal nervous mass in the cervical region, must furnish innervation through the cardiac nerves, as it certainly controls the circulation and nutrition of the brain.

The Cactus is a *specific* in heart disease, in that it gives strength and regularity to the innervation of the organ. Its influence is permanent, in that it influences the waste and nutrition of the organ, increasing its strength. It exerts no influence upon the inflammatory process, and hence is not a remedy for inflammatory disease.

Feelings of weight and pressure at the præcordia, difficult breathing, fear of impending danger, etc., are at once removed. Such irregularity of action, whether violent, feeble, or irregular, as is dependent upon the innervation, is readily controlled. Thus, in the majority of cases of *functional* heart disease it gives prompt relief, and, if continued, will effect a cure. In those cases in which there is another lesion acting as a cause, as in some gastric, enteric, or uterine lesions, these must receive attention, and be removed to make the cure radical.

In structural heart disease, the first use of remedies is to relieve the distressing sensation in the region of the heart, and the unnatural fear of danger which attends them. As these spring from disordered innervation, in the majority of cases, the Cactus gives prompt relief. As we have seen above,

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its continuance favors normal waste and nutrition, as well as regular action. Hence, its continued use is followed by the removal of adventitious tissue; and an increase in the strength of its contractile fibre. Hence, it is really curative in many cases of structural heart disease.

I have some cases on my case book, of such aggravated form, that no one would believe they could live a twelvemonth; yet, after a lapse of five years, they are enjoying comfortable health.

But it will not relieve or cure cases of valvular deficiency, dilatation of the openings of the heart, or fatty degeneration. It is well, in estimating its action, to bear this in mind.

In its influence upon the nervous system, it more nearly resembles Pulsatilla; giving relief in that condition known as nervousness. But farther than this, it gives regularity of cerebral function, and permanently improves nutrition of the nervous centers.

CAPSICUM.

(Cayenne Pepper.)

Capsicum is a powerful topical stimulant; but its general influence is feeble. As Capsicum, it never gains admission to the circulation, and, in the process of digestion, it almost wholly loses its properties as a remedy.

Capsicum is used as a topical stimulant to the skin, and with advantage where the circulation is feeble, and there is need of such stimulation. It

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also exerts the revulsive influence of other rubefacients.

Its influence, when taken into the stomach, is of the same character. It excites the nerves, and calls an increased flow of blood to the part. In torpid states of the gastric mucous membrane, such action may be very desirable, may even be essential to life: as, in congestive intermittent. It is the topical action upon the gastric mucous membrane that is beneficial in some cases of delirium tremens.

The solar plexus, the most important of the vegetative nerve centers, may be thus influenced from the stomach. The stimulant influence of Capsicum may, therefore, be extended through this, and be of marked advantage in states of great and sudden prostration with tendency to congestion.

CARBO-LIGNI.

(Wood Charcoal.)

Is an absorbent and antiseptic, and has this general use, both internally and topically. Given in water-brash, or where there is decomposition of the food, it is sometimes quite beneficial. So in topical disease—with free secretion and tendency to sepsis—its local application absorbs the one and checks the other.

The *specific* use of charcoal is to arrest hemorrhage from the bowels. It is used in enema, ʒj. to ʒij. finely powdered, to four ounces of water, thrown

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up the rectum. Why it checks it I can not tell; that it does it, I have the evidence of my own eyes.

CASSIA ACUTIFOLIA.
(Senna.)

Senna is a mild cathartic; but its action is frequently attended with much tormina, and to some is very unpleasant. As it does not increase elimination by the bowels, its use as a cathartic is quite limited, and it may well be replaced by other remedies.

It exerts, however, a special influence in colic, which renders it an important remedy. We have generally employed it in the form of the Compound Powder of Jalap and Senna, in doses of five or ten grains, frequently repeated until relief is obtained. An infusion of Senna—or the tincture will answer the same purpose—for the relief of colic, whether the common wind-colic or that known as bilious, I regard as one of our best remedies.

CAULOPHYLLUM.
(Blue Cohosh.)

We employ this remedy in infusion as a parturient, and in the form of a tincture of the recently dried root, ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. The alcoholic fluid extract, representing ounce for ounce, is also a good preparation.

Caulophyllum exerts a very decided influence

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upon the parturient uterus, stimulating normal contraction, both before and after delivery. Its first use, in this case, is to relieve false pains; its second, to effect co-ordination of the muscular contractions; and third, to increase the power of these. The first and second are the most marked, yet the third is quite certain. Still if any one expects the marked influence of Ergot, in violent and continued contractions, he will be disappointed.

I judge that it exerts its influence through the hypogastric plexus; though to some extent it influences every process controlled by the sympathetic. Acting in this way it influences the circulation, nutrition, and functions of the reproductive organs. I have employed it in chronic uterine diseases with some advantage; but further study is necessary to point out the particular cases.

It may be used with good effect in some cases of nervous disease; especially in that condition known as *asthenic plethora.*

As a remedy for rheumatism it is inferior to the Macrotys, but in some cases it exerts a better influence. My experience has not been sufficient to point out these cases, and in this respect the remedy needs further study.

I would suggest, also, the trial of a tincture of the *recent* root.

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CEANOTHUS AMERICANUS.
(REDROOT.)

This agent deserves investigation, as it possesses marked medicinal properties. The direction of experiment may be judged by reference to the Dispensatory. Use a tincture of the recently dried root, in doses of 30 to 60 drops.

CELASTRUS SCANDENS.
(FALSE BITTERSWEET.)

This belongs to the class alterative. It has no special action that I am aware of, though it might be studied with advantage.

CHELONE GLABRA.
(BALMONY.)

The Chelone exerts an influence on waste and nutrition, and deserves study. We would prepare a tincture from the recent leaves, by expression, in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol, 76° Oj. Dose, ten to thirty drops.

CHIMAPHILLA UMBELLATA.
(PIPSISSEWA.)

The Chimaphilla has been used mostly in infusion or decoction: but for general use it may be prepared in the form of tincture, both of the *recent* and the dried leaves—though they will differ mate-

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rially in strength and properties—the fresh leaves possessing a volatile principle which is lost in drying.

The Chimaphilla has been principally employed as a tonic diuretic, influencing the urinary apparatus in a similar manner to the Buchu and Uva-Ursi, though I think it preferable to either. It relieves irritation of the entire urinary tract, and improves the circulation and nutrition of these organs.

It also influences the processes of waste and nutrition, and possesses the properties termed alterative. In this respect it has not been thoroughly studied, though highly spoken of by some in the treatment of scrofula and secondary syphilis.

CHIONANTHUS VIRGINICA.

(FRINGE-TREE.)

This agent comes to us with the recommendation of Dr. I. J. M. Goss, of Georgia, who says:

"It possesses important alterative properties. As a catalytic, it has the most decided influence over the glandular system of any article I have tried. It pervades the whole system, combining with the materies morbi, and conveying it out of the system. I have used it in mercurial cachexy with the most happy success, in quite a number of instances. But the most important therapeutical property that it possesses, is its specific power over morbid conditions of the liver. I have tried it in hypertrophy of that organ, and with uniform success; and also in obstruction of the liver, in malarious districts,

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with like success. Some years ago I called the attention of the profession to its specific effects in jaundice, and gave several cases in proof of the fact. Since then I have used the Chionanthus in a great many cases of jaundice, and have never failed to remove it in but one single case, and that one I think was a case of obstruction of the gall ducts by calculi; in that case, I tried all the reputed cholagogues, without success. It removes jaundice of years standing, in from eight to ten days. I have treated several persons that had been subject to jaundice, annually, in summer, for several years, and had been dosed with blue pill, calomel, and other articles, without any benefit, and I have not failed in a single instance, to remove the disease entirely. And when it is relieved with the Chionanthus, it does not return; at least it has not, in any instance to my knowledge. It is as near a specific in jaundice, as quinine in periodicity. The mode in which I have used it is to make a tincture of the bark of the root in gin, say ℥ij. to the quart of gin, and give ℥ss. of this every three hours, or the fluid extract, and give from one to two drachms every three hours."

CHLOROFORM.

Chloroform by inhalation exerts a *specific* influence upon the cerebral center, arresting its power to receive impressions—a condition known as anæsthesia. If carried still farther, it influences the spinal center

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in the same manner, and arrests automatic movement—respiration. This action is so well known, that it is not worth while occupying our space with it.

Administered by mouth, in small doses, it is a cerebral stimulant; in large doses, it lessens consciousness, the effect being more like poisoning by Alcohol, than the anæsthetic influence from its inhalation.

In small doses (gtts. x. to ℥j.) it is successfully employed to arrest convulsions. The small doses are safe, but it will not do to repeat it often in the larger quantity named. It is also used to relieve gastro-intestinal pains, especially in the form of common colic.

In cases of *biliary calculus* it is used as a prophylactic, preventing the deposit of cholesterin, and causing its solution when deposited. For this purpose it is used in doses of gtts. xx., three times a day.

CHLORAL HYDRATE.

The introduction of this new remedy has been attended with the same enthusiasm displayed in the case of Bromide of Potassium. It is evidently good for something, but what, has not yet been satisfactorily determined.

It is a *hypnotic*, and may be employed for this purpose, where there is an enfeebled condition of the brain, with impaired nutrition. It relieves pain,

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when the nervous centers are suffering from impaired circulation and irritation, and may be advantageously employed in these cases.

It has been successfully employed in the treatment of *delirium tremens*, but in some cases it has failed. I have not used it for this purpose, but applying the above principles would conclude that it is a remedy only in those in which the nervous centers are suffering the *exhaustion* of over stimulation, and not in those in which there is irritation and determination of blood. These cases require opposite remedies, and if I am correct in the view I have taken of the action of Chloral, it will doubtless prove a very important remedy.

The remedy also suggests itself as one adapted to allay irritation and produce sleep in a majority of cases of puerperal mania. Dr. Playfair reports a case in which it was used with excellent success.

I am satisfied from its action that it will prove a boon to the *opium eater* who desires to break off the destructive habit. Whilst its influence upon the nerve centers is the same as stimulant doses of Opium, and will thus give present relief, it gives strength to the cerebral circulation, and will thus favor normal nutrition; then the dose can be lessened, and finally the remedy dispensed with.

To give the estimate in which the drug is now held, I quote from the *London Lancet:*

"This interesting drug has now been sufficiently tested by a large number of eminent practitioners to enable us to form a tolerably clear idea both of

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its merits and its defects; and as we perceive that (after the usual fashion in matters medical) there is going to be an epidemic rage for the new remedy, it may be well to call the attention of the public to the principal features of its action which can be said to be fairly made out.

"In the first place, the term 'anæsthetic' should no longer be applied to chloral, for it has entirely failed to make good its claim to this reputation; even the largest doses do but produce a heavy and prolonged sleep, which is, however, essentially different from true anæsthesia. On the other hand, as a producer of sleep, Chloral is, in many respects, unrivaled; for though, like every other remedy, it fails in a considerable number of cases, it does succeed in a very large number; in fact, it is inferior in certainty, as a hypnotic, to Opium alone. Moreover, it is very greatly superior to Opium, and almost every other drug, in the character of its sleep-producing action; there are no attendant symptoms of cerebral oppression; the sleep, though often prolonged, is light and refreshing, and no unpleasant after-symptoms are experienced. It is important to observe, however, that this description only applies to the use of moderate quantities, and that not only unpleasant but highly dangerous symptoms have been produced by doses which we regret to see are very commonly used. Very careful inquiry leads us to assert that it is both unnecessary and dangerous to give larger doses than twenty to thirty grains, repeated once or twice if necessary,

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for hypnotic purposes. Doubtless it might happen that 100 consecutive patients might take much larger doses with impunity, but the 101st might present the alarming symptoms described by Dr. Reynolds, in a recent number of the *Practitioner*, as produced by a dose of fifty grains, and these symptoms might easily take a fatal turn.

"As a remedy for pain, Chloral holds a very varying place in the estimation of medical men, some rating it highly, and others thinking it almost worthless. Perhaps the safest estimate of its power over pain is that it only exerts an indirect influence by inducing a disposition to sleep, in which the pain is forgotten. Certainly it has entirely failed, in the hands of the present writer, to relieve severe pain of a pure neuralgic type. On the other hand, there is a good deal of evidence that it relieves suffering where the parts are very *tense*, and where mere arterial *throbbing* counts for much in the production of pain; thus it has been very favorably spoken of for its effects in gout. And this fact, if it be correct, corresponds with certain observations which have been made as to its action on the circulation. Both from sphygmographic experiments on healthy persons and on patients, and also from the details of the nearly fatal case reported by Dr. Reynolds, there is reason to think that Chloral exerts a contracting influence upon the arteries, powerful in proportion to the dose; and it may well be that arterial throbbing is checked by this kind of influence.

"On the whole, however, there can be little doubt

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that the great function of Chloral is that of a hypnotic and calmer of general nervous irritability. In delirium tremens it is excellent: and it is probable that with two such weapons for choice as Bromide of Potassium and Chloral we shall be able almost entirely to dispense with the use of Opium, which is so uncertain and dangerous a remedy in that disease. In the state of sleeplessness which threatens the access of puerperal mania, Chloral is probably an unequaled remedy. In melancholia its action as a hypnotic appears to be powerfully and remarkably sure. In mania, also, it acts well enough as a hypnotic, though there seems some division of opinion as to whether it does permanent good. We may also state that in the irritable condition of aged persons who find it difficult to sleep for any length of time continuously, the use of a single dose of thirty grains of Chloral appears often to answer excellently well. The minor uses of the drug in relieving more trivial conditions of nervous irritation, and in alleviating painful spasmodic symptoms of various kinds, are probably considerable."

CINCHONA.—(*See Quinia.*)

CISTUS CANADENSIS.
(Rock-Rose.)

Preparation.—A tincture is prepared from the recent plant, in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. The dose is from ten to thirty drops.

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The Cistus has a direct and positive influence on the processes of waste and nutrition, and hence possesses the properties known as *alterative*. It has been used with especial advantage in scrofula, and in chronic diseases dependent upon an enfeebled nutrition, or deposit of imperfectly formed plasma.

It is also reported to have a specific influence upon the intestinal canal, curing chronic diarrhœa and dysentery. It deserves a thorough investigation, which I trust some of our practitioners will give it.

CINNAMON.

Preparation.—We prepare a tincture from the oil, in the proportion of ℥j. to Alcohol 98° ℥viij. Dose five to thirty drops.

Cinnamon thus prepared exerts a direct influence upon the uterus, causing contraction of its muscular fibre, and arresting hemorrhage. To a limited extent, it exerts an influence on the entire circulatory system, checking hemorrhage from any part.

It is the most certain remedy we have for uterine hemorrhage, either during parturition or at the menstrual period. I have used it since I commenced practice, and have never failed to arrest post-partum hemorrhage with it, though I have had some very severe cases.

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CLEMATIS VIRGINIANA.
(VIRGIN'S BOWER.)

This agent has not been studied, though it deserves investigation. Prepare a tincture from the recent leaves, in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj., using pressure. Dose, gtts. v. to gtts. x. To determine its influence upon the nervous system and upon the secretions.

COFFEE, (JAVA OR RIO.)

Take of the berries of Coffee, ground (not roasted) ℥viij., Alcohol, 76° Oj. Make a tincture by percolation. Dose gtts. ij. to gtts. x.

Coffee is a stimulant to the cerebral nervous system, and may be employed in many cases where there is atony, with disordered function. Were it not for the general use of coffee as a beverage, it would prove a valuable remedy; but when persons are habituated to its use, it exerts but little influence.

COLLINSONIA CANADENSIS.
(STONE ROOT.)

We employ an alcoholic fluid extract of the Collinsonia, representing the crude article ounce for ounce. As there are a great many imperfect preparations in the market, I would advise that it be procured from one of our own houses in this city.

Collinsonia is a specific in ministers' sore throat;

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administered in the proportion of: ℞ Fluid Extract of Collinsonia, Simple Syrup, aa., half teaspoonful to a teaspoonful four times a day.

It proves beneficial in other cases of chronic laryngitis, in chronic bronchitis, and phthisis, allaying irritation, and checking cough.

It also exerts a favorable influence upon the digestive processes, improving the appetite, facilitating digestion, and acting as a general tonic.

It passes off through the kidneys, and exerts a tonic influence upon the entire extent of the urinary tract.

I have thought that its influence was specially exerted upon and through the *pneumogastric*, relieving irritation of, and giving strength to parts supplied from this source.

Collinsonia is a specific in the early stages of hemorrhoids, and will sometimes effect a cure in the advanced stages of the disease. In this case it is employed in small doses: ℞ Fluid Extract of Collinsonia, ʒj.; Water, ʒiv.; a teaspoonful four times a day.

I have given the therapeutics of Collinsonia thus briefly, that the points named might make the greater impression upon the reader. I regard it as one of the most direct and valuable agents of the Materia Medica, and one that will give satisfaction to whoever employs it.

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COLCHICUM.

It is difficult to procure a reliable preparation of Colchicum, and we have been obliged to use the English wine of Colchicum. Our manufacturers in this city now prepare a fluid extract, representing ounce for ounce of the crude article. The medium dose is one drop; we do not desire a cathartic action.

Colchicum has long been used as a remedy for rheumatism and gout; and, though probably the best of the old Materia Medica, it failed of giving its best results, because used in poisonous doses. In acute and chronic rheumatism it should be employed in small doses, following or alternated with the sedatives. We only obtain its anti-rheumatic influence when the pulse and temperature are reduced to nearly a normal standard.

It is also beneficial in some cases of intestinal disturbance, especially when there are gaseous accumulations. Thus in colic from intestinal irritation, it may be employed in the proportion of gtts. xx. to water, ℥iv., a teaspoonful every two hours, with prospect of success.

It exerts an influence upon the skin, and may occasionally be employed with advantage in chronic disease of the surface.

COLOCYNTH.

Colocynth has been employed as a cathartic, but for this purpose it is harsh and uncertain, and may well be dispensed with.

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I use it wholly as a remedy for *dysentery*. And for this purpose employ the alcoholic fluid extract, in small doses, usually ℥ss. to Water ℥iv. A teaspoonful every hour will give the best results.

It will also prove beneficial in some cases of colic, and in diarrhœa attended with tormina and tenesmus. I am satisfied that a thorough investigation of the remedy in small doses, will develop other important uses.

CYPRIPEDIUM PUBESCENS.

(Lady's Slipper.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the recent dried root, in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. The dose will range from gtts. ij. to ℥j.

The Cypripedium is a nerve stimulant, improving the circulation and nutrition of the nerve centers. Hence it proves useful in sleeplessness, nervous irritability from atony, in neuralgia, delirium, and other disturbances from the same cause.

It is a feeble agent, and too much must not be expected from it. It is a stimulant, and will only be applicable in nervous atony.

Its best use will doubtless be found in children, to soothe irritation of the nervous system. I make the following prescription which is an admirable "Soothing Syrup."

℞ Tinct. of Cypripedium,
Comp. Tinct. of Lavender, aa. ℥ij.
Tinct. of Lobelia, ℥j.
Simple Syrup, ℥iiiss. M.

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DATURA STRAMONIUM.

(JAMESTOWN WEED.)

The Stramonium is a very active agent, and yet I have not been able to determine any important medicinal use for its internal administration. I doubt whether it exerts any medicinal effect in its common external application; the good influence, if any, coming from the fomentation in the one case, or the alcohol when used as a tincture.

An ointment, prepared by boiling the fresh leaves in mutton tallow, furnishes an excellent local application for hemorrhoids, and ulceration of mucous surfaces.

DELPHINIUM STAPHISAGRIA.

(STAVESACRE.)

Preparation.—A tincture is prepared from the ground seed, (it having been pressed between *bibulous* paper to remove the fixed oil), in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 98° Oj.

The Tincture of Staphisagria has a specific action upon the reproductive organs of both male and female; but more marked in the first. It quiets irritation of the testes, and strengthens their function; it lessens irritation of the prostate and vesiculæ; arrests prostatorrhœa, and cures inflammation of these parts. It also exerts a marked influence upon the urethra, quieting irritation and checking mucous, or muco-purulent discharges; it

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influences the bladder and kidneys, but in less degree.

The action of Staphisagria upon the nervous system is peculiar. It exerts a favorable influence where there is depression of spirits and despondence, in cases of hypochondriasis and hysteria, especially when attended with moroseness, and violent outbursts of passion.

I employ it in the proportion of: ℞ Tincture of Staphisagria, ʒj ; Water, ʒiv. A teaspoonful every four hours.

The seed of the *Delphinum Consolida* or *Larkspur*, possesses similar medical properties, but is not so active ; a tincture may be prepared in the same way, and used in the same dose.

DIERVILLA CANADENSIS.

(Bush Honeysuckle.)

Preparation.—A tincture may be prepared from the recent leaves and twigs, ʒviij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose gtts. x. to ʒj.

We have no positive knowledge with regard to this agent, though it is credited with active properties. It would be well to test its influence upon the urinary apparatus, and to increase waste and nutrition.

DIGITALIS PURPUREA.

(Foxglove.)

Prepare a tincture from the recent dried leaves in the proportion of ʒviij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose,

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from a fraction of one drop to five drops.—℞ Tincture of Digitalis, gtts. x. to xx.; Water, ℥iv. A teaspoonful every one or two hours.

Digitalis may be employed for the general purposes of a sedative, to lessen the frequency of the pulse, and the temperature, in cases of fever and inflammation. It is somewhat analogous to Aconite, and exerts the best influence in atonic conditions. For these purposes, however, it must be used in small doses.

It is a powerful cardiac tonic when used in small doses, and may be employed in any case of heart disease where the organ is enfeebled. It not only gives the necessary stimulation for the present, but it gives a permanent improvement; doubtless through an improved nutrition.

It exerts an influence upon the capillary circulation, and may be employed with much certainty to arrest asthenic hemorrhages. It also influences the absorption of dropsical deposits, and increases secretion from the kidneys, probably in the same way.

There is no *cumulative* effect when Digitalis is used in small doses.

DIOSCOREA VILLOSA.

(Wild Yam.)

An infusion of the recent Dioscorea will undoubtedly give the best results. A tincture may be prepared from the recent root in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose gtts. x. to ℥j.

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The article that has been sold for Dioscorea by most of our druggists for the past ten years, and from which the Dioscorein has been prepared, is a species of *smilax*. A very good joke on Dioscorein! but unpleasant to those who have expected it to relieve pain in the bowels.

True Dioscorea, when recent, is a specific in bilious colic, when given in infusion, or even in tincture. In any case it allays gastro intestinal irritation, and favorably influences the vegetative processes. It is a feeble but certain diaphoretic, and allays irritation of the nervous system.

DROSERA ROTUNDIFOLIA.

(SUNDEW.)

We employ a tincture of the fresh plant prepared in Germany, using it in the proportion of: ℞ Tincture of Drosera, gtts. x. to ʒj.; Water, ʒiv. A teaspoonful every three or four hours.

I use the Drosera as a specific in the cough attending and following measles, especially where there is dryness of the respiratory mucous membranes. An experience of ten years with it, in a large number of cases, has given me great confidence in the remedy.

We also use it in cases of whooping cough, especially where there is dryness of the air-passages, and much irritation of the nervous system. Whilst it is not a remedy for all cases of whooping cough, it is a true specific in those to which it is

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adapted. I have often seen a serious case of the disease relieved in twenty-four hours, and an entire arrest of the cough in two weeks.

We also employ it in cases of chronic cough, with dryness of the air-passages and nervous irritation, with much advantage. It makes little difference whether it arises from bronchial irritation or inflammation or phthisis, if associated with irritation of the basilar portions of the brain, and pneumogastric.

EPIGÆA REPENS.

(Trailing Arbutus.)

This remedy deserves further and careful investigation. We wish to determine its influence upon the urinary apparatus, and the intestinal canal.

For this purpose a tincture of the fresh leaves may be prepared with dilute alcohol.

EPILOBIUM PALUSTRE.

For general use the infusion is the preferable form for administration; but we have a tincture prepared with dilute alcohol, employing pressure.

The Epilobium exerts a specific influence upon the intestinal mucous membrane, relieving irritation, and promoting normal function. Thus, it is employed in acute diarrhœa and dysentery, and in colic, with advantage. I have also prescribed it to quiet the irritation and check the diarrhœa in typhoid fever, with marked benefit.

It is especially valuable, however, in chronic

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diarrhœa and dysentery; sometimes effecting cures where all other means had failed. Thus, I employed it extensively in the treatment of the chronic diarrhœa during the recent war, and with a success not to be obtained from other remedies. I do not pretend to account for its action, but its curative influence is well established.

ERECHTHITES HIERACIFOLIUS.

(FIREWEED.)

Preparation.—A tincture may be prepared from the recent plant, in the usual proportions, using alcohol of 76°. Dose from gtts. x. to ʒj.

We have here another remedy that requires study. It influences mucous tissue, especially of the bowels and lungs, and this will be the direction of the investigation.

ERIGERON CANADENSE.

(CANADA FLEABANE.)

We employ the Oil of Erigeron in practice, for the arrest of hemorrhage. For passive hemorrhage it is one of the most valuable remedies we have, and may be relied upon in hemorrhage from any organ or part. For this purpose the dose will be from five to ten drops on sugar, as often as may seem necessary.

The Erigeron influences the kidneys in a manner similar to Buchu. It may be employed in diabetes and albuminuria with advantage; also, in chronic

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inflammation of the kidneys, bladder and urethra. Latterly it has been recommended for gonorrhœa.

ERYNGIUM AQUATICUM.
(Water Eryngo.)

The Eryngium may be employed in infusion, or in the form of a tincture of the recent dried root, ℥viij. to proof spirit, Oj. Dose, gtts. x. to gtts. xx.

The Eryngium exerts a specific influence upon the bladder and urethra, relieving irritation. It is one of the most certain remedies that can be employed in dysuria from irritation, and in spasmodic stricture; continued, it proves curative in these cases.

It has been employed for other purposes, and we find it highly recommended. It undoubtedly deserves a thorough investigation.

EUONYMUS ATROPURPUREUS.
(Wahoo.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the bark of the recent root, in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose, gtts. x. to ℥j.

The Euonymus stimulates the nutritive processes, and in some cases improves digestion. Usually, however, it will need to be combined with a pure bitter, as the hydrastis, to get its full action in this direction.

It exerts a marked influence in malarial diseases, and deserves the name of an antiperiodic, though it

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is much feebler than Quinine. It may, however, be used in these cases with marked advantage, after the fever has been once broken.

EUPATORIUM AROMATICUM.

(WHITE SNAKEROOT.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the recent dried root, in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose, gtts. x. to ℥j.

This variety of the Eupatorium exerts a marked influence upon the brain, relieving irritation and promoting normal action. It is also diaphoretic, and probably influences, to a slight degree, all of the functions governed by the sympathetic. It will repay careful investigation.

EUPATORIUM TEUCRIFOLIUM.

(WILD HOARHOUND.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the recent plant, using dilute alcohol. The dose will vary from one drop to one drachm.

In small doses it stimulates all the functions controlled by the sympathetic nervous system; improving digestion, blood making, and stimulates waste and excretion. It may be combined with a simple bitter tonic, or preparation of iron, or the hypophosphites, for its restorative influence, or with the vegetable alteratives for its other use.

In large doses it is a powerful diaphoretic.

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EUPATORIUM PURPUREUM.
(QUEEN OF THE MEADOW.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the recent root, in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 98° Oj. Dose, gtts. x. to f℥ss.

Its principal influence is upon the kidneys, and it may be employed whenever an increased volume of urine is desirable.

It has been mostly employed in the treatment of dropsy, with reported success.

Its influence upon the urinary organs may doubtless be made valuable, but it requires further study.

EUPATORIUM PERFOLIATUM.
(BONESET.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the recently dried herb in the proportion of ℥viij. to proof spirit Oj. Dose from gtts. v. to ℥j.

The Eupatorium increases functional activity of the skin, and to a less extent, secretion from the kidneys. It also influences the circulation, to a slight extent, and does well combined with the sedatives.

In quite small doses it stimulates the sympathetic nervous system, and improves all the vegetative functions. It is not an active remedy, and too much must not be expected from it; yet, in many cases, it may well supplant costly foreign drugs.

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EUPHORBIA COROLLATA.—E. IPECACUANHA.
(BOWMAN'S ROOT—WILD IPECAC.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture of the first from the bark of the root, of the second, from the root, (dried), ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose, gtts. j. to x.

These remedies have not been sufficiently studied; yet, possessing active properties, they are likely to prove valuable. The Euphorbia Corollata exercises a direct influence upon the mucous surfaces, relieving irritation, and promoting functional activity. This is noticed more especially in the digestive tract. In quite small doses it improves digestion, both stomachic and intestinal, tends to overcome constipation and irregularity.

It may be employed with advantage in some forms of diarrhœa and dysentery, using it in the place of Ipecac. To arrest inflammatory action in the intestinal canal, seems to be its specific use.

FERRUM.
(IRON.)

We employ two preparations of Iron—Metallic Iron in powder, and the Tincture of Chloride of Iron. The first is Iron by Hydrogen or Quevenne's; a good article may be known by its iron-gray color and its effervescing with acids, the spurious is black, and effervesces but slightly. The Tincture of Chloride of Iron should be ordered of a reliable manufacturer. It will be a clear, deep-colored tincture,

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without a trace of yellowness or deposit at the bottom of the bottle.

We employ Iron as a restorative. It is a component part of the red corpuscles, and experience has shown that its administration stimulates the formation of these bodies. In proportion as the red corpuscles are increased, blood-making becomes more active and nutrition is improved. It thus becomes a very important remedy in cases of anæmia, with impaired nutrition.

As a restorative, it is better to administer the necessary quantity of Iron with the food. Experiment has demonstrated that at other times it is appropriated slowly or not at all. It does not require a very large amount to accomplish the object, for Iron exists in small quantity in the body. The dose of Metallic Iron need never be more than five grains, often not more than one; whilst of the Tincture, the dose will be from five to twenty drops.

In the selection of the preparation I would be guided by the appearance of the mucous membrane. If it is dark-red, use the Tincture of Chloride, if pallid, Metallic Iron.

We also employ Iron as a specific against certain zymotic poisons. The reader has probably employed The Tincture of Chloride in erysipelas, and many regard it as a true specific in the disease, rarely making any other prescription. I think we may say, that in all cases of erysipelas presenting the deep-red discoloration of mucous membranes, with the same deep color of the local disease, the Tinc-

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ture may be prescribed with great confidence. But my experience with the disease has shown me that where the mucous membranes are pallid, the coating of the tongue white and pasty, the Sulphite of Soda is the best remedy. In these cases Quevenne's Iron might be tested.

Rademacher claimed that Iron was specific to one of his three *epidemic constitutions*. This was characterized by pallor of the skin, moderate heat, with a small, thin or soft, empty pulse. His description, so far as I have seen it in translation, is so meager that we can hardly determine the condition in which he valued it so highly, even treating all the cases of pneumonia in a season with Iron alone.

FRASERA CAROLINENSIS.

(American Columbo.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh root, in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 98° Oj. Dose, gtts. j. to v.

This remedy has been but little used, and that little has been of the dried root as a tonic. The recent root possesses quite active properties, and is likely to repay investigation. It is stimulant to the circulation, and will doubtless exert the same influence upon all the vegetative functions. Will some one give it a thorough study and report?

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FRAXINUS SAMBUCIFOLIA—F. ACUMINATA.
(ASH.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the recent bark, in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose from gtts. ij. to f℥ss.

Both the *black* and *white* ash deserve study. The first, for its influence in skin diseases, especially of an herpetic character, and as a general alterative. The second, to improve secretion, and for its influence upon the chylopoietic viscera.

GALIUM APARINE.
(CLEAVERS.)

Galium is most frequently employed in infusion, especially for its influence upon the urinary apparatus. A tincture may be prepared from the recent herb by expression, using only sufficient alcohol for preservation.

The first use of Galium is to relieve irritation of the urinary apparatus, and increase the amount of urine. For this purpose it will be found one of our best remedies. In dysuria and painful micturition, it will frequently give prompt relief.

It has recently been employed in *cancer*, used locally and internally. A case of *hard nodulated tumor* of the tongue, apparently cancerous, is reported in the British Medical Journal, as having been cured with it. Whether it was cancerous or not, it suggests a line of experiment which may develop an important use of the remedy.

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GAULTHERIA PROCUMBENS.
(WINTERGREEN.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh plant, in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 98° Oj. Dose from gtts. ij. to gtts. x.

In this form and in these doses, the Gaultheria exerts a special influence upon the bladder, prostate and urethra, allaying irritation and inflammation. It may also be employed in dysuria. Probably one of its most important uses is, as an anaphrodisiac, exerting a direct and quite certain influence upon the reproductive organs of both male and female. For this purposs it is employed in some cases of spermatorrhœa. It will not do, however, to mistake the case, and use it where the venereal function is already impaired.

GELSEMINUM SEMPERVIRENS.
(YELLOW JESSAMINE.)

The commercial tincture has been so variable in strength that much harm has resulted from its use. In some cases the harm has been direct from over doses, in others, indirect from depending upon a feeble or worthless remedy. Before the war, we had a very crude tincture prepared from the green root, with proof spirits (whisky?), containing about as much of the medicinal properties as could be held by such spirtt. During the war, there being difficulty in obtaining a supply of the root, and greater

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difficulty in having it shipped green, the tincture in the market gradually deteriorated until it was worthless. Even yet it has not regained its medicinal properties with many *druggers*.

We have thought that a good tincture could only be made from the fresh root. But some who have employed the dried root (not old), claim that it makes fully as reliable a tincture. Dr. Locke, of Newport, prepares his tincture from the dried root, and claims that it is more reliable than any he can buy.

It is not worth while to give a formula for the preparation of a tincture, as it will be purchased by a great majority of our readers. That which bears the label of "Specific Medicine" will be found very strong. Dose from gtts. j. to gtts. vj.

Gelseminum exerts a specific influence upon the brain, and to a less extent upon the spinal center and sympathetic. It relieves irritation and determination of blood, and the disordered innervation that flows from it. Probably there is no remedy in the Materia Medica that is more direct and certain in its action. Given, a case of irritation and determination of blood to the brain, marked by flushed face, bright eyes, contracted pupils, restlessness and irritability, we prescribe Gelseminum with certainty. This being a common complication in diseases of childhood, it is especially the child's remedy.

Acting in this direction, it lessens the frequency of the heart's action, and removes obstruction to the free flow of blood—a sedative. It also increases secretion in the same way.

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I do not think the Gelseminum exerts any important influence, other than through this action upon the nervous system. But, as will be observed, this is a very important action.

It is contra-indicated where the circulation is feeble, and there is tendency to congestion. Especially if there is a feeble circulation in the nerve centers. We never give it if the eyes are dull, pupils dilated, and the countenance expressionless. In such cases, it may prove fatal in quite moderate doses. A number of these cases are on record, three or four in which death was produced by as small a dose as gtts. xxx. of a common tincture.

It has one other specific action, which is worthy of mention. It is *the* remedy in dysuria from stricture, and will rarely fail in enabling the patient to pass urine in from four to eight hours.

GENTIANA LUTEA.

(GENTIAN.)

The Gentian is an excellent stomachic bitter, and resembles, in its medicinal action, our Hydrastis. I do not think, however, it has the same kindly influence in irritable conditions of the stomach.

A very fine preparation may be made by taking five parts of Gentian, and one part of Podophyllum; and making a tincture by percolation, using dilute Alcohol. It is one of the most efficient remedies I have ever used in atony of the stomach and bowels, with feeble or slow digestion.

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GERANIUM MACULATUM.
(Cranesbill.)

The Geranium is an astringent from the presence of Tannic and Gallic Acids in large quantity; and hence will possess the medicinal properties of these. It is claimed, however, to possess other properties, acting more kindly, and giving tone to mucous membranes. Whilst I believe the remedy has been over-rated, I am confident that experiment will develop some special use.

It may be employed in infusion with good results, especially when a topical action on the stomach and bowels is wanted, or in chronic cases when we desire the action of Gallic Acid. For general use I would suggest a tincture by percolation, using Alcohol of 30°. The Geranin, though not entirely worthless, is a feeble and costly medicine.

GERARDIA PEDICULARIA.

Will some of our Southern physicians give this remedy a trial and report. For experiment, make a tincture by percolation, ℥viij. to the Oj., using dilute Alcohol. Test it as a sedative, a diaphoretic, and an antiseptic.

GILLENIA TRIFOLIATA—G. STIPULACEA.
(Indian Physic.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the root, in the proportion of ℥viij. to proof spirit, Oj. Dose from gtts. v. to ℥j.

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These indigenous remedies possess marked medicinal properties, yet they have been so little used of late years that most physicians know nothing about them.

They deserve careful study. First, to determine their relation to Ipecac, and whether they will replace it in practice. The direction of the experiments may be seen by reference to this agent. We also wish to determine their influence upon the functions of digestion and secretion

GLYCERINE.

Glycerine is principally employed in medicine for its topical action. It is slightly stimulant to both skin and mucous membrane, and shields the skin from the action of the air. In many cases of simple cutaneous irritation, it will prove curative alone. In others, it will prove a good vehicle for the application of other remedies. In some cases of dyspepsia, Glycerine is a true remedy, allaying irritation, and giving gentle stimulation.

Glycerine is an admirable solvent, and may be used as a basis for many preparations, both for local use, and internal administration.

Notwithstanding the opposition, I still prefer the cheap Glycerine, manufactured in this city, to the higher priced Eastern and Foreign article. An extended use of Gordon's No. 1 Perfumer's Glycerine, has proved to me that it is the most bland of any article in the market. The slight odor is not as

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objectionable as the irritant properties developed by repeated distillation.

GNAPHALIUM POLYCEPHALUM.

(WHITE BALSAM.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the leaves, using Alcohol of 30°. Dose gtts. v. to ʒss.

This agent has been but little used, yet we think it worthy of investigation. The line of experiment will be, to determine its influence upon the urinary and reproductive organs—in acute and chronic ulcerations—and its action on the digestive apparatus.

GOSSYPIUM HERBACEUM.

(COTTON.)

Some years since the cotton-root was in considerable demand as an abortive. It was claimed that the Negro women of the South made common use of it, and that it was so certain and safe that they could rid themselves of the product of conception whenever they wished, and without impairment of health. It was singular what a demand sprung up for cotton-root bark; but fortunately for the unborn it had no influence on the gravid uterus.

Still the reports from the South seemed well authenticated, that, at least in some cases, it was abortive, and was a very certain emmenagogue, and a stimulant diuretic. It is only another example of a fact I have insisted on, that many plants possessing medicinal properties when fresh, lose them when

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dried, and especially when gathered at the wrong season and kept in stock.

If some of our manufacturers will get the bark of the cotton-root before the boll opens, and will prepare a tincture from it whilst fresh, we will probably find it possessing marked medicinal properties.

GUAIACUM OFFICINALE.

We prepare a tincture by percolation from the wood, in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose, from ten to thirty drops.

The tincture thus prepared may be occasionally used with advantage in the latter stages of acute, and in chronic rheumatism. It may also be associated with the vegetable alteratives in the treatment of some chronic diseases, where stimulation of the skin is required. Occasionally it will prove useful in functional diseases of the uterine organs, especially in amenorrhœa.

GYMNOCLADUS CANADENSIS.

(American Coffee Tree.)

This agent has been but little used in medicine, yet if we are to judge from its common use as a *fly poison*, it possesses active properties that may be made available. For experiment, a tincture may be made of the bark, beans, or pulp of the seed-pod; the last being regarded as the most active.

Dr. Herring concluded from his experiments that it might be given with benefit in cases of "cough

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accompanied or followed by tonsilitis; in erysipelas of the face; in scarlet fever; in so-called hives; in typhoid fever; remittent or intermittent epidemic fever, with a typhoid character, etc."

The dose would be small. Of a tincture of ℥iv. of the pulp to the Oj.; gtts. x. to Water, ℥iv.; a teaspoonful every three hours would be sufficient.

HAMAMELIS VIRGINICA.

(WITCH-HAZEL.)

I prefer a distilled extract of the fresh leaves to any other preparation. That known to the trade as "Pond's Extract" is employed by most physicians who make use of the remedy. The ordinary fluid extract may be used as a topical application, as a gargle for the throat, and for the general purposes of an astringent.

Where the Witch Hazel can be readily obtained, I would advise that the leaves be gathered in June or July, and if no apparatus for distilling is at hand, that they be packed in a percolator, and a tincture prepared with a very weak spirit, say 30°.

I might say in this connection, that when I specify the strength of Alcohol by degrees, I have no reference to an imaginary standard of proof, but the figures represent the number of parts in one hundred.

The Hamamelis has a specific action upon the venous system, giving strength to it, and facilitating the passage of venous blood. It may, therefore, be employed with advantage in any case where a part

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is enfeebled, and there is a sluggish circulation. Thus we use it in cases of catarrh and ozœna; chronic pharyngitis, disease of the tonsils, pillars of the fauces, vellum and uvula, and in chronic laryngitis. The indications for its employment are, thickening of mucous membranes, with enfeebled circulation, and increased secretion, either mucous or muco-purulent.

It is especially a valuable remedy in the treatment of hemorrhoids, sometimes effecting a cure in old and very stubborn cases without the use of other remedies. Usually, however, I use the solution of the Persulphate of Iron as a local application.

It is also a very useful remedy in the treatment of diseases of the uterus and vagina. Given, a case with the conditions named, thickening, with relaxation, enfeebled circulation, and increased mucous, or muco-purulent secretion, and its action is very positive.

We employ it also in the treatment of various lesions of the lower extremities, both as a local application and an internal remedy, and many times with excellent results.

It is an excellent dressing for erysipelas, and for burns, giving that slight stimulation that seems to be required in these cases.

I need not name other cases, as the indications for its use first given, will suggest its application. I value the remedy very highly, and feel confident that a trial in the cases named will bring it into general use.

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HEDEOMA PULEGIOIDES.
(PENNYROYAL.)

This is a much neglected article, probably because it is so common. I regard it as one of the most valuable stimulant diaphoretics; very kindly received by the stomach, and quite certain in its action. As a remedy for colds it will prove very useful. To two ounces of the tincture add gtts. x. of Tincture of Veratrum, or ʒss. of Tincture of Ipecac, and give it in teaspoonful doses every one or two hours.

It is an admirable remedy for amenorrhœa from cold; the safest and most certain we have, I think. It may be given in doses of a teaspoonful every hour or two hours, or two or three times in the evening, with the hot foot bath.

Prepare your own tincture in this way: In July, gather a sufficient quantity of the herb, stem it, and at once pack the leaves in a percolator. Then add dilute Alcohol, or even common whisky, in the proportion of Oj. to each ʒviij. Let it stand twenty-four hours, and then draw off, putting on water until the tincture measures Oj. to each ʒviij.

HELIANTHEMUM CANADENSE.
(ROCK ROSE.)

Preparation.—We prepare a tincture from the plant, ʒviij. to Oj. with Alcohol of 30°. Or we may prepare a decoction, using pressure, and add sufficient Alcohol to preserve it. Dose, gtts. x. to ʒj.

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It is a valuable remedy in the treatment of scrofula and secondary syphilis; exerting a direct influence upon the processes of waste and excretion. It is to be preferred to some alteratives, because it also *facilitates* digestion and blood-making. Will some of our practitioners test it thoroughly and report?

HELLEBORUS NIGER.
(Black Hellebore.)

Preparation.—A tincture is prepared in the usual way, using Alcohol of 76°. Dose gtts. ss. to gtts. x.

The black Hellebore is but little used, as in the dose recommended in the books it is an irritant poison. In small doses it is a stimulant to the spinal and sympathetic nervous systems, and it is probable that for this purpose it may be employed advantageously. I have used it with advantage in sterility of the female, and to increase virility in the male.

HELONIAS DIOICA.
(Unicorn Root.

True Helonias undoubtedly exerts a marked influence upon the reproductive organs of the female, but as it is so frequently supplied from the Aletris, but little dependence can be placed upon it.

It exerts the general influence of a tonic, and a special tonic action upon the uterine and urinary organs. It is possible that if we can obtain a reliable preparation, it will be found superior to other remedies for these purposes. One of the special in-

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dications for its use is in the mental depression and irritability that attends many of these affections. I am of the impression that, in many cases, the relief of this cerebral disturbance is its most important action.

HEPATICA AMERICANA.

(LIVERLEAF).

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh leaves, using proof spirit. Dose gtts. v. to ʒss.

The Hepatica exerts a slightly stimulant and tonic influence upon the stomach and small intestines, relieving irritation and promoting functional activity. Thus it may be employed in atonic conditions of these and associate viscera with advantage. Culpepper wrote, "It is a singular good herb for all diseases of the liver, both to cool and cleanse it, and is serviceable in yellow jaundice. It is a singular remedy to stay the spreading of tetters, ringworms, and other fretting and running sores."

It exerts an influence upon all mucous surfaces. Probably its best action is upon the bronchial mucous membrane, when enfeebled from irritation or inflammation, attended with profuse secretion. In these cases it may sometimes be given with great benefit.

HERACLEUM LANATUM.

(MASTERWORT.)

This remedy has been but little used, but it might repay careful study. It has been employed as an antispasmodic, and we would judge that it was a

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spinal stimulant. For experiment a tincture should be prepared from the green root.

The *Wild Parsnip* (Pastinaca Sativa) might also be tested. In poisonous doses, it produces great excitation of the nervous system, sometimes with convulsions, followed by coma and difficult respiration. This would suggest its use as a cerebro-spinal stimulant. Of course it would be used in *small* doses.

HYDRANGEA ARBORESCENS.
(Seven Barks.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh or recently dried root, ℥viij. to the Oj., using Alcohol of 76°. Dose, gtts. x. to ℥ss.

This is a valuable remedy in diseases of the urinary apparatus. It gives tone to the kidneys, improving their functional activity, and thus tends to arrest the formation of urinary deposits and calculi. We do not believe, as Dr. J. W. Butler stated, that it will cure stone in the bladder, though it may prove prophylactic. It relieves irritation of the bladder and urethra, and hence proves serviceable in cases of gravel. It also exerts an influence upon the respiratory mucous tract, relieving bronchial irritation.

HYDRASTIS CANADENSIS.
Golden Seal.)

I will give the Hydrastis a brief notice, as it is in such general use for all the purposes of a tonic, that my readers know as much about it as I do. It im-

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proves the appetite and facilitates digestion; but beyond this it relieves gastro-intestinal irritation.

Its topical action, wherever applied, is that of a tonic, strengthening the circulation and nutrition. It is in common use for these purposes in diseases of the skin, diseases of the eyes, and diseases of mucous surfaces.

As a stomachic and tonic, I like the action of the finely powdered root, as well as the more costly preparations. Indeed, in most cases, I would prefer this, in equal quantity, to the Hydrastine.

A tincture made with Alcohol of 30° will be found a good preparation. It is more convenient for carrying, and added to water, gives a pleasant stomachic. A very good prescription would be: ℞ Tincture of Hydrastis, ʒij.; Tincture of Nux Vomica, gtts. xx.; Water, ℥iv. A teaspoonful every three or four hours.

The *Sulphate of Hydrastia* is (when properly made) soluble in water in the proportion of four grains to the ounce. It makes a valuable collyrium in chronic conjunctivitis, or the latter stages of the acute. It is also an admirable injection in the second stages of gonorrhœa, and in gleet.

HYOSCYAMUS NIGER.
(Henbane.)

Preparation.—We prepare a tincture from the recent dried leaves in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose from gtts. ss. to gtts. v.

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In medicinal doses, the Hyoscyamus is a stimulant to the cerebro-spinal centers, and may be employed whenever such action is desirable. It is from this that it has its sleep-producing properties, as well as the relief of pain. With some persons the tolerance for Hyosciamus is very great, and even drachm doses exert this stimulant influence.

It exerts a similar influence upon the vegetative system, in a slight degree favoring every process that is performed under its influence. It is not only stimulant, but it allays irritation. Thus, in some cases, when a frequent pulse is dependent upon irritation and debility of the cardiac nerves, it exerts the influence of the special sedatives. It never arrests secretion, but, as before remarked, it favors it. Thus small doses of Podophyllin, combined with Hyoscyamus, is not only less irritant, but more effectual. So we find in irritable states of the digestive apparatus, the addition of a small portion of Hyoscyamus to the bitter tonics improves their action.

Because Hyoscyamus is poisonous, it is no reason why it should be an active remedy. Poisoning and curing are too different things. Whilst it will be found a valuable curative agent, and quite direct in its action, its influence is rather feeble than otherwise, and too much must not be expected from it.

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INULA HELENIUM.
(ELECAMPANE.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh root, in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 50° Oj.

Elecampane is a feeble stimulant and tonic, but may sometimes be used for these properties with advantage. It not only exerts this influence upon the digestive tract, but also upon the skin, and is sometimes beneficial in chronic cutaneous diseases.

Its principal use, however, is in bronchial disease, with increased secretion. It may be used also in combination with Stillingia. Its action is slow, and it needs to be continued for some time to experience its benefits.

IODINE.

Iodine, in all its forms, increases retrograde metamorphosis, and, in some degree, stimulates excretion. We have no reason to believe that it stimulates blood-making or nutrition, other than as it facilitates the removal of worn-out tissues.

In quite small doses Iodine stimulates the sexual organs, and increases their power. For this purpose we may use it in the proportion of: ℞ Tincture of Iodine, gtts. xx.; Simple Syrup, ℥iv.; a teaspoonful four times a day.

Iodide of Potassium is doubtless its most active form as a resolvent and a stimulant of waste. There is great difference of opinion with regard to the proper dose; some think it best in doses of one to

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five grains; others in doses of grs. xx. to xl. three or four times a day. Of course our choice of dose will depend upon the strength of the patient, the character of the disease, and the rapidity of action desired. As a remedy, it is greatly over-estimated.

The *Iodide of Sodium* has been but little used and is obtained with difficulty in the market. I believe that it is a better preparation than Iodide of Potassium, especially where there is asthenia and a feeble circulation. The Iodide of Sodium may be employed with especial advantage in those cases that present a pallid tongue and mucous membranes.

The *Iodide of Ammonium* should be selected when stimulation of the nervous system is desirable. Like the others, it increases waste, but it also improves nutrition, and does not impair digestion. In secondary syphilis of an asthenic type, with nervous symptoms, this salt will be found an important remedy.

I would call especial attention to its action in certain forms of chronic headache, depending upon an enfeebled circulation and mal-nutrition. In some of these cases it gives prompt relief, and effects a permanent cure.

We prepare an Iodide of Ammonium for local use as follows: ℞ Tincture of Iodine (strong), Aqua Ammonia (strong), aa., put in a bottle and allow it to stand until colorless. Its influence is much better than the Tincture of Iodine alone; it is less irritant and does not discolor the skin. It is a favorite preparation with me in the treatment of

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boils, local inflammations, buboes, etc., in the early stage, when we may expect resolution.

Iodide of Starch is an excellent preparation, affording the best means of giving Iodine without gastric irritation. It may be readily prepared in the office as follows: Triturate twenty-four grains of Iodine with a little water in a mortar, adding gradually an ounce of finely powdered starch, continuing the trituration until it assumes a uniform blue color. It is then dried with gentle heat, and kept in a well stopped bottle. The dose will vary from five grains to a teaspoonful, given in gruel.

IPECACUANHA.

(IPECAC.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the root (a good article) ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose from the fraction of a drop to gtts. v.

Ipecacuanha exerts a specific influence upon mucous membranes, relieving irritation, and arresting the inflammatory process. It also stimulates a better circulation and innervation, increases nutrition, and thus favors functional activity.

We employ it as a specific in most cases of cholera infantum. It allays irritation of the stomach, gradually checks the frequency of the discharges from the bowels, and restores tone and functional activity. In a large experience in the treatment of this disease, we have found nothing to equal it. It is usually prescribed in the following proportions: ℞

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Tincture of Ipecac, gtts. v. to gtts. xxx.; Water, ℥iv. A teaspoonful every hour.

We employ it with very marked advantage in the treatment of infantile pneumonia, associated with Aconite and Veratrum. In some cases, the prescription of Ipecac alone will be sufficient to arrest the disease in two or three days, especially if given in the first stages. It is also employed with excellent results in diseases of the respiratory apparatus of the adult.

We prescribe it in all cases of muco-enteritis. If there is little constitutional disturbance, Ipecac is used alone; if there is some hardness and increased frequency of the pulse, it is given in combination with Aconite.

We employ it in Dysentery, especially in the sporadic form from cold. The simple prescription of Ipecac is frequently successful, but with much febrile action it is associated with a sedative.

In small doses we employ it as a stimulant to the entire digestive tract, associating it with the bitter tonics, or the restoratives. For this purpose, it will prove very valuable, especially where there is some gastro-intestinal irritation.

IPOMÆA JALAPA.

(JALAP.)

So far as I know, this remedy has only been employed as a cathartic. It would be well to test it in doses so small that no cathartic action would follow; some desirable property might be developed.

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IRIS VERSICOLOR.

(BLUE FLAG.)

We find the Iris described in our Dispensatory as "among the most valuable of our medicinal plants," "termed the *mercury* of Eclectic practice," and yet I am safe in saying that there has not been a good article in the market for a dozen years. The dried root of the drug trade possesses no more medicinal property than sawdust, and preparations from it, whether in the form of fluid extract or *Irisin*, are an imposition.

We would prepare a tincture from the fresh root, using Alcohol of 76°. There are two varieties of it, and that should be selected which presents a bluish mottled color on incision.

When prepared as above, the Iris is one of our best remedies. It is directly stimulant to waste and excretion, and also influences the lymphatic system. It may, therefore, be employed in all diseases in which there is bad blood, and imperfect nutrition. I regard it as one of our most certain remedies in the treatment of secondary syphilis.

It exerts a specific influence in cases of enlargement of the thyroid gland, and has effected cures in very severe cases. Here, as in other cases, we employ it uncombined, giving it internally, and using it as a local application. The dose of the tincture of Iris will vary from five drops to ʒj.

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JEFFERSONIA DIPHYLLA.

(TWINLEAF.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the recent root, ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose from gtt. j. to gtts. xx.

The Jeffersonia is a stimulant to mucous membranes, increasing their circulation, and checking profuse secretion. It may be employed in any case where these influences are desirable, and will give satisfaction. It exerts a feebly stimulant influence upon the skin, sufficient, however, to make it useful in chronic skin diseases. It is also claimed to be diuretic and anti-rheumatic. The remedy requires study, and may develop valuable properties.

JUGLANS CINEREA.

(BUTTERNUT.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh inner bark, in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose from a fraction of a drop to five drops.

In minute doses, the Juglans exerts a marked influence upon the skin, and may be employed in either acute or chronic skin disease. Its influence in this direction requires study.

It also allays irritation of mucous membranes, and promotes their normal function. In some cases of intestinal dyspepsia, it will be found to give much better results than the bitter tonics.

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A valuable laxative may be formed by making a watery extract of the Juglans, adding some aromatic to render it pleasant. I have a distinct recollection of the use of Butternut extract in the olden time to cure ague. It was given in large doses, and the catharsis would last for days, its influence being so constant and powerful that the patient would not have inclination or time to shake. In small doses, it leaves the bowels in a soluble condition, and is one of the few cathartics that may be employed to overcome obstinate constipation.

JUNIPERUS SABINA.
(SAVIN.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the Savin, in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose from gtt. j. to gtts. v.

Thus prepared, the Savin is a stimulant. It may be employed in menorrhagia, and in atonic leucorrhœa, with advantage. It may also be used as a stimulant in vesical catarrh, and in diseases of the urethra. In some cases of amenorrhœa it may be employed as a stimulant, but never in those cases presenting excitement of the circulation.

KALMIA LATIFOLIA.
(SHEEP LAUREL.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the recent leaves, in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose from a fraction of a drop to five drops.

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This is a favorite remedy of Prof. King, and he describes its use as follows: "It is an efficient remedy in primary or secondary syphilis, and will likewise be found invaluable in febrile and inflammatory diseases, and hypertrophy of the heart, allaying all febrile and inflammatory action, and lessening the action of the heart. In active hemorrhages, diarrhœa, and dysentery, it has been employed with excellent effect. I have extensively used this agent, and regard it as one of the most efficient agents in syphilis; and have, likewise, found it very valuable in inflammatory fevers, jaundice, and ophthalmia, neuralgia and inflammation."

I have employed it in secondary syphilis and atonic chronic inflammations with marked advantage, but have not used it for other purposes. Will some of our readers test it in the treatment of fever and inflammation to determine its analogy to the sedatives?

LAURUS SASSAFRAS.

(Sassafras.)

A very good preparation of the Sassafras for office use, is a tincture of the bark of the root by percolation, using dilute alcohol or whisky. It forms a pleasant vehicle for many remedies, when we desire the gently stimulant and astringent action of the remedy. Tincture of Podophyllum added to it, in the proportion of ℥ij. to ℥iv., in teaspoonful doses four times a day, forms an admirable alterative.

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In the treatment of secondary syphilis, especially when manifesting itself in disease of the skin, the infusion will be found preferable. In this case I would direct an infusion of Sassafras with a small portion of Podophyllum, ʒss. of the first, grs. x. of the second, to the pint of water, three times a day. It may be associated with the vapor bath, spirit-vapor bath, or sulphur bath in stubborn cases.

LARIX AMERICANA.

The American Larch deserves study, not in combination, as it has been employed, but singly, to determine its real medicinal value. For this purpose a tincture may be prepared from the recent bark, in the proportion of ʒviij. to Alcohol, 30° Oj. It has been employed in combination for a large number of diseases, but its influence upon mucous membranes and upon the skin, is probably most definite.

LAVANDULA VERA.
(LAVENDER.)

Lavender is the child's stimulant, and nothing, so far as I am aware, exercises so kindly an influence upon the digestive apparatus and the nervous system. A tincture may be formed of Oil of Lavender, ʒij.; Dilute Alcohol, Oj. But the *Compound Spirit* will probably answer the needs of most physicians. I would like to test a tincture of the fresh herb, and if any of our readers are so located as to grow it,

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and prepare such tincture, we will be obliged if they will report.

LEONURUS CARDIACA.
(MOTHERWORT.)

Prepare a tincture from the fresh root, with dilute Alcohol in the usual proportions. The line of experiment will be to determine its influence upon the reproductive organs, and upon the nervous system. The dose may vary from five drops to ℥j.

LEPTANDRA VIRGINICA.
(BLACK ROOT.)

For general use prepare a tincture of the Leptandra, ℥viij. to Oj., using Alcohol of 50°. For some purposes the infusion would be preferable, but is so nauseous that most persons object to it. The dose of the tincture as above will vary from gtts. ij. to gtts. xx.

The Leptandra exerts a gentle stimulant influence upon the entire intestinal tract, and its associate viscera, and in medicinal doses strengthens functional activity. Its action in this direction is so persistent that it might be called a gastro-intestinal tonic. There are some functions not well understood, as of the liver and spleen, and it would not much improve our knowledge to say that it acted upon these. But it exerts a marked influence in those diseases in which there is enfeebled portal circulation, and tendency to stasis of blood. Thus

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in some cases of typhoid fever occurring in malarial localities the Leptandra has proven a very valuable medicine.

We do not believe there is any remedy that acts upon the *liver*, according to the old idea of medicine. It has been conclusively proven that preparations of Mercury do not, and that Podophyllin does not; and it is probable that we will have to give up the idea of cholagogues entirely. There is no doubt in my mind, however, that Leptandra does influence the function of the liver; not always to increase secretion of bile, but rather to bring the organ back to normal functional activity, whatever may have been the deviation.

Associated with the milder bitter tonics the Leptandra improves the digestive function, and stimulates normal excretory action from the bowels. This latter influence sometimes makes it a valuable adjunct to those remedies called alterative.

It has been employed in the treatment of intermittent fever with excellent results. Dr. Rolph writes, that "for many years my father's family employed it exclusively, and though living in a malarial region they were entirely exempt from ague. They used a tincture of the recent root, taking it before each meal." Quite a number of my acquaintances employ it after the chill has been broken with Quinine, and claim that its influence in preventing a recurrence is more decided than any other remedy.

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LEPTANDRIN.

The best Leptandrin of the market is a *dried alcoholic extract*, the *strongest* is obtained by adding a portion of Podophyllum before tincturing. The resin is nearly worthless. The dried extract proves a very good remedy in many cases, and may be used for the same purposes as named for the tincture or infusion.

LIATRIS SPICATA.
(BUTTON SNAKEROOT.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the recent root, ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose from gtts. v. to ℥ss.

The Liatris is gently tonic, and stimulates secretion from all the emunctories. Hence it has been added to various alterative combinations, and with some practitioners is very highly esteemed. It acts more directly upon the urinary apparatus, and probably upon the reproductive apparatus of both male and female.

LIQUIDAMBAR STYRACIFLUA.
(SWEET GUM.)

Some years since we had *sweet gum*, the exudation from this tree, recommended for the cure of asthma, and a number of cases from the South were given as proof. But experiments in the Northern States were not favorable. I judge, however, from some reports of Southern physicians, that the recent bark

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contains valuable medicinal properties, as does the fresh exudation. For experiment I would suggest the preparation of a tincture from the fresh bark, using Alcohol of 76°. Its influence is probably most marked on mucous membranes, and probably it influences innervation from the pneumogastric and from the spinal cord.

LIRIODENDRON TULIPIFERA.
(YELLOW POPLAR.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh root bark of the *Yellow Poplar*, using dilute Alcohol. Dose from gtts. v. to ℥j.

The great abundance and wide distribution of these trees, and the ease with which it may be obtained and prepared, and the really valuable character of the remedy, should bring it into general use. It is stimulant and tonic to the digestive apparatus, improving digestion and blood making. It also exerts an influence upon the nervous system, strengthening innervation and relieving those symptoms called nervous.

LOBELIA INFLATA.
(LOBELIA.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the ground seed, ℥viij. to Alcohol 98° Oj. Dose, from the fraction of a drop to ten drops.

The common use of Lobelia as an emetic is so well known that little need be said about it. In

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the form of the Compound Powder of Lobelia, or the Acetous Emetic Tincture of the Dispensatory, it gives us our most valued emetic when properly used. To obtain the curative effects of a lobelia emetic, the remedy should be given in small quantities frequently repeated, as it can be absorbed from the stomach, so that emesis when it does occur shall be from the general influence of the remedy in the blood, and not from its local irritant influence upon the stomach. Many physicians fail to obtain the benefit they have reason to expect because of its improper administration; it is not absorbed, but simply irritates the stomach.

Lobelia as prepared above is one of the most powerful vital stimulants in the Materia Medica. It strengthens the circulation, improves innervation, and by its influence upon the sympathetic nervous system gives increased activity of all the vegetative functions. These influences come from minute doses, one drop or less. I usually prescribe it in this proportion: ℞ Tincture of Lobelia, gtts. x. to xx.; Water, ℥iv. A teaspoonful every one or two hours.

In some cases where there is necessity for a speedy action, as in cases of angina pectoris or neuralgia of the heart, I give one or two full doses of twenty drops.

This preparation of Lobelia is specific in difficult labor from rigid os, vagina, or perineum. It also stimulates the contractile function of the uterus, and thus strengthens the pains. This use of Lobelia

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will be greatly prized when known. In tardy or difficult labor add ʒj. of the tincture to ʒiv. of water, and give a teaspoonful every fifteen minutes until slight nausea is produced, then in smaller quantities. In rigid os or perineum, I frequently employ it in the same way, and with excellent results, but in other cases give it in larger doses until nausea is induced.

Lobelia is a *sedative*, occupying a place between Veratrum and Aconite. I would be glad if each reader would put the tincture of the seed in his pocket case and employ it in fevers and inflammations in the same doses in which he uses Veratrum. I think it will prove very valuable, especially where there is necessity for stimulation.

LYCOPUS VIRGINICUS.

(Bugle Weed.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh plant gathered in July and August at the time of flowering, using ʒviij. to Alcohol 76° Oj.

The tincture of Lycopus prepared as above, will be found a very valuable remedy, and will take place with Veratrum and Aconite. It is a very certain sedative, where increased frequency of pulse is dependent upon want of power. For this purpose we employ it in all forms of chronic disease with frequent pulse, and in the advanced stages of acute disease where there is great debility. No remedy is more certain in its action in these cases; and we

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will find that as the pulse is reduced in frequency, it is increased in strength, and there is a more regular and uniform circulation of blood.

The remedy evidently acts upon the sympathetic system of nerves, and we not only have an improvement in the circulation, but every vegetative function feels its influence. Thus it improves the appetite and blood-making, nutrition and secretion.

It has been employed more extensively in the treatment of hemoptysis than in any other disease. In these cases its action is slow, but very certain, and its influence seems to come from its sedative action—in this it resembles Digitalis. Employed in phthisis, we find it relieving the cough, checking night sweats and diarrhœa, lessening the frequency of the pulse, improving the appetite and giving better digestion. We observe the same influence from the protracted use of Veratrum in these cases, evidencing the relationship between the remedies.

Those who live where the Bugle weed can be gathered, should not neglect the opportunity of procuring the fresh plant and preparing a tincture for the coming year. I am satisfied that it will well repay the trouble.

MAGNESIA, SULPHITE OF.

Sulphite of Magnesia was one of the anti-zymotic remedies recommended by Prof. Polli. We find in all that class of acute diseases which develop *typhoid*

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symptoms as they progress, a need for remedies which control the septic process in the blood. Most physicians will have employed Sulphite of Soda in these cases, and have found marked advantage from its use, yet in other cases, presenting somewhat similar general symptoms it has done no good, and in some has done harm.

We say that Sulphite of Soda is indicated where the tongue is broad, *pallid*, and covered with a pasty white coat. In these cases it will rarely disappoint the practitioner.

But we have need of the same antiseptic remedies in cases in which the tongue is deep-red or dusky, whether covered with a brown fur, or presenting the smooth glistening appearance noticed in some of the more severe cases of typhoid fever, or typhoid disease. Whenever the tongue is thus dark-red, we can not give the Salt of Soda, for there is present a prominent indication for the use of an acid. We may use Sulphurous Acid as the antiseptic, but frequently it is not well borne by the stomach.

In these cases the Sulphite of Magnesia will be found an admirable remedy. We may say that it may always be administered when the tongue is dark-red, and shows a dark fur, and there is need for a remedy to antagonize the septic process in the blood. It is given in doses of grs. x. to grs. xxx., repeated every three hours.

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MAGNOLIA.

The Magnolia Glauca and Accuminata possess tonic and stomachic properties, which may prove useful in medicine. Will some of our Southern readers prepare a tincture from the recent bark, and test it thoroughly. It may not prove better than a dozen similar articles, and yet supply a very good medicine to those who live where it is abundant.

MARRUBIUM VULGARE.
(HOARHOUND.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh plant when in flower, using ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose from gtts. j. to gtts. x.

The Hoarhound exerts a marked influence upon the respiratory apparatus. It is stimulant to all mucous surfaces, but especially to the laryngeal and bronchial, and it may be employed for this purpose. But it evidently has an action beyond this, and influences the function of respiration. Any one who has employed it will have seen this very marked in some cases. Let us have it thoroughly tried, and it may be another instance of a very valuable remedy, in a common article.

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MARUTA COTULA.
(MAYWEED.)

In testing these indigenous remedies, will some one prepare a tincture from the fresh May weed and give it a thorough trial? The direction of the investigation will be shown by reference to the Dispensatory or Materia Medica.

MENISPERMUM CANADENSE.
(YELLOW PARILLA.)

The Yellow Parilla has been considerably employed for the indefinite purpose of an alterative. We have the testimony of the Dispensatory that: "In small doses, no obvious effects are produced on the general system." It may be worth while, however, to examine it further, and it will offer a good subject of study to some of our readers.

For experiment, prepare a tincture from the fresh root, ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Use it in doses of from gtts. v. to ℥j.

MENTHA VIRIDIS.
(SPEARMINT.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh herb, ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose from gtts. v. to ℥j.

Mentha Viridis is not only a stimulant, but is one of the most kindly of the aromatics, and is rarely rejected by the stomach. As a stimulant, it will

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furnish a cheap and pleasant vehicle for many medicines.

But it is more than this. I regard it as one of the most certain of the vegetable diuretics, and employ it frequently for this purpose. In suppression of urine in children, a teaspoonful of the tincture is added to two ounces of water, sweetened, and given freely. So certain is its action in childhood, that I rarely think of giving anything else, except in cases where there is great irritation of the nervous system, and then Gelseminum is added to it in the usual doses.

MITCHELLA REPENS.

(PARTRIDGEBERRY.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh plant, ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose from gtts. v. to ℥ss.

The Mitchella exerts a direct influence upon the reproductive apparatus of the female, giving tone and improving functional activity. It has been extensively used as a uterine tonic, to promote menstruation, to remove false pains and unpleasant sensations in the latter months of pregnancy, and has been thought to be a good preparative to labor, rendering the birth of the child easier, and less liable to accidents.

Many have failed to obtain these influences from the use of the common preparation "Compound Syrup of Partridgeberry," because it was prepared

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from old materials. If made from the green plant, as named above, we think it will give satisfaction.

ELATERIUM.

The common use of Elaterium, as a hydragogue cathartic is well known. I desire to call attention again to its direct action as described by Prof. King in the Eclectic Medical Journal, January, 1870, page 16. He claims that it is specific for "Chronic Inflammation of the Neck of the Bladder." Since the article was published I have received reports from two physicians as to its efficiency. He prepared the tincture by adding one drachm of Elaterium to one pint of Alcohol. Dose, half a fluid drachm three times a day until it acted upon the bowels, then six or eight drops.

MANATROPA UNIFLORA.
(Ice Plant.)

Will some of our subscribers prepare a tincture from the Ice-plant, and test it in the cases named in the Dispensatory. We especially want to know its influence upon the nervous system, and its action as a sedative. It is claimed to be remedial in convulsions, epilepsy, chorea, etc.

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MYRICA CERIFERA.
(BAYBERRY.)

Preparation.—We prepare a tincture from the recent bark, in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj.

As the Bayberry deteriorates unless carefully kept, it would be better to test a tincture of the fresh bark of the root. The dose will range from gtt. j. to ℥ss.

I do not know that anything can be added to what is known of this agent. It has been extensively employed as a general stimulant, and as a special stimulant to mucous membranes, and with excellent results. Thomson recommended it in all cases where there was increased secretion from mucous membranes, whether it was catarrh or sore throat, bronchitis, disease of stomach or intestinal canal, or leucorrhœa.

It is in these cases especially that it will be found of advantage. I have employed it in chronic gastritis in small doses, associated with minute doses of Lobelia, with good success. The same combination will prove very valuable in typhoid fever, in typhoid dysentery, and in diarrhœa with increased mucous secretion.

The tincture prepared as above, will furnish a much better form for dispensing, as well as a more reliable remedy than much of the powder sold, and when once used, will become a prominent agent in the Office and the pocket case.

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MOMORDICA BALSAMINA.
(Balsam Apple)

The Balsam Apple is an annual climbing plant, grown in our gardens for its fruit, which is employed in domestic practice as a vulnerary, and an application to old sores, chapped hands, piles, etc. It is commonly prepared for use with alcohol or whisky. It evidently possesses medicinal properties, and I have seen good effects from its local use.

It is claimed to be poisonous when taken internally, yet I have known it taken with safety in doses of ten to thirty drops. Cures of dropsy are reported from its use. The limited use I have known made of it internally, was to relieve muscucular pains, lame back, and stiffness of joints; in some cases it seemed to do good. As the agent is very common, and easily cultivated, it would be well to prepare a tincture from the fresh fruit ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj., and test it thoroughly, both as a local remedy, and used internally. Of such a preparation the dose would be quite small, say commencing with one drop.

NABALUS ALBUS.
(Lion's Foot).

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh plant, ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose from gtt. j. to gtts. xx.

This remedy has been but little employed. It was claimed to be specific to the poison of the rat-

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tlesnake, and to have been used with much success. It influences the nervous system directly, and experiment may develop a valuable use for it. It is not in the market, and we will therefore have to depend upon those who can procure it green, to determine its properties.

NEPETA CATARIA.

(CATNIP.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh herb when in blossom, ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj.

Catnip is a feeble remedy, and yet is as good as many in general use. Employed in the form named it will give satisfaction and well repay its preparation. It is a mild diaphoretic, but associated with the hot-foot bath, it will be found to place the skin in a soft moist condition, and relieve nervous irritation. It is especially to be recommended as a carminative for children. A teaspoonful added to four tablespoonfuls of hot water and sweetened, may be given freely, and is better than a tea of the dried herb.

NICOTIANA TABACUM.

Dr. Unziker, of this city, recommends the preparation of a tincture from the green plant, and its use as a sedative and in the treatment of diseases of the respiratory apparatus of children.

We value the local use of tobacco as a fomentation in cases of strangulated hernia, in some acute

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local inflammations, and in pseudo-membranous croup when the danger is imminent. It will also prove the best application to wounds and injuries where there are symptoms of tetanus.

In tetanus the alkaloid, Nicotine, has been employed with marked success, and it is probably our most certain remedy. It is given in doses of half to one drop, or if not tolerated by the stomach, it may be used by hypodermic injection. If the alkaloid can not be procured, an infusion may be used by mouth, by injection, or if not retained in sufficient quantity in these ways, it may be given by hypodermic injection.

NYMPHÆA ODORATA.
(White Pond Lily.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh root of the White Pond Lily, in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 50° Oj. Dose from gtts. x. to ℥j.

My use of this remedy has been but limited, though from the reports of others, I deem it to possess decided medicinal properties. The general term *alterative* will express the kind of action that may be obtained from it. It exerts a special influence upon mucous tissues, and has been employed with advantage in diseases of the bronchiæ, the gastro-intestinal mucous surfaces, the bladder and the urethra. This will suggest the line of experiment, and we hope the remedy will be thoroughly tested and reported.

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OLEUM MORRHUÆ.
(Cod Liver Oil.)

We employ a bland and slightly odorous Cod-liver Oil in practice; probably Caswell & Mack's will give most satisfaction.

There is no doubt but benefit follows its use in appropriate cases, and sometimes the advantage is much greater than from the use of medicines. The principal indication for its use, is when an exalted temperature is maintained at the expense of the tissues. Cod-oil in such cases saves the tissues, and the burning of histogenetic food.

I employ it in cases of tuberculosis, scrofula, and in many forms of chronic disease, when the above indications exist. Especial attention is called to its use in local disease, with cacoplastic or aplastic deposits.

As the increased temperature is associated with increased frequency of pulse, we commonly associate it with Veratrum Viride. As a general rule the stomachic bitters are not advantageous at the same time. Many physicians fail to obtain advantage from the use of Cod-oil because they give tonics in excess at the same time.

ORIGANUM VULGARE.
(Origanum.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh herb, using ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose, gtts. x. to ℥j.

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This agent is a stimulant diaphoretic, and influences the reproductive organs of the female. It has been used in the treatment of colds, and in suppressed menstruation from cold.

OROBANCHE VIRGINIANA.

(Beech Drops.)

Beech drops contain a large proportion of tannic and gallic acids, and may be used for the general purposes of an astringent. I do not know that there is any advantage in taking a crude material that is scarce and high priced, when we can obtain its medical action from that which is common and cheap.

PÆONIA OFFICINALIS.

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh root of the garden peony, in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose from drops gtts. v. to ℥ss.

This remedy has been but little used, yet the evidence is pretty conclusive that it possesses a marked influence upon the nervous system. It has been employed as an antispasmodic, and to relieve irritation of the nerve centers. Will some of our friends prepare a tincture in the summer and test it?

PANAX QUINQUEFOLIUM.

(Ginseng.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh or recent root, in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 50° Oj. Dose from gtts. v. to gtts. xx.

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We have laughed at the Chinese for their use of Ginseng, which we have deemed inert, but I am pretty well satisfied that in this, as in some other things, they have the advantage of us. A limited use of the article has given me a very favorable opinion of its influence.

Its first use, and a very important one, is in the treatment of nervous dyspepsia. I have obtained more benefit from it in my own person, than from any other remedy, and I have employed it with others with equal advantage. It exerts a decidedly beneficial influence in exhaustion of the brain from over work, and it is probable that its influence is as much in this direction as upon the stomach.

It is one of those remedies, however, that produces no marked improvement at first, and must be continued for weeks to obtain its good effects.

PAPAVER SOMNIFERUM.

Before describing the action of Opium, I want to draw the attention of my readers to the importance of having it good, and of not using Morphia as a substitute. Never buy Opium in powder, and in selecting the gum, take that which when broken gives the characteristic odor. Lastly, prepare your own tincture of Opium.

Opium in medicinal doses is a cerebral stimulant, and we will find this its most important use. From this stimulation comes sleep and rest to the nervous system.

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In less degree it is a stimulant to the spinal-cord, and increases functional activity of all parts supplied from it.

Opium or its salts may be administered for the relief of pain, to produce sleep, or as a general stimulant to the vegetative processes, when the following conditions are present: A soft, open pulse, or where there is not the element of *hardness* and smallness; a soft (not dry) skin; a moist tongue; pallid face; and eyes dull, immobile or dilated pupils. It is contra-indicated, where there is a dry, contracted skin; small hard pulse; dry tongue; flushed face; bright eye, with contracted pupils.

There is no remedy that has been so much or so badly used as this. It is highly prized by the profession, and yet every physician can recall cases where its administration has proven injurious rather than beneficial. It has gained this extensive use because of the marked relief it gives from pain, and even though it fails so frequently, the successes are estimated, not the failures.

I believe the reader, by carefully studying the above indications and contra-indications, will be enabled to use the remedy so as to obtain its full palliative and curative action; not having the unpleasantness of failure to accomplish the desired object, or injury to the patient, to regret.

Hypodermic Use of Morphia.—In this connection we may consider the advantages to be obtained from the hypodermic use of Morphia. It has been extensively employed for the relief of pain, and

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many physicians would hardly practice medicine if forced to give up their hypodermic syringes.

The advantages to be obtained from this use of Morphia has not been over-estimated. But every one who has employed it, will recollect cases of failure, sometimes of injury, which were very mortifying. Why the failure?

The indications for the hypodermic use of Morphia are the same as those just given for Opium, and where there is present the contra-indications, the use will not give the expected results, and may prove injurious. Fortunately, in the majority of cases of neuralgia, there is a soft, open pulse, the cool pallid skin, and the evidence of an enfeebled cerebro-spinal circulation. In such cases, the hypodermic use of Morphia gives present relief, and from its topical stimulation, may effect a radical cure.

We never employ the hypodermic injection of Morphia where there is a hard, small pulse, dryness and constriction of skin, dry tongue, flushed face, bright eyes and contracted pupils. He who uses it in such cases, will very certainly be disappointed in its action. In many cases of fever and inflammation, though the patient suffers pain, and the ordinary influence of Morphia in this way would be very desirable, we withhold it.

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PEROXIDE OF HYDROGEN.

Water receives an additional equivalent of oxygen, when it is presented to it in a nascent state. This combining with the hydrogen forms a deutoxide (H O2.)

It was first brought to the notice of the profession by Dr. B. W. Richardson, of London, in 1860, and since has been used to a limited extent. He employed it in acute and chronic rheumatism, and in chronic inflammation with aplastic deposits. It improved digestion and nutrition, increased waste, oxidation and excretion.

PHOSPHORUS.

Preparation.—We prepare a tincture of Phosphorus, by taking ℥ij. to Alcohol 98° Oj.

The Phosphorus is divided under water, which being removed the Alcohol is poured on; it is allowed to stand for ten days, when it is ready for use. We use an excess of the Phosphorus, because in the commercial article there is but a small portion which can be acted upon by Alcohol. When of full strength, the tinctnre will contain about four grains to the ounce. We prepare it for use by adding one or two drachms of the tincture to four ounces of water, of which the dose will be one teaspoonful.

We employ this preparation of Phosphorus principally for its action upon the urinary and repro-

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ductive apparatus. It is especially useful to relieve vesical and prostatic irritation, especially when arising from or associated with sexual excess.

We also use it as a nerve stimulant. In some cases its influence will be quite marked, relieving irritation and improving nutrition.

THE HYPOPHOSPHITES.

The Hypophosphites, when well prepared, gives us Phosphorus in the best form as a restorative. There is great difficulty, however, in obtaining reliable preparations, and many have been disappointed on this account.

I now use the *Compound Syrup of the Hypophosphites* (Gordon's), and it has given good satisfaction. It is especially useful when it is desirable to improve the nutrition of the nerve centers, though it exerts a favorable influence over the entire process of nutrition. I usually prescribe it in doses of a teaspoonful three times a day after meals. Its action is slow, like food, and time must be given to obtain its full benefit.

PHOSPHATE OF SODA.

We employ a pure article of Phosphate of Soda, and demand that it be finely powdered; probably Powers & Weightman's will give the most satisfaction.

The Phosphate of Soda has two uses—as a restorative, and for its influence upon the intestinal

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tract. As a restorative I employ it extensively with children, in those cases where there is impaired nutrition, with pallidity of tongue and mucous membranes. In these cases it will be found to exert a markedly beneficial influence. It is generally administered in milk in doses of one to three grains, four times a day. We occasionally find a case in the adult where it will prove beneficial. These are uniformly marked by the pallid mucous membranes, and inaction of the bowels. The dose will vary from five to fifteen grains.

Its second use is as a laxative for children. We find cases of constipation that will yield to no remedies, the child suffers from indigestion, and occasionally from colic. In these cases Phosphate of Soda in doses of from three to five grains, three times a day, will give permanent relief.

Phosphate of Soda is also an excellent laxative for the adult, especially in cases of habitual constipation, with hardened feces. In this case twenty to thirty grains in a large glass of water, is taken on going to bed at night

PHYTOLACCA DECANDRA.

(POKE.)

Preparation.—We prepare a tincture from the fresh root, ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose gtts. ij. to ℥ss.

This is one of those remedies that loses its medical properties by drying, and the crude article fur-

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nished from drug stores is wholly worthless, as are the preparations from it.

The tincture of the *fresh* root is one of my favorite remedies. It exerts a direct influence upon the processes of waste and nutrition, and therefore possesses those properties called alterative in a high degree. I have used it in secondary syphilis, in chronic skin disease, and in scrofula, with excellent results.

It has a direct influence upon the mammary glands, and will generally arrest inflammation if given in the early stage. I also employ it in cases of sore nipples, both internally and locally, with good results.

It has been considerably employed in diphtheria, and many believe it will be found a specific to the sore throat. In this disease it is given internally, and employed as a local application.

It will be found a very valuable remedy, and as it is so common, I would advise every one to prepare them a tincture in the fall and test it in practice.

PIPER NIGRUM.
(Black Pepper.)

We make a tincture of Black Pepper in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. The Pepper should be finely ground and packed in the percolator, moistened with Alcohol and allowed to stand twenty-four hours, then run the remainder of the Alcohol through it. Dose, gtts. ij. to ℥j.

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Black Pepper is a remedy I value very highly. As a gastric stimulant it certainly has no superior, and for this purpose we use it in congestive chills, in cholera morbus, and other cases of a similar character. In atonic dyspepsia it may be associated with Hydrastis or other stomachic bitter, or sometimes with Nux Vomica or Strychnia. I have used it associated with Tincture of Macrotys in atonic amenorrhœa with advantage, and sometimes the same combination will be found beneficial in dysmenorrhœa.

It may be used with excellent results in the treatment of intermittents, preparing the way for Quinia and associated with it. In these cases it is used in full doses.

PIX LIQUIDA.

(Tar.)

We prepare a glycerole of tar for local use in the following way: Heat a pound of glycerine and of tar in separate vessels; whilst heating, rub up an ounce of starch in a mortar with a portion of the glycerine, and stir it in until thoroughly mixed; when hot pour the two together, boil for a moment, then stir until cool.

Glycerole of tar prepared in this way is a *specific* for many forms of pruritus. In pruritus-ani it is so certain in its action, that I prescribe it with an almost positive certainty that it will not only give present relief, but will effect a radical cure. In eczema with pruritus, it has proven an admirable

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remedy, and has effected cures in protracted and very stubborn cases. The indication for its use is *itching*.

Tar has been used internally, with reported good effects. To test it in chronic bronchial disease, and for the relief of cough, I would suggest one part of tar to nine parts of glycerine, combined with heat.

PLANTAGO CORDATA.
(Water Plantain.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh root, ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose from gtts. x. to ℥ss.

This remedy has been but little used, yet from what we know of it, we think it deserves careful investigation. It exerts a direct influence upon the nervous system, allaying irritation and giving better innervation. It was employed in the cholera of 1832 with marked success, and Prof. Jones thinks it likely to prove one of the most certain remedies we have in that disease. Let some of our physicians prepare the remedy, and report.

PODOPHYLLUM.
(May Apple.)

For common use, prepare a tincture from the root in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose gtt. j. to ℥ss.

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I am satisfied that a trial of a tincture of Podophyllum will satisfy any one that it is preferable to Podophyllin in general practice. It makes no difference whether it is to be used as a stimulant to the digestive tract, as an alterative, for its general cathartic effect, or as an emeto-cathartic.

For its stimulant influence and to improve digestion, I frequently use it in combination with the stomachic bitters, or Nux Vomica, Quinia, and Iron; necessarily the dose is small. As an alterative, *a remedy to increase waste*, it may be combined with other agents that act in the same direction, with the bitter tonics and restoratives, or many times with Veratrum. A common prescription of mine is: ℞ Tincture of Veratrum, ℥ss.; Tincture of Podophyllum, Tincture of Nux Vomica, aa ℥j.; Water, ℥iv. A teaspoonful every four hours. In place of water, the vehicle may be simple syrup or glycerine, a tincture of Mentha Viridis or of Amygdalus. The case in hand will suggest the best vehicle.

I am well satisfied that in small doses, associated with the bitter tonics and restoratives and good food, it is decidedly the best remedy we have in the treatment of old syphilitic lesions. Its action may be greatly aided sometimes by the use of the vapor-bath, or by sulphur and iodine baths.

For common use in malarial fevers, where the tongue is uniformly coated yellow, I would suggest its combination with Veratrum and Aconite, as in the following: ℞ Tincture of Veratrum, gtts. xx.;

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Tincture of Aconite, gtts. x.; Tincture of Podophyllum, ℥ss. to ℥j.; Water, ℥iv. A teaspoonful every hour.

For the ordinary routine of medicine, as a cathartic, combine it with neutralizing cordial, as ℞ Tincture of Podophyllum, ℥ij. to ℥ss.; Compound Syrup of Rhubarb, ℥jss. A teaspoonful every two or three hours. The addition of a small portion of Tinctures of Lobelia or Ipecac will render its action more efficient and kindly. As an emeto-cathartic give it with a ginger-tea, or other stimulant taken freely.

PODOPHYLLIN.

To obtain the direct action of Podophyllin, we prepare it for use by thorough trituration with sugar of milk or white sugar. I prefer the trituration one part of Podophyllin to one hundred of sugar.

The specific use of Podophyllin in this form is to arrest increased mucous secretion from the small intestine and give it power to perform its function. It will cure acute or chronic diarrhœa with mucous discharges, and in some cases of cholera infantum it "acts like a charm." No one who has used the trituration of Podophyllin in these cases would be willing to dispense with it, and many will find it of advantage in other cases.

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POLEMONIUM REPTANS
(JACOB'S LADDER.)

This remedy has been but little used, yet it might repay study. If some of our friends will prepare a tincture from the fresh root and test it, we would be glad to hear the report.

POLYGALA SENEGA.
(SENEGA.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the recent dried root, ℥viij. to Alcohol 50° Oj. Dose, gtts. ij. to gtts. xx.

The stimulant influence of Senega upon the throat and bronchial mucous membrane is well known, and is probably its most important use. For this purpose I prefer to use it in the form of tincture to that of syrup so commonly employed. In chronic bronchitis with profuse secretion, it may be combined with small doses of Ipecac and Veratrum.

Its influence upon the kidneys and reproductive organs needs to be studied, and I have no doubt some important uses will be found for it. I have employed it in squamous disease of the skin, and like its action very much; it is one of a very few remedies that influence these diseases.

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POLYGONUM PUNCTATUM.
(WATER PEPPER.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh herb, in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose gtts. ij. to ʒss.

I regard the tincture of Water-Pepper as one of our most certain stimulant diaphoretics. It is also one of the best emmenagogues, especially when the arrest is from cold. It influences the urinary and reproductive organs, but its action in these directions needs to be studied.

POLYPODIUM VULGARE.
(POLYPODY.)

This remedy is now but little used, yet will probably repay study. For experiment, a tincture should be prepared from the fresh root with dilute alcohol, in the usual proportion.

POLYTRICHUM JUNIPERUM.
(HAIR-CAP MOSS.)

The hair-cap moss has been especially employed as a diuretic, and so long as it could be readily procured without admixture, gave good satisfaction. I do not know that it has any direct influence, other than to increase the secretion of water in the urine—a hydragogue diuretic; but it might be well to study its action more closely.

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POPULUS TREMULOIDES.
(POPLAR.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh bark of the white poplar, in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose ℥ss. to ℥j.

This remedy is so common and may be so easily prepared, that it should come into more general use as a tonic and stomachic. It improves the appetite and strengthens digestion, exerting its influence more especially upon the upper intestine. It influences the urinary organs, but its action in this direction needs to be studied.

PRINOS VERTICILLATUS.
(BLACK ALDER.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the recent bark of the Black Alder, in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 50° Oj. Dose from gtts. v. to ℥ss.

This remedy is a stimulant to the digestive and blood-making organs, and may be advantageously employed for the general purposes of a tonic. But beyond this, it influences the vegetative processes, probably through the sympathetic system of nerves, strengthening the circulation, aiding nutrition, and the removal of waste. We have used it but little, yet the testimony in its favor is such, that we strongly recommend its trial.

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PRUNUS VIRGINIANA.
(WILD CHERRY.)

The tincture of Prunus should be prepared from the fresh inner bark, in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 50° Oj. Dose from gtts. v. to ℥ss.

In addition to its tonic influence, which it possesses in common with many of our indigenous bitters, it has other valuable medicinal properties. It allays irritation of mucous membrane, both of the gastro-intestinal canal, the respiratory tract, and urinary apparatus. This will probably prove its most important use. The influence upon the circulation and upon secretion is not decided, but in atonic states will sometimes be found very desirable. In some of these cases I have combined it with the Tincture of Nux Vomica or Solution of Strychnia, with excellent results.

The remedy is so common, and so easily prepared, that it should find a place in every office, and I have no doubt that as it is employed, other uses than those named will be developed.

PTELEA TRIFOLIATA.
(WAFER ASH).

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the bark of the root, ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose gtts. x. to ℥ss.

Ptelea is an excellent tonic, hardly surpassed in its general uses by any agent of our Materia Medica, if we except Hydrastis. It may be employed

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in all atonic states of the stomach and upper intestinal canal, when it is desirable to increase the appetite and digestion. It is claimed to exert an influence upon the respiratory apparatus, but we have never noticed any action other than as a tonic.

PTERIS ATROPURPUREA.
(Rock Brake.)

A tincture should be prepared from the entire plant *fresh*, ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose from gtts. v. to gtts. x.

This remedy has been but little used except in domestic practice. It exerts a marked influence upon the excretory apparatus, controlling diarrhœa, dysentery, night sweats, hemorrhages, etc. This may depend to some extent upon its tannic acid, but there is an influence beyond this. Will some of our practitioners prepare a tincture and test it, and report?

PETROLEUM.

There are two varieties—the *heavy* and the *light* coal-oils, which differ as much in their medicinal properties as they do in use—probably the heavy should alone be used.

A very pure and heavy oil, known as Mecca Oil from the well that yields it, is recommended. It is a dark, bland oil—not unpleasant to the taste, and is furnished by the gallon from our druggists at $2.00.

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It has been employed with advantage in chronic bronchitis and laryngitis, and phthisis, with bronchial irritation. Some contend that for bronchial disease it is unsurpassed. It has also been employed in scrofula, chronic disease of the urinary apparatus, and in chronic skin diseases. It would be well to test it thoroughly in these cases, and also for its influence upon the nervous system. The dose will vary from one drop to a teaspoonful.

PROPYLAMIN.

The Propylamin of commerce is obtained from *herring pickle*, and is in the form of a colorless transparent liquid; the muriate is in the form of powder and is about two-thirds of its strength. We prepare it for use by adding twenty-four drops, or thirty-six grains of the Muriate of Propylamin to six ounces of mint water, the dose of which will be from a tea to a tablespoonful.

Investigation has determined that Propylamin is the same as the *Secalin* derived from Ergot. My use of the remedy clearly proved the analogy between the Propylamin and Ergot in its poisonous effects.

The remedy was introduced by Dr. Owenarius of St. Petersburgh, Russia, as a specific for rheumatism, and a large number of cases were reported in which it had proven curative in a short time. This was in 1856, and it was tested in this country as well as in Europe, but without very satisfactory results.

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I employed it in quite a number of cases of rheumatism, and at first thought very favorably of its action, but developing marked typhoid disease in some cases I became alarmed and dropped it. I am confident it possesses a marked influence upon the animal economy, but unless used with care, it is as likely to be for evil as good. I developed a typical typhoid fever with it, that ran a course of five weeks, with intestinal irritation, rose-colored spots and typhomania. It was evidently due to the medicine, as when its administration was commenced it was a case of simple inflammatory rheumatism about the fifth day, and there was no such thing as typhoid fever that year.

In employing the Propylamin in the treatment of rheumatism, I think it necessary to first bring the circulation fully under the influence of the sedatives, and then establish secretion—now the remedy may be used with safety.

In doses much smaller than named, I feel confident the Propylamin will be found a stimulant to the entire vegetative functions. It strengthens the circulation, improves nutrition, and stimulates waste and secretion. In these directions it deserves thorough investigation. The proportions I would recommend would be gtts. v. to gtts. x. to mint water ℥iv., a teaspoonful every three or four hours. Or better, ℞ Muriate of Propylamin, grs. x.; Sugar of Milk, grs. 1000; triturate thoroughly; dose one to five grains.

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PTEROSPORA ANDROMEDA.
(CRAWLEY.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh plant and root, ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose from gtts. j. to v.

The Crawley is a very scarce article, and in the market commands a high price. When the practitioner can obtain it and prepare it himself, he will find it one of the most valuable of the Materia Medica. It possesses decided sedative properties, and may be employed for this purpose, but its principal use is to establish waste and secretion. Following or associated with Veratrum or Aconite, there is no remedy that will more quickly and certainly establish secretion from skin and kidneys. It is probable that other uses will be developed by experiment.

PULMONARIA OFFICINALIS.
(LUNGWORT.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh leaves, ℥viij. to Alcohol 50° Oj. Dose, from ten drops to ℥ss.

The Lungwort has a popular reputation as a remedy in diseases of the chest. It would be well to test it thoroughly and determine its medicinal action in this direction.

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PULSATILLA NIGRICANS.

(PULSATILLA.)

We employ the German tincture prepared from the fresh herb according to the Homœopathic pharmacy. That prepared from the imported dried herb will not give good satisfaction. We usually prescribe it in this proportion: ℞ Tincture of Pulsatilla, ʒj. to ʒij.; Water, ʒiv. A teaspoonful every four hours.

The principal use of Pulsatilla is to relieve certain cerebral symptoms with difficulty relieved by other remedies. In some diseases of women, in spermatorrhœa and prostatorrhœa, in heart disease, and some other chronic affections, we find certain *head* symptoms playing an important part, and giving a good deal of trouble. The patient is nervous, restless, has an active imagination for disease, a fear of impending danger, etc. These symptoms are very unpleasant, and not unfrequently prevent the curative action of remedies. Pulsatilla reaches them and gives prompt and certain relief.

I would not treat some cases of spermatorrhœa without I could employ this remedy. For with the unnatural excitement of the mind, no remedy would exert a curative influence. So in some cases of heart disease, the head symptoms are the most prominent and unpleasant features. Relieve the unpleasant mental sensations and dread of danger, and we have removed a permanent cause of excitement.

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Though Pulsatilla is the remedy for nervousness, it must not be given with any expectation of benefit when the excitement depends upon irritation and determination of blood. In this case it will either exert no influence or it will be unfavorable.

The Pulsatilla exerts a marked influence upon the reproductive organs of both male and female. I regard it as decidedly the best emmenagogue, when the suppression is not the result of or attended by irritation and determination of blood; where there is simple suppression from atony or nervous shock, it may be used with confidence. In male or female it lessens sexual excitement. It does not diminish sexual power, but rather strengthens it by lessening morbid excitement.

There are other uses for the remedy, but those I have named are prominent ones, and readily recognized. I value the remedy very highly, and am satisfied from an experience of ten years in its use that I do not overestimate it.

PYRETHRUM PARTHENIUM.

(FEVERFEW.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh plant, ℥viij. to Alcohol 50° Oj. Dose from gtts. v. to ℥ss.

The Feverfew has the reputation of being an admirable tonic, at the same time being one of the most pleasant of its class. It influences the entire intestinal tract, improves the appetite and digestion, and stimulates secretion. It also exerts an influence

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upon the skin and kidneys. This is one of the little used medicines that deserves careful study, and as it is cultivated in our gardens it is within the reach of all.

PYROLA ROTUNDIFOLIA.
(False Wintergreen.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh plant, ℥viij. to Alcohol 50° Oj. Dose from gtts. v. to ℥ss.

This also is likely to prove a valuable remedy and deserves to be studied. It has marked tonic properties, and exerts an influence upon the urinary organs, relieving irritation. It is claimed to exert an influence upon the nervous system, and to have been successfully employed in convulsions and epilepsy.

PYRUS MALUS.
(Apple Tree.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh root-bark of the apple-tree, ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose from gtts. v. to ℥ss.

Though so common and easily prepared, this remedy has been but little studied. It possesses tonic and antiperiodic properties, and may be employed in a great many cases instead of more costly remedies. The only use I have made of it was in intermittent fevers, and whilst it was not a substitute for Quinia, it evidently exerted a good influ-

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ence upon the disease, especially in preventing a recurrence of the paroxysms.

QUERCUS RUBRA.
(Red Oak.)

The Red Oak is not only astringent from its tannic acid, but it possesses other properties that will render it useful in some cases. Among them is its tonic influence, and its action upon skin and kidneys. I have used it in chronic eczema associated with Rumex, both as a local and internal remedy, with marked advantage. A combination of Quercus Rubra, Rumex and Alnus is my favorite remedy in obstinate cases of scrofula where there are old ulcers, feeble tissues and cicatrices. In these cases I use it as a local application and as an internal remedy.

I have employed it principally in infusion and decoction, but for experiment would recommend the preparation of a tincture, ℥viij. of the fresh inner bark to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose from gtts. v. to ℥ss.

QUINIA SULPHAS.
(Quinine.)

There is no occasion to give a lengthy description of the *specific* action of Quinine, as every one of my readers is thoroughly conversant with it. But it may be of use to some, to state the conditions necessary to its kindly and medicinal action.

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Probably there is no remedy in the Materia Medica that gives so many failures as this, and I think we may be safe in assuming that it is given ten times where its specific action is obtained once. Every one will recollect cases in which it did *not* break up periodic disease, many more cases in which its influence was but temporary, a large number in which it produced unpleasant cerebral symptoms, and some in which a Quinia disease was developed, which was much worse than the original malady.

Why is this? Is it the fault of the remedy, the fault of the patient, or the fault of the practitioner? O, the doctor answers, it is from *idiosyncrasy!* So we believe, but we locate the idiosyncrasy in the doctor's head, and not in the patient.

I have taught for years, that if we are to expect the kindly and curative action of Quinia, the stomach must be in condition to receive and absorb it, and the system in condition for its action. If we have a proper condition in these respects, we will hear nothing of roaring in the ears, vertigo, etc., but its action will be most kindly. The rule is very simple—*Given, a soft and open pulse, a moist skin, moist and cleaning tongue,* and Quinia will act kindly, antidote the malarial poison, or in small doses improve innervation. Always get this condition before prescribing the remedy, and you will never be disappointed in its action.

As an antiperiodic I believe in prescribing *single* doses. Put the stomach in proper condition, regulate the circulation, establish secretion, and then

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give *one* full dose of the remedy, (10 to 15 grs.) The best form of the remedy is in solution with one or two ounces of water, using a sufficient quantity of sulphuric acid.

This is not only the most certain method of administration, but I think it will be found the most pleasant.

It is hardly necessary to impress upon the reader the necessity of determining the periodic element in disease. Whilst we may not know what it is, or how Quinine antidotes it, we know that its removal cures, or at least paves the way to a cure.

But Quinine is not *specific* to all agues. We see it given day after day, week after week, in many cases, without any advantage. But on the contrary, it excites the nervous and vascular systems, and at last produces a chronic erythism of them, that is correctly named "the Quinine disease." From this, recovery is far more difficult than from the malarial affection.

Is it possible then, to determine the cases in which Quinine will prove specific, and the cases in which it will fail? I think it is. It antidotes the malarial poison only when kindly received and absorbed, and when the system is in such condition that it can be readily excreted. Given, the condition of pulse, skin and tongue, that we have already named, and its action is as certain as could be desired.

In some cases, the general treatment directed to obtaining normal activity of the various functions,

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is the most successful. In some cases Nux Vomica or Strychnia is preferable. In others minute doses of Arsenic antagonizes the malarial poison. Whilst in some rare cases, I have treated the disease most successfully with Aconite and Belladonna.

As a stimulant to the cerebro-spinal centers, its use is very important. In many forms of disease, especially in the advanced stages, we find an impaired innervation, preventing functional activity, or its restoration and continuance by the use of remedies. It is essential to success that innervation be increased, not temporarily by the use of stimulants, but somewhat permanently. This we accomplish by the administration of small doses of Quinine (grs. ½ to grs. ij). Even here, we find it necessary to observe the rules for its administration already noticed—the patient must be prepared for its use.

It favorably influences the nutrition of the nerve centres, and hence is employed in the treatment of chronic disease with enfeebled innervation, with marked advantage. There are two classes of chronic disease in which it is useful—the one in which there is a malarial influence, with obscure periodicity, and the other the enfeebled innervation, as named above.

Its general tonic and stomachic influence, (when obtained) is most certainly from this action upon the nervous system—the influence extending to the sympathetic ganglia, as well as to the cerebro-spinal centers. In some cases this action is very impor-

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tant, improving digestion and blood-making, and nutrition, as well as waste and excretion—aiding "the renewal of life."

POTASSII FERROCYANURETUM.

(Prussiate of Potash.)

The Prussiate of Potash was omitted in its proper place by mistake. It is a remedy I value highly, and though little used it is certain to become a favorite.

We find it in market in the form of prismatic crystals of a clear lemon-yellow color, inodorous, possessed of a sweetish-bitter saline taste. If the salt is dirty, dark-colored, or parti-colored, it should be rejected. We prepare it for use by adding ʒss. to Water, ʒiv. Dose, one teaspoonful every three hours.

In chronic disease where there is marked irritability of the nervous system, with frequency of pulse, we will find it an excellent remedy. It lessens irritation of the nervous system, and acts as a special sedative to the circulation. In chronic disease of the reproductive organs in women, with hysterical manifestations, it exerts a direct and marked influence—so in hypochondriacal affections in the male.

It exerts a decided influence upon mucous membranes. When they are pallid, lax, and give increased secretion, the Prussiate of Potash may be used with advantage. It makes little difference, whether of nose, throat, bronchial tubes, intestinal

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mucous membrane, or chronic vaginitis with leucorrhœa, the influence is the same.

This will suggest to the practitioner the cases in which it may be tested: where there is excitation, but impaired nutrition of the nerve centres, and where there is feebleness of mucous membranes with increased secretion of mucus.

RANUNCULUS BULBOSUS.
(Crowfoot.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh root in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose, the fraction of a drop, very largely diluted with water. The remedy is exceedingly acrid, and must be used with care.

Prof. King reports the cure of nursing sore mouth by its internal administration in small doses in infusion. It has also been employed as a stimulant to the vegetative processes, with reported good results. It should be thoroughly tested, and we will be obliged to any one of our readers for a report. Prescribe it in about the following proportion: ℞ Tincture of Ranunculus, gtts. x.; Water, ℥iv. Dose, a teaspoonful.

RHAMNUS CATHARTICUS.
(Buckthorn.)

Two preparations of this agent may be used. Prepare a tincture from the fresh bark in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 50° Oj. Dose, gtts. vj

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to gtts. xxx. Prepare a tincture from the berries, in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose, from the fraction of a drop to two to five drops, largely diluted with water.

Buckthorn berries have been employed as a cathartic, but their activity, attended with nausea, dryness of the throat, thirst and tormina, made their use limited. The tincture of the berries in small doses may be tested for its influence on the digestive apparatus, in diseases of the nose, throat, and respiratory organs, and as a stimulant to the vegetative processes.

It is claimed that a preparation from the bark gives one of the most efficient alteratives of the Materia Medica. Dr. William Goltry claimed that a tea made of the bark or berries would cure cancer and scrofulous diseases generally. Dr. William S. Knight writes, "I have been using the Rhamnus Catharticus in all forms of scrofulous disease for the last two years (1866) with good effect. I make an infusion from the bark and let the patient drink as much as he well can during the day, so as not to act too much upon the bowels."

RHEUM PALMATUM.

(RHUBARB.)

Preparation. — Prepare a tincture from the best Russian, Turkey, or India Rhubarb, in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 50° Oj. Dose, from the fraction of a drop to ten drops.

It is not worth while to speak of the common use

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of Rhubarb, as there is no remedy better known and more used. But it will be noticed that we have recommended a wholly different preparation, and we propose to dispense it in small doses for its direct action.

In the proportion of ℞ Tincture of Rhubarb, ʒj., Water, ʒiv., a teaspoonful every half hour or hour, it will be found one of our best remedies to control irritation of the stomach, and arrest vomiting. In children it is especially useful, where there is nervous irritability, manifested by restlessness, screams, and convulsive contraction of muscles.

In the same doses, less frequently repeated, it will prove an excellent tonic, strengthening the functions of both stomach and intestines, giving improved digestion. In indigestion, with some diarrhœa, of a papescent character, it will be found a good remedy.

In some cases it will prove our best remedy in the treatment of obstinate constipation. The cases are those in which there is an unnatural sensation of constriction in stomach and bowels, and contraction of the abdominal muscles. I prescribe it in these cases in doses of ten drops in a large glass of water, on rising in the morning. In the severer cases it is associated with thorough fatty innunction over the abdomen, and friction.

I employ it as a restorative, where there is special need of increased nutrition of nerve tissue. It is thus associated with the preparations of Phosphorus, and with Cod Liver Oil.

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RHODODENDRON CHRYSANTHUM.
(RHODODENDRON.)

A tincture is prepared from the fresh leaves collected in September; that we employ is imported from Germany. Two native species—the R. Maximum and R. Punctatum possess similar properties, but much milder, and should be tested.

The influence of the Rhododendron on the circulation is very marked. It undoubtedly acts like Veratrum and Aconite, stimulating the circulatory apparatus through the sympathetic, and diminishing the frequency of the pulse by increasing the power of the heart, and removing capillary obstruction. Acting in this way, it has been employed with advantage in rheumatism, gout, syphilis, and some acute diseases. It is claimed to exert an influence upon the reproductive apparatus, being used in orchitis, in suppression of gonorrhœa, and in hydrocele. It has been but little employed in this country, but our native specimens deserve a thorough examination.

RHUS GLABRUM.
(SUMACH.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh root bark, ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose from gtts. v. to gtts. xx.

The Sumach as thus prepared exerts a direct influence upon the processes of waste and repair—alterative. It has not been much used, and we can

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not tell whether it will prove better than others of this class; still it deserves a thorough trial. It is claimed to be antidotal to the action of mercury, especially in chronic mercurial disease, and has been employed in the treatment of secondary syphilis, after mercurialization, with advantage.

RHUS TOXICODENDRON.
(Poison Oak.)

Prepare a tincture from the recent leaves, ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Added to water in the proportion of gtts. v. to gtts. x. to ℥iv., the dose is a teaspoonful. The R. Radicans, R. Venenata, and R. Pumilum may be prepared in the same manner, and deserve a thorough investigation.

The Rhus is likely to prove one of our most valuable medicines, and will be highly prized when its use is learned. It is antidotal to such animal poisons (zymotic) as determine to the skin, in erysipelas or erysipeloid disease, or in low grades of inflammation of cellular tissue, or in low grades of inflammation of mucous membranes. A frequent, small pulse, redness of mucous membranes, brown sordes, bright superficial redness of skin, tympanitis, acrid discharges from bowels or bladder, are indications for its use. So also is inflammatory action, presenting tumid, bright reddened tissues, deep seated or superficial burning pain, inflammation giving an ichorous discharge, in which the tissues seem to melt away without sloughing. Old ulcers, that present reddened, glistening edges, scrofulous

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or syphilitic disease, with tumid-red, glistening swellings.

I have preferred to thus point out distinctly the indications for the use of the Rhus, without reference to the disease, according to our present nomenclature. It will be seen to point to erysipelas, typhoid fever and typhoid disease in general, and the entire list of zymotic diseases.

Our Homœopathic friends give the following indications for its use:

"Affections of the ligaments, tendons and synovial membranes; tensions, drawing and tearing in the limbs, worse during rest, and in the cold season, or at night, in bed, frequently attended with numbness of the affected part after moving it; creeping pains; sensation in inner organs as if something would be torn loose; lameness and paralysis, also hemiplegia; vesicular erysipelas; rhagades; pustules which break and discharge a fluid; hangnails; red, shining swelling; violent and spasmodic yawning; evening fever, with diarrhœa; sweat during the pains, frequently with violent trembling; illusions of the fancy, and delirium; pain as if the brain would be torn; painful creeping in the head; swelling of the head; phagedenic scald-head; small, soft tumors on the hairy scalp; swelling and inflammation of the parotid glands; acne rosacea around the mouth and chin; nightly discharge of yellowish, or bloody saliva; ulcerative pain in the pit of the stomach as if something would be torn off, especially when stooping or making a false

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step; the small of the back feels as if bruised, especially when lying still on it."

ROBINIA PSEUDO-ACACIA.
(Black Locust.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh inner bark of the Black Locust, ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose from gtts. j. to gtts. x.

This remedy has been but little used, yet its activity is such that we may reasonably expect that experiment will develop some valuable medicinal use. It acts on the stomach and bowels in large doses, and exerts an influence upon the nervous system. Will some of our readers test it and report?

RUMEX ACETOSELLA.
(Sheep Sorrel)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh sorrel, ℥viij. to Alcohol 50° Oj. Dose, from gtts. x. to ℥ss. It is employed locally in the treatment of cancer, the following formula being employed:

"*Cancer Balsam.*—Take the common Sheep Sorrel when in bloom, bruise well in a mortar, and add a small quantity of water; then press the weed so as to obtain all the juice, strain it and place in the sunshine in a pewter dish, and let it evaporate to the consistence of honey. It is then ready for use, and should be put up in sealed boxes or closely stopped bottles, in order to prevent evaporation."

A tincture of the Sorrel has a very decided action

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in those cases where there is a tendency to degeneration of tissue. It makes no difference whether it is called syphilis, scrofula, or cancer, the indication for use is the replacement of tissue with lower organizations. To what extent it opposes the process of degeneration we are unable to say, the use has been so limited, but it deserves a thorough investigation. It influences the secretion of urine and urinary apparatus, but its medicinal action in this respect has yet to be determined.

Its use in the treatment of cancer has been quite extensive, and if we can believe the reports given, it has proven fully as successful as any other remedy. A full description of this method of treatment will be found in the Eclectic Journal for May, 1870, page 142.

RUMEX CRISPUS.

(YELLOW DOCK.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh root, ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose gtts. x. to ℥j.

We employ Rumex in cases of *bad blood* with disease of the skin; in these cases it is certainly one of the most valuable alteratives we have. In these cases we not only use it internally, but as a local application. In scrofulous disease, with deposit in glands and cellular tissue, with tendency to break down and feeble repair, I think the Rumex unequaled; here also, we use it internally and locally.

Dr. Hale reports cases of dyspepsia, with sensa-

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tions of fullness and pressure in pit of stomach, pain in the chest, etc., cured by Rumex. Dr. Dunham employed it in catarrhal affections of the larynx, trachea and bronchia with advantage. I have used it in chronic sore throat with free secretion, and in broncorrhœa with good results.

The general action of the remedy is to increase waste and improve nutrition.

RUTA GRAVEOLENS.

(RUE.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh plant, ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose gtts. j. to gtts. x., largely diluted with water.

Though little used, this remedy will be found to possess valuable medicinal properties. It exerts a direct influence upon the nervous system, relieving irritation and pain, and in small doses, continued, improving nutrition of the nerve centers. It acts upon the urinary and reproductive apparatus, and has been employed with advantage as a stimulant to them. In large doses, it is capable of exciting menorrhagia, inflammation, and miscarriage. The Homœopaths claim that it is a remedy "in eructations of hysteric females; prolapsus of the rectum, at every alvine evacuation; frequent urging to urinate, with scanty emission, also of green urine, or with renewed ineffectual urging after micturition; gravel; miscarriage; sterility; corrosive leucorrhœa after suppression of the menses."

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SABBATIA ANGULARIS.
(American Centaury.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh herb ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose, gtts. j. to gtts. xx.

The Sabbatia has had a considerable reputation as a prophylactic against periodic diseases, and in their treatment—it would be well to thoroughly investigate this action. As a bitter tonic, it may be successfully employed in atonic states of the intestinal canal with increased mucous secretion. Probably it will prove useful in all diseases of mucous membranes, where there is profuse secretion. It has been but little used of late, but it deserves study.

SALIX NIGRA.
(Black Willow).

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the recent bark, ℥viij. to Alcohol 50° Oj. Dose from gtts. v. to ℥j.

Whilst this, as well as other varieties of the willow, possess feeble tonic and antiperiodic properties, there are so many better remedies of this class that it would be well to dispense with its use altogether, had it no other action. But there is a class of cases in which the Salix is a very decided antiperiodic, and if these can be distinguished, the remedy will be valuable. I believe it is in those in which there is increased secretion from mucous membranes, and especially where there is the septic

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tendency, marked by fetid discharges, foul tongue, etc. In typhoid disease it may be employed both as a tonic and antiseptic, using the smaller dose named. The remedy is easily prepared, and may well replace some inferior articles that have hitherto been employed.

SALVIA OFFICINALIS.

(SAGE.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh plant when in flower ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose from gtts. j. to gtts. xx.

The Sage exerts a specific tonic influence on the skin, and to a less extent upon the kidneys and mucous membranes. It is not an active remedy, and hence too much must not be expected from it. We employ it where the skin is soft and relaxed, with an enfeebled circulation and cold extremities. In the treatment of colliquative perspiration it answers an excellent purpose, if the condition above is maintained. If, however, the night sweat is preceded with hectic fever, and a dry, harsh skin, it will be useless.

It will prove a good remedy in increased secretion of urine of low specific gravity; in such cases it may be associated with Belladonna. It may also be associated with the bitter tonics in all cases in which there is atony and increased secretion from mucous membranes.

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SAMBUCUS CANADENSIS.
(ELDER.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh inner bark of the Elder, ℥viij. to Alcohol 50° Oj. Dose gtts. ij. to gtts. x.

The Elder is a stimulant to all the excretory organs increasing secretion. It may be employed for the general purposes of an alterative—increasing waste, in syphilis, scrofula, and other diseases attended by deposits or depravation of tissues. It is especially useful in these cases where there is an œdematous condition, or fullness of tissue from an increased amount of water. We meet a case of chronic disease occasionally, in which the tissues are full and flabby, evidently from too much water; in these Sambucus is a good remedy. It may be employed in dropsy, though its action is not so decided as the Apocynum.

As a local application the Sambucus is specific to those eruptions that arise on full tissues (as above), and are attended with abundant serous discharge. Thus in some forms of eczema, especially eczema infantilis or *milk scall*, and in the above form of the disease, it will alone effect a cure. We also employ it in indolent ulcers, with soft œdematous borders, and serous secretion, and in mucous patches with free secretion. An ointment is prepared by simmering the inner bark in fresh butter (old style), or a glycerole may be made, with the addition of the usual quantity of starch.

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SANGUINARIA CANADENSIS.
(Blood Root.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the recent dried root, ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose from a fraction of a drop to five drops. Nitrate of Sanguinarina is a valuable preparation, and may be dispensed in syrup, in the proportion of grs. ij. to ℥j. Dose, gtts. x. to ℥j.

In full doses we employ the Sanguinaria as a stimulant to mucous membranes. This use is valuable in bronchitis with increased secretion, and in atonic conditions of stomach and bowels with increased secretion of mucus. In minute doses we employ it in cases of cough with dryness of the throat and air passages, feeling of constriction in the chest, difficult and asthmatic breathing, with sensation of pressure. In the same doses it is a stimulant to the vegetative system of nerves, and under its use there is an improvement in the circulation, in nutrition, and secretion.

As a remedy in diseases of the respiratory tract, I prefer the Nitrate of Sanguinarina to the tincture.

SANICULA MARILANDICA.
(Sanicle.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the recent root in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose from gtts. ij. to gtts. xx.

The Sanicula has had considerable reputation as a domestic remedy, and like most of them it has

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been employed for very different purposes. It evidently exerts a direct influence upon the nervous system, relieving irritation, and this probably extends to the sympathetic. It would be well to give it a trial in those cases in which there is enfeebled function with nervous irritability.

SARRACENIA PURPUREA.

(SARRACENIA.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh root, in the proportion of ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose from gtts. j. to gtts xx.

The experiments of Dr. Porcher, of South Carolina, showed that it exerted a marked influence on the sympathetic. From a large dose there was congestion of the head, with irregularity of the heart's action, lasting several days. Following this first effect, the general vigor of the digestive apparatus was increased, and the appetite was unusually active. It is claimed that it has been successfully employed in chlorosis, and other diseases of a similar character.

It was introduced to the notice of the profession by Dr. W. Morris, of Halifax, in 1861, as an antidote to the virus of smallpox. He made the following statements in a letter to the *American Medical Times:*

"Sir—You have by this time, in all probability, heard something of an extraordinary discovery for the cure of smallpox, by the use of 'Sarracenia Purpurea,' or Indian cup, a native plant of Nova

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Scotia. I would beg of you, however, to give full publicity to the astonishing fact, that this same humble bog-plant of Nova Scotia is the remedy for smallpox, in all its forms, in twelve hours after the patient has taken the medicine. It is also as curious as it is wonderful that, however alarming and numerous the eruptions, or confluent and frightful they may be, the peculiar action of the medicine is such that very seldom is a scar left to tell the story of the disease. I will not enter upon a physiological analysis now; it will be sufficient for my purpose to state, that it cures the disease as no other medicine does—not by stimulating functional reagency, but by actual contact with the virus in the blood, rendering it inert and harmless; and this I gather from the fact that if either the vaccine or variolous matter be washed with the infusion of the Sarracenia, they are deprived of their contagious properties. The medicine, at the same time, is so mild to the taste, that it may be mixed largely with tea or coffee, as I have done, and given to connoisseurs in these beverages to drink, without their being aware of the admixture. Strange, however, to say, it is scarcely two years since science and the medical world were utterly ignorant of this great boon of Providence; and it would be dishonorable in me not to acknowledge that had it not been for the discretion of Mr. John Thomas Lane, of Lanespark, County Tipperary, Ireland, late of Her Majesty's Imperial Customs of Nova Scotia, to whom the Mec-Mac Indians had given the plant,

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the world would not now be in possession of the secret. No medical man before me had ever put this medicine upon trial, but in 1861, when the whole Province of Nova Scotia was in a panic, and patients were dying at the rate of twelve and a half per cent., from May to August, Mr. Lane, in the month of May, placed the 'Sarracenia' in my hands to decide upon its merits; and, after my trials then and since, I have been convinced of its astonishing efficacy. The only functional influence it seems to have, is in promoting the flow of urine, which soon becomes limpid and abundant, and this is owing perhaps to the defecated poison or changed virus of the disease exclusively escaping through that channel. The 'Sarracenia,' I have reason to believe a powerful antidote for all contagious diseases, lepra, measles, varicella, plague, contagious typhus, and even syphilis, also a remedy in jaundice. I am strongly inclined to think it will one day play an important part in all these."

This report was confirmed by Dr. Herbert Miles, of the British Army, and Captain Hardy of the Royal Artillery. The evidence in its favor from physicians and residents of Nova Scotia would seem to be complete, that the Sarracenia has a direct prophylactic influence, and a direct and prompt curative action when the disease is developed.

The remedy, however, has been thoroughly tried by a number of physicians in the United States, and by physicians in private practice, and in the hospi-

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tals in England, with the report that if not entirely inert, it has no such antidotal power as has been ascribed to it. The evidence against it is just as positive as that in its favor.

What conclusion can we come to then? The only way we can reconcile these opposing statements is, that the same agent was not employed in both cases. In Nova Scotia, where the plant is abundant, we may suppose it was used fresh; in the United States and in England, it was dried and so old that it had lost its medical properties. I am confirmed in this opinion by my experience. Wishing to try this remedy, I obtained three samples, and neither of these possessed in the least degree the physical properties attributed to Sarracenia. When fresh, it is *bitter* and *astringent*, leaving a somewhat pungent impression on the fauces. The specimens I obtained had no taste.

In order to give the remedy a fair trial, let us have it prepared from the fresh root, obtained at the proper season. If an antidote to smallpox, its value can not be over-estimated; if it only exerts the influence over the sympathetic first named, it will prove a valuable remedy.

SCUTELLARIA LATERIFLORA.

(SKULLCAP.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh herb, gathered whilst in flower, ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose, from gtt. j. to gtts. xx.

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We have here another remedy that loses its medical properties by drying, until by age they are entirely dissipated. I have seen specimens furnished physicians by the drug trade that were wholly worthless—no wonder they were disappointed in its action.

The Scutellaria exerts a direct influence upon the cerebro-spinal centers, controlling irritation. It is possible that it may also exert a tonic influence, favoring nutrition. It has been employed with success in chorea, convulsions, epilepsy, mania, etc., and especially in hysteria, monomania, and that undefined condition that we call "nervousness." I value the remedy highly, but only recommend it when prepared from the fresh plant as above.

SECALE CORNUTUM.

(ERGOT.)

Preparation. — Prepare a tincture from recent Ergot ℥viij. to Alcohol 50° Oj. Dose from the fraction of a drop to ℥j. (Ergot loses its properties with age, and it is essential, if we wish its specific action, that the tincture be prepared from the grains of the present season.)

The Ergot may be taken as the type of a specific medicine. Its action on the uterus, when fresh and good is so certain and decided, that no one can fail to see that at least one remedy acts directly. It is true, that there have been many failures in obtaining this action, but this can be attributed to worthless medicine; a large amount of that furnished

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physicians from drug-houses being inert from age.

Ergot may be employed in two ways, to facilitate labor. In quite small doses, say—℞ Tincture of Ergot, ʒj.; Water, ʒij.; a teaspoonful every half hour or hour, it exerts a stimulant influence, strengthening uterine contractions, and aiding dilatation of the os. It is especially useful in those cases in which there is a feeble circulation, with puffiness of face, and œdema of the feet—among the worst cases we are called to treat. Associated with small doses of Lobelia, it is an admirable remedy in rigidity, the os being thick and doughy. Its common use in large doses, in the second stage of labor, is so well known that it need not be described.

We employ Ergot in small doses, in the latter months of gestation, when there are false pains, with weight and pressure in the pelvis, fullness of labia with uneasiness, œdema, and especially if there is dullness and hebetude, with tendency to coma. In these cases no remedy will give greater satisfaction.

Ergot is a spinal stimulant, and influences the vegetative system of nerves. In some respects its action is similar to Belladonna, especially upon the circulation. Not unfrequently, we find it necessary to alternate them in order to maintain this influence.

In any case, marked by an enfeebled capillary circulation, with tendency to congestion, especially of the nervous centers, Ergot may be prescribed with advantage.

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This stimulant influence upon the spinal-cord and sympathetic is manifested in contraction of non-striated muscular fiber. Hence Ergot becomes an important remedy in hemorrhage when dependent upon atony.

SCILLA MARITIMA.

(SQUILL.)

Preparation. — Prepare a tincture from the bulb ℥viij. to Alcohol 50° Oj. Dose from gtt. j. to gtts. x.

In the larger dose, the Squill is a stimulant to mucous membranes, especially those of the air passages, and may be employed to check profuse secretion. In minute doses it relieves irritation of mucous tissues and stimulates secretion.

In dropsy, presenting a dry, harsh skin, parched tongue, fevered lips, and contraction of features, the Squill may be employed as a diuretic. In the majority of cases it has been used with Digitalis, the dose being large, but it then proved beneficial in the opposite class of cases—where the circulation was feeble.

Though it has been so extensively employed, it needs to be re-studied.

SCROPHULARIA MARILANDICA.

(FIGWORT.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the leaves and root, ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose from gtts. v. to gtts. xx.

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The Scrophularia stimulates waste and excretion, and is probably as certain in its action as any of our vegetable alteratives. Beyond this it seems to exert a marked influence in promoting the removal of cacoplastic deposits. We employ it in scrofula, in secondary syphilis, in chronic inflammation with exudation of material of low vitality, and in chronic skin diseases. In the latter case it is frequently used as a local application, as well as an internal remedy.

It exerts an influence upon the urinary and reproductive organs, and has been employed in some obscure affections of these with advantage. Still it is feeble and slow, and too much must not be expected from it.

SENECIO AUREUS.

(Life Root.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh herb and root, ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose from gtt. j. to gtts. x. (Much disappointment has been experienced from the purchase of the crude article when old, and from worthless preparations. I would advise the practitioner, when it can be obtained, to prepare his own tincture from the fresh plant.)

The Senecio exerts a specific influence upon the reproductive organs of the female, and to a less extent upon the male. It relieves irritation and strengthens functional activity. Hence it has ac-

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quired the reputation of a "uterine tonic." It may be prescribed in all cases in which there is an atonic condition of ovaries or uterus, with derangement of function. It makes little difference whether it is amenorrhœa, dysmenorrhœa or menorrhagia, or whether it takes the form of increased mucous or purulent secretion, or displacement. The remedy acts slowly, and sufficient time must be given.

In the male we prescribe it in cases of fullness and weight in the perineum, dragging sensations in the testicle, and difficult or tardy urination. In both male and female we sometimes use it with advantage in painful micturition with tenesmus.

SILPHIUM PERFOLIATUM.

(INDIAN CUP-PLANT.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh root, ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose from gtt. j. to gtts. x. in water.

The action of this variety of Silphium, if we are to believe the reports of the few who use it, is very direct and certain upon the chylopoietic viscera. It is claimed that it is one of the best remedies in the treatment of ague-cake, and congestion of liver and spleen, so frequently associated with chronic intermittents. It is but little employed, but deserves thorough investigation.

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SILPHIUM GUMMNIFERUM.
(Rosin Weed.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh plant, ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose, from gtt. j. to gtts. x. The tincture of the root may be employed in some cases of cough, but is not so good as from the plant.

The Rosin Weed exerts a direct influence upon the respiratory tract, especially upon the nerve centers controlling the function. Its principal use thus far has been in the treatment of asthma, in some cases of which its action has been very decided. I think the cases in which it has proven most beneficial, are those in which there is a spasmodic dry cough, with sensations of dryness and constriction in the throat. I have not found it beneficial in lymphatic persons, or where there was congestion of mucous membranes, or profuse secretion.

I have employed it in the treatment of cough, with some advantage, but can not specify the cases in which it was useful or those in which it failed. It deserves thorough investigation, and will probably prove a valuable remedy. The tincture of the root has been furnished the profession by druggists, and the want of success with it is no evidence that the preparation from the plant is not anti-asthmatic.

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SODÆ HYPOSULPHIS.
(HYPOSULPHITE OF SODA.)

SODÆ SULPHIS.
(SULPHITE OF SODA.)

It is well to procure these salts of reliable manufacturers (say Powers & Weightman), as there are many imperfect specimens in the market. The first is in the form of large colorless transparent crystals, freely soluble in water, the second in white prismatic crystals soluble in four parts of cold water: a want of solubility should cause the preparation to be rejected. It should be kept tightly corked, for it changes by exposure to the air. Dose, grs. x. to grs. xxx. every two or three hours.

In the first part of this work (Alkalies), will be found the general indication for the use of alkaline salts. They are very distinct, and can not be mistaken—pallid mucous membranes, and white coating on the tongue.

We employ the Sulphite and Hyposulphite of Soda as antizymotics, where there are the indications for the use of an alkaline salt as above. As a general rule, the indications for these salts will be—pallidity of mucous membranes, with a thick, pasty, white or dirty-white fur upon the tongue.

The influence of zymotic causes of disease on the fluids and solids is not well understood, but we know that it impairs their life, even if it does not cause more rapid sepsis. In some cases this im-

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pairment of vital power is all the change that can be noted, retrograde metamorphosis progressing more slowly than in health or ordinary disease. But the remedies we are studying are more than *antiseptics* — they antagonize the zymotic cause whether it produces sepsis or not.

In local diseases from a zymotic cause, as diphtheria, cynanche maligna, some forms of catarrh and influenza, erysipelas, surgical fever, etc., these remedies exert their specific action when locally employed, as well as in their internal administration. The indications, however, must be as named above—pallidity, with pasty exudates upon tongue.

Their action in arresting the growth of microscopic fungi, and during diseases arising from this cause, is specific. In yeasty vomiting, presenting sarcina ventriculi, the disease is speedily checked by the Sulphites. In some forms of apthous sore mouth and throat, speedy relief is given by their local application. Some chronic skin diseases are rendered very stubborn by these minute growths, and here also the Sulphites will prove valuable.

SULPHUROUS ACID.

We consider the Sulphurous Acid here, rather than under the head of Acids, from its relations to the Sulphites just noticed. We employ it as an anti-zymotic, and a parasiticide, and not for the common purposes of an acid, though here, as in the cases of the Alkaline Sulphites, there must be the

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general indications for an acid, as there was with them for an alkali.

The Sulphurous Acid, like the Alkaline Sulphites, specifically antagonizes zymotic causes of disease. It is well to keep in mind the fact that this is something more than simply arresting or modifying the septic process, for we have already seen that the zymotic influence frequently destroys the life of the fluids and solids without producing putrescency.

We prescribe Sulphurous Acid as an anti-zymotic in those cases which present reddened mucous membranes, with brownish coatings of tongue and sordes. Given, the indications for the use of an anti-zymotic, with the indications for the use of an acid, we select the Sulphurous Acid.

Sulphurous Acid may be employed in yeasty vomiting, in apthous mouth and throat, or wherever the presence of microscopic fungi is suspected, with the same certainty as the Sulphite of Soda. We also use it in porrigo, trichosis of scalp, ptyriasis versicolor, with excellent results. As a local application it should be diluted with from two to six parts of water.

I wish to call especial attention to its use in some diseases of the throat, by the spray or atomizing apparatus. In diphtheria, with dark-redness of mucous membranes, and fullness with relaxation, there is no local remedy equal to Sulphurous Acid spray. It is equally beneficial in those cases of cynanche maligna, with dark-redness of mucous

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membranes. Whilst in ordinary sore throat from cold, with dusky discoloration, it offers one of the best local applications in the Materia Medica.

SOLANUM DULCAMARA.

(Bittersweet).

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh twigs gathered in the fall, when the leaves have fallen, ℥viij. to Alcohol 70° Oj. Dose, from gtt. j. to gtts. x.

The Bittersweet has the reputation of being a good alterative, in cutaneous diseases, syphilis, scrofula and inflammatory deposits, and we conclude that it increases waste and excretion. It exerts a marked influence upon the cerebro-spinal centers, when used in large doses, but this has not been studied.

I would advise the employment of the remedy in small doses in those cases of chronic disease in which the circulation is feeble, the hands and feet cold and purplish, with fullness of tissues and tendency to œdema. I do not know that it will prove better than other remedies, but it deserves investigation.

SPONGIA USTA.

(Burnt Sponge).

Take of ordinary sponge a sufficient quantity, cut it in pieces, and burn it in a close iron vessel until it is brown and can be pulverized without much

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trouble. Now, take of this powder four ounces, pack in a percolator, and gradually add Alcohol 76° Oj Dose of the tincture from the fraction of a drop to 3ss.

I give the formula for the preparation of a tincture of burnt sponge, not because I think it possesses all the properties attributed to it by Homœopaths, but that it may be tested. I have used it in some cases with seeming advantage, and have seen results following its prescription by others, that in the ordinary use of medicine we would call remarkable cures. A quotation from Jahr's Repertory will show the Homœopathic uses:

"Diseases of the lymphatic vessels and glands; heat, with dry, hot skin, thirst, headache and delirium; redness of the eyes, with burning and lachrymation; frequent eructations, with cutting and tearing in the stomach; relaxed feeling in the stomach, as if the stomach were open; orchitis; induration of the testes; pain in the larynx on touching it and turning the head; *burning in the larynx and trachea; dryness, husky and hoarse voice; inflammation of the larynx, trachea and bronchi; croup; laryngeal and tracheal phthisis;* cough, deep from the chest, with soreness and burning, or chronic cough with yellowish expectoration and hoarseness; wheezing inspirations; asthma with amenorrhœa; goitre; hard goitre.'

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STAPHYLEA TRIFOLIA.
(BLADDER NUT.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the bark of the root, ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose from gtts. v. to ℥j.

The Staphylea has been confounded with the Ptelea, until we hardly know whether a writer in the olden times was describing one or the other. The probabilities are, however, that the articles described by Prof. I. G. Jones, and valued so highly by him as a tonic, was the article under consideration. At least it would be well for some of our friends who know the article, to procure specimens and thoroughly test it.

Dr. Jones claimed that it was a pure unirritating tonic, having a soothing influence upon mucous membranes. He employed it in the convalescence after fevers and inflammations, and whenever the stomach was feeble and irritable.

STILLINGIA SYLVATICA.
(STILLINGIA.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the recent dried root, ℥viij. to Alcohol 98° Oj. Dose from gtt. j. to gtts x.

Stillingia increases waste and excretion, but its principal action probably is upon the lymphatic system, favoring the formation of good lymph, hence good blood and nutrition. Experience shows that it favorably influences the system in secondary

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syphilis, in some forms of scrofula, and in cases of chronic disease where the tissues are feeble and not readily removed and renewed.

I believe it to be more especially useful in those cases where there is predominant affection of mucous membranes, and secondly, where the skin is involved. In these cases I have used the simple tincture as above, largely diluted with water, with much better results than I have obtained from any of the compounds of Stillingia or alterative syrups. Evidently in the ordinary manufacture of "Compound Syrup of Stillingia," the virtues of Stillingia, if it has any, are wholly lost, simply because water or dilute alcohol is not a proper menstruum.

Stillingia exerts a specific influence upon the mucous membranes of the throat, larynx, and bronchii, relieving irritation and favoring normal nutrition and functional activity. Some cases of chronic pharyngitis of years' standing, have been relieved by this remedy, after other treatment had failed. It is an excellent remedy in the treatment of some cases of chronic laryngitis, speedily relieving the irritation and cough, and we also employ it in chronic bronchitis with like good results. Now if it is possible to determine the class of cases in which it is thus beneficial, the reader may use it with advantage.

So far as my experience extends, they are those with tumid, red, glistening mucous membranes, with scanty secretion. This condition indeed seems to be the index for the use of the remedy for every

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purpose. In syphilis, in scrofula, in chronic inflammation with deposits, the same red glistening color, with scanty secretion, is my guide to the use of Stillingia.

STRYCHNOS NUX VOMICA.
(Nux Vomica.)

Preparation. — Prepare a tincture from freshly powdered seeds, ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose, from the fraction of a drop to five drops. A solution of Strychnia may be prepared after the following formula: ℞ Sulphate of Strychnia, grs. iv.; Water, ℥iv.; dose, gtts. v. $\frac{1}{96}$ gr. to gtts. xx. $\frac{1}{24}$ gr.

Nux Vomica exerts a specific influence upon the intestinal canal and associate viscera that renders it a most valuable remedy.

In minute doses we employ it to arrest nausea and vomiting, when this arises from gastric irritability and not from irritant material in the stomach. The cases are those in which there is feebleness of the organs, and not where there is irritation and inflammation. For this purpose we employ it in cholera infantum with marked benefit, and in cholera morbus and Asiatic cholera to relieve this symptom.

It is *the* remedy in all cases of congestion of *liver*, spleen, or portal circle. Given, a feeling of fullness in right hypochondrium, pain in side or shoulder, sallowness of face, yellowness of eyes, yellow coat on tongue, I prescribe Nux Vomica with a certainty that I never felt in the olden time.

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If an intermittent fever presents these evidences of visceral derangement, Nux Vomica is *the* antiperiodic, or at least it prepares the way for the kindly and curative action of Quinine. In bilious remittent fevers with these symptoms, Nux Vomica is the first remedy indicated. In diarrhœa with these symptoms we prescribe it with the certainty that the discharges will be speedily arrested, and the stomach and intestinal canal left in good condition. In dyspepsia with these symptoms, we obtain speedy and permanent relief from the use of the remedy.

It is here, as we have found it in the consideration of other remedies, if you can once determine the exact indication for its use, you may employ it whenever you find these indications, no matter what may be the name of the disease, or the condition of the patient otherwise.

The influence of Nux Vomica and Strychnia upon the spinal cord is well known, and this seems to be its principal use in medicine. Whilst I think it better, in the majority of cases, to restrict its use as above, there are some in which we employ it for its influence upon the nervous system alone. These are :—

In typhoid and asthenic disease, where there is impairment of spinal innervation, and in consequence imperfect or enfeebled respiration, we give Strychnia or Nux Vomica with advantage. Indeed, in those cases in which the respiratory function can only be carried on under the influence of the will, it is the only remedy we can rely on.

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In the same classes of disease, the tendency to retention of urine is met by the use of the same remedy.

In some cases of the same diseases, where a feeble circulation is associated with general impairment of muscular power, and inability to co-ordinate muscular movement, we use Nux Vomica with advantage.

Nux Vomica or Strychnia should never be employed in the treatment of paralysis so long as any evidence of inflammatory action exists; neither should it be used, if there are marked evidences of cerebro-spinal congestion, until this is removed. It is the first remedy employed in cases of paralysis presenting the symptoms of visceral derangement we have already named. In other cases it is only employed as a nerve stimulant, when the nerve centers are free from disease.

SULPHUR.

Preparation.—Prepare Sulphur for dispensing, by thorough trituration with two parts of Sugar of Milk. Dose from gr. j. to ʒss.

We employ Sulphur as a restorative in those cases in which there is a deficiency of this element in the blood. "All the protein-compounds contain Sulphur, which seems to be one of their essential constituents, not capable of entire separation without the complete destruction of the organic substance," (Carpenter). There are few, probably, who have

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thought of Sulphur in this relation; they supply Iron as the basis of red corpuscles, Phosphorus for the nutrition of the nervous system, but the protein tissues must get their supply of Sulphur from the food, or do without.

The indication for the use of Sulphur as a restorative is, enfeebled nutrition associated with decoloration of tissues, and secretions. The skin is blanched, the iris loses color, the hair is lighter in color in the young, changes rapidly to gray in the middle aged, and the urine is light colored as is the feces. The presence of cystine in the urine is an indication for the administration of Sulphur.

We also employ Sulphur in those cases in which there is excessive fetor of the excretions. We will occasionally find a case of chronic disease, in which the breath, the secretion from the skin, the urine, and the feces have a peculiar cadaverous odor, and we notice that with this there is a remarkable tendency to decomposition, and to breaking down of tissue.

It is possible that this may be explained, by the necessity of Sulphur in the formation of the taurine of the bile. If this secretion of the liver is the normal antiseptic, and controls putrescency in the body, we can see why a deficiency of Sulphur may lead to the condition above named, and its administration be directly curative.

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SYMPLOCARPUS FŒTIDUS.
(Skunk Cabbage.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh root, ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose from gtt. j. to gtts. v.

Though the Skunk Cabbage has been extensively used, it has been in combination with other remedies, and the reports are so vague that we can not estimate its remedial action. It exerts a very decided influence upon the nervous system, relieving irritation and preventing normal functional activity. This, probably, will be its principal use. The remedy deserves to be thoroughly studied.

TANACETUM VULGARE.
(Tansy.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh herb gathered in August, using ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose gtts. j. to gtt. xx. As a local application to the throat use one part of the tincture to four to ten parts of hot water, with a spray apparatus; or not having this, vaporize the fluid and let the patient inhale the steam.

In small doses the tincture as above prepared will furnish a cheap and agreeable stomachic, relieving irritation and improving functional activity. It exerts a decided stimulant influence upon the female reproductive organs, and may be employed in functional diseases when such influence is desirable.

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As a local application by spray or inhalation, it is a very valuable remedy in the treatment of diphtheria, and some forms of acute inflammation of the throat, and in epidemic catarrh. I have employed it in these cases with most marked advantage, and value it very highly.

TARAXACUM DENS LEONIS.
(DANDELION.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh root gathered in July or August, ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose from gtts. v. to ℥ss.

The Taraxacum loses its medical properties by drying, hence that usually supplied by the drug trade is wholly inert. Prepared as above, it will prove a valuable remedy.

It exerts a stimulant influence upon the entire gastro-intestinal tract, promoting functional activity. Whilst its action is feeble, it is very certain, and will frequently prove more desirable than the more active remedies.

TELA ARANEÆ.
(SPIDER'S WEB.)

From the web of the common house spider, prepare a tincture by macerating ℥ij. in Alcohol 98° Oj. for ten days. Dose, gtt. j. to gtts. x.

It is claimed to be a very certain remedy in the cure of intermittents. I give a formula for its preparation, that it may be tested. The tincture of

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the Aranea Diadema is employed in Germany by some Homœopaths, and cases reported in which the cure was speedy and permanent.

THUJA OCCIDENTALIS.
(Arbor Vitæ.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh leaves, ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj Dose from gtt. j. to gtts. xx.

The leaves of the Arbor Vitæ has been a popular remedy in the treatment of intermittent and remittent fever, rheumatism, scurvy, etc. It would be well for some of our practitioners to prepare a tincture and test it.

TRIFOLIUM PRATENSE.
(Red Clover.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the recently dried blossoms of Red Clover, ℥viij. to Alcohol 50° Oj. Dose from gtt. j. to gtts. x.

The Red Clover exerts a specific influence in some cases of whooping cough, and in the cough of measles. It is not curative in all, but when it does good, the benefit is speedy and permanent. It may also be prescribed in other cases of spasmodic cough, in laryngitis, bronchitis and phthisis. We should be able to tell the exact condition where it proves beneficial, and where it fails, but thus far the use has been wholly empirical. In the further use of the remedy all the symptoms should be noted.

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It has given much satisfaction thus far, and is likely to prove a very valuable remedy.

TRILLIUM PENDULUM.
(BETHROOT.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh root, ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose from gtt. j. to gtts. x.

The common use of Trillium in large doses obtained its astringent influence, possibly from the tannin it contains. The preparation from the fresh root named above, is but slightly astringent.

We would employ it in disease of mucous membranes with increased secretion, and expect decided benefit. In the earlier part of my practice I used Trillium in chronic bronchitis, in chronic catarrh, in cough with free expectoration, with excellent results. It needs to be thoroughly studied, and it will probably supply a want in our Materia Medica.

URTICA DIOICA.
(COMMON NETTLE.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh plant, ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose from gtts. j. to gtts. x.

The Urtica has been employed in some diseases of the bowels, with reported good results. An old practitioner informs me, that in chronic disease of the large intestine with increased mucous secretion,

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he has never found anything so beneficial as this remedy. It has also been used in diseases of the urinary organs.

It is now but little used, but deserves investigation.

VALERIANA OFFICINALIS.
(VALERIAN.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the root (as recent as can be obtained), ℥viij. to Alcohol 50° Oj. Dose from gtts. ij. to gtts. xx.

Valerian is a cerebral stimulant, and may be employed wherever a remedy of this character is indicated. It allays nervous irritability, modifies or arrests pain, promotes rest, and favors sleep, where these conditions result from an enfeebled cerebral circulation. It is very extensively used, and many times without benefit, as the condition of the nervous centers is very rarely taken into consideration.

VERATRUM VIRIDE.
(VERATRUM.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the recent root, not fully dried, ℥viij. to Alcohol 76° Oj. Dose from the fraction of a drop to three drops. Veratrum from Western New York furnishes an excellent remedy, as is that from North Carolina and Northern Georgia. Specimens I have seen from the Western States were worthless. The root should be dug in August or September, freed from

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dirt, and dried sufficiently to permit of shipment to the place of manufacture. Now, it should be immediately crushed, and the year's supply of tincture prepared.

As commonly prepared for the drug trade, (Norwood's excepted), it is made of the dried root kept in stock from year to year, and possesses very feeble, if any medical properties. In this case, as with some other remedies, the process of drying destroys that finer medical action upon which we depend to influence the sympathetic nervous system.

We employ the Veratrum to lessen the frequency of the heart's action. When properly used it not only lessens the frequency of the pulse, but it removes obstruction to the free circulation of the blood, and thus gives slowness, regularity, freedom, and an equal circulation in all parts of the body. This action we call arterial sedation, though the name is not a good one.

To obtain this action it is necessary that the remedy be used in small doses, frequently repeated, and that sufficient time be given to accomplish the object without disturbing function or producing depression.

Veratrum is sedative in large doses, and its influence upon the heart may be speedily obtained in this way. But in this case its influence is depressing. It evidently causes slowness of the pulse by paralyzing the cardiac nerves. If the influence is continued there is impairment of the circulation, with tendency to congestion. As a general rule,

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the influence of large doses can not be maintained; either the remedy produces irritation of the stomach, so that it will no longer be tolerated, or its depressing influence upon the circulation becomes so great that it must be suspended.

In small doses the Veratrum is a stimulant to all the vegetative processes. Acting through the sympathetic or ganglionic system of nerves, it removes obstruction to the capillary circulation, gives tone to the vascular system, and strength to the heart. As the obstacles to a free circulation are removed, and the vessels through which the blood is distributed and returned, regain their normal condition, there is less necessity for increased action upon the part of the heart; and as the power of the heart is increased, there is less necessity for frequent contraction.

I give this as a theory of the action of Veratrum, but whether true or not, there is no question with regard to the facts as above stated.

Veratrum is the remedy for sthenia, where there is a frequent but free circulation. It is also the remedy where there is an active capillary circulation, both in fever and inflammation. A full and bounding pulse, a full and hard pulse, and a corded or wiry pulse, if associated with inflammation of serous tissues, call for this remedy.

As was remarked when describing Aconite, the Veratrum exerts a similar influence in acute inflammation, and directly controls the inflammatory process in its first stages. As a rule, the remedies

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that will cure fever will cure inflammation. To this I believe there are no exceptions, if a proper diagnosis is made, and we are governed by the same indications for prescribing. Aconite, Veratrum, Gelseminum, Belladonna, Nux Vomica, Quinia, and other direct remedies, may be prescribed with the same certainty in inflammation as in fever. There is the same necessity for securing a good condition of stomach and upper intestine for digestion, and giving proper food. The same necessity for securing normal waste and excretion, and having the tissues renewed from good blood. The pallid tongue calls for alkalies, the dark redness of mucous membranes for acids, the pasty white coat for the sulphites, etc.

My experience teaches me that local inflammations are reached directly by this direct medication, and with a certainty a hundred times greater than by the old routine of internal and external counter-irritation. It makes no difference where its location, how great or how little, the treatment is exactly the same as for a fever presenting the same symptoms or indications for remedies.

It must not be expected that the indications for remedies will be as pronounced in the case of inflammation as in fever, but they are always sufficient.

I have treated inflammation of the lungs with Veratrum alone, Veratrum with Gelseminum, Veratrum with Ipecac, Ipecac alone, Aconite alone, with a success I never saw obtained from the use of nau-

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seants and counter-irritation. Other cases required the use of the Sulphites, of Quinia, or the mineral acids. I am not alone in this experience, for scores of our more recent students, who have learned this practice in lectures, give testimony to its success.

The local application of Veratrum, in the early stages of a superficial inflammation, will not unfrequently arrest its progress. In this way we use it in erysipelas, in phlegmous inflammation of cellular tissue, in felons, diseases of the bones, tonsilitis, etc.

We employ Veratrum in the treatment of chronic disease for its stimulant influence upon the vegetative processes. Properly used, we find that it lessens the frequency of the pulse, giving a free and uniform circulation; it lessens the temperature; it increases waste and excretion; and finally it stimulates digestion and nutrition.

My friend, Prof. Howe, regards it as one of the most direct and certain "Alteratives" in the Materia Medica, and in this opinion he is supported by a large number of practitioners. If the remedy has the action above named, we can readily see how it favorably influences chronic disease, and how frequently it may be employed with advantage.

VERBASCUM THAPSUS.

(MULLEIN.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the fresh tops and smaller leaves when the plant is in flower, ℥viij. to Alcohol 50° Oj. Dose from gtts. v. to ℥j.

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The Verbascum exerts a mild influence upon the nervous system, quieting irritation and promoting sleep. It also allays bronchial irritation, and checks cough. It is very feeble, and has but a limited use.

VIBURNUM OPULUS.
(High Cranberry.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the recent bark, ℥viij. to Alcohol 50° Oj. Dose, from gtts. v. to gtts. xx.

The Viburnum has been employed as an antispasmodic with reported success, hence its name, *cramp bark.* If we are to be guided by the descriptions of our earlier practitioners, we would conclude that it exerted a direct influence in controlling spinal irritation, and spasmodic action arising from this. I have never used it, though I think it worthy a trial.

VIBURNUM PRUNIFOLIUM.
(Black Haw.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the recent bark of the root, ℥viij. to Alcohol 50° Oj. Dose from gtts. v. to gtts. xx.

It is claimed in the Southern States that the Viburnum is a specific against abortion. I have been told by several parties, that it was a common practice among planters to make their slaves drink an infusion of the Viburnum daily whilst pregnant, to prevent abortion from taking the Cotton-

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root. A physician from Texas assured me, that from an observation of fifteen years, he was confident that it exerted this influence, and that he had prescribed it in many cases without a failure.

If it exerts this influence upon the uterus, it will prove a valuable remedy, not only as anti-abortive, but in diseases of the reproductive organs.

XANTHOXYLUM FRAXINEUM.

(Prickly Ash.)

Preparation.—Prepare a tincture from the berries, ℥viij. to Alcohol 98° Oj. Dose from the fraction of a drop to five drops.

The Xanthoxylum has been employed as a diffusible and topical stimulant. Its general stimulant action is not very marked, and there are many other remedies preferable. But as a stimulant to mucous tissues it has no equal in the Materia Medica. Whenever it is desirable to obtain such influence, whether of the throat, the gastro-intestinal tract, the mucous membranes of the air-passages, or of the urinary organs, we are rarely disappointed in its action. Upon the throat, the stomach, and upon the intestines, it exerts a topical influence before absorption.

In small doses we occasionally employ it in chronic diseases of mucous snrfaces, with good results. The cases are as above, when the mucous membranes are enfeebled and relaxed, with hypersecretion.

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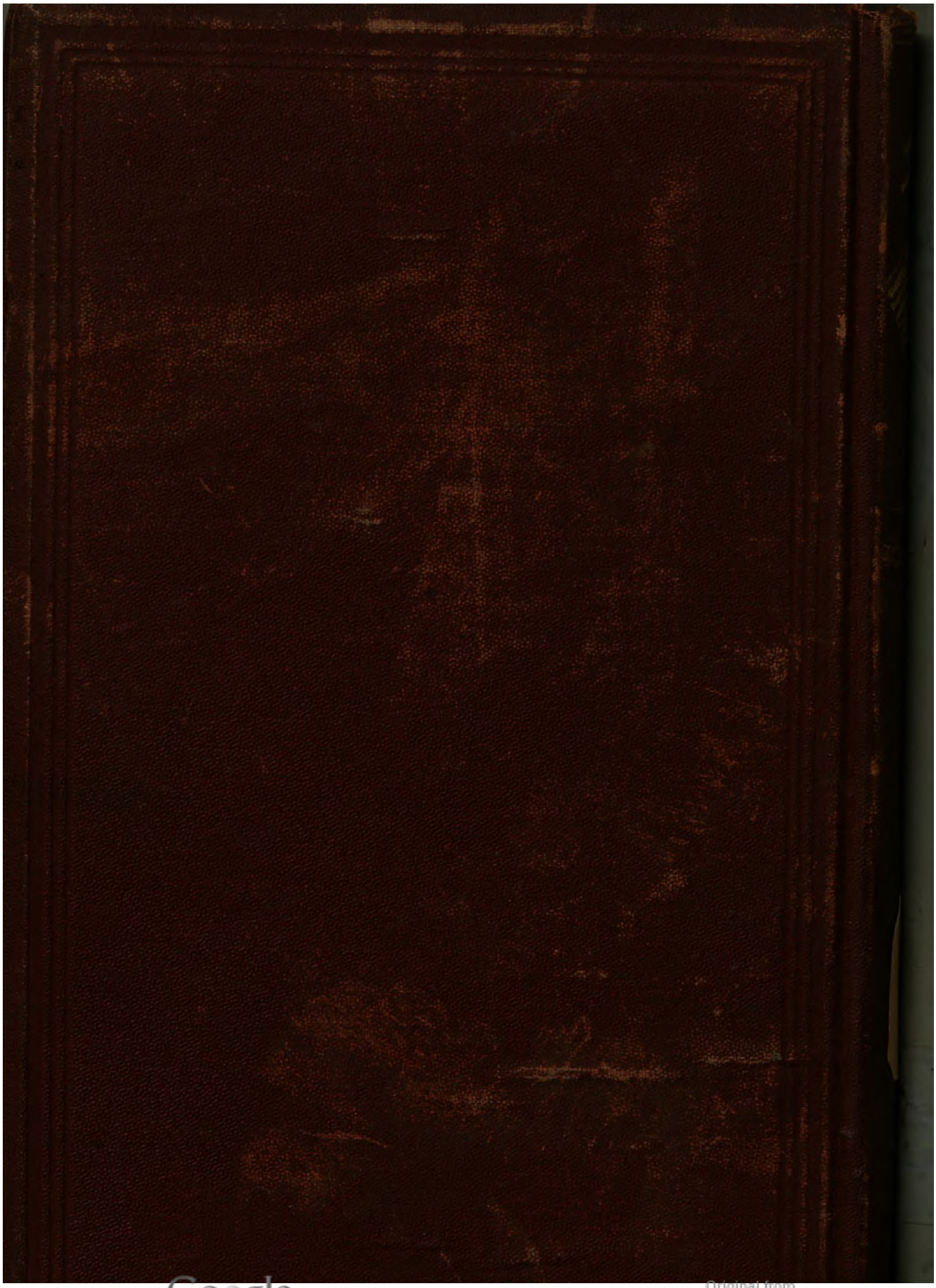

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