



CONTRIBUTORS

To this number of THE GLEANER, either through direct question or by reference to publications. Where no title is affixed to the name, the contributor is a pharmacist.

ARNHART DRUG COMPANY
BARRON, WM. P., M.D.
BRANSON, G. H., F.C.M.S.
BRENNAN, J. F., M.D.
BUCKLEY, FRANK, M.D.
BURKARD, ADRIAN F., M.D.
BUSCH, R. T., M.D.
CANTAROW, DANIEL, M.D.
CASSADAY DRUG COMPANY
CHAMPLIN, H. D., M.D.
COUNTRYMAN, L. E., M.D.
DAWSON, PAUL M., M.D.
DRANGA, AMELIA A, M.D.

JONES, HARRIET B., M.D.
LISK, PERCY, M.D.
LITTLE, L. W., M.D.
MILLER, E. P. S., M.D.
MITCHELL, P. H., M.D.
MOORE, C. F., M.D.
NYAL QUALITY DRUG STORE
PEAKE, CHAS., M.D.
POTTS, C. 1., M.D.
REMARK, H. R., M.D.
ROBERTS, CHARLES, M.D.
ROESER, J. F., M.D.
RUSSELL, DAVID LEWIS, M.D.

EULER PHARMACY
FARROW, E. M., M.D.
FOWLER, W. L., M.D.
FURBY, J. F., M.D.
GARRISON, C. G., M.D.
GIORGI, ANTONIO, M.D.
HADLEY, HARVEY, M.D.
HERRITY, T. R., D.D.S.
HUBBARD, R. B., M.D.
HULBERT, H. STEPHEN, M.D.
HULL, EDWARD S., M.D.
HUNT, J. H., M.D.
JEFFRIES, J. W., M.D.

SCHROBER, C. K., M.D.
SEBRELL, CHAS. H., M.D.
SEIDELL, ELIZABETH, M.D.
HOWLAND-SHEARMAN, C. H., M.D.
SHOTWELL, A. W., M.D.
SIEBERT, A., M.D.
SPIRES, HENRY S., M.D.
STANSBURY, EMMET E., V.D.M.
STEPHENSON, A. H., M.D.
STEWART, T. S., M.D.
WEIMERS, J. E., M.D.
WILDMAN, R. E., M.D.
WILSON, THOMAS L., M.D.

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EDITORIAL

-A. F. STEPHENS, M.D. - The Old-Time Physician vs. The Machine

While I do not regret the past, I do not desire to live in it wholly. I yet believe that it held many old, exceptionally valuable, therapeutic treasures not paralleled by any modern specialties. One of these was the close personal relationship that existed between the physician and his patients. In these latter days, this, to a great extent, has been lost largely through the use of commercialized specialties. Because of this, the old-time intimacy has been almost obliterated. The physician's contact with his patients is now too often merely a matter of business. The psychical element has been eliminated to a great extent.

In the past, the personal influence of the doctor was active. Its' effect upon the minds of his patients was a decided factor in the treatment. It inspired confidence and trust, which aided much in their recovery. To-day, this element is noticeably absent, at least with the dominant school.

Intricate instruments and puzzling machinery may mystify the untutored, but cannot replace the confidence imbued by the personality of the home-serving physician of the past. The cold precision of so-called science, cannot take the place of the friendly attitude of the physician of old times. The sick leaned upon him and cherished his kindly familiarity. To-day, the sick must accept a humanized machine, wherein there is no sympathy. The graduate in medicine of the present day is a highly schooled technician, but as has been said, he too often lacks the "human touch."

Again, the centralization of all branches of business has not escaped the political leaders of the medical profession, who are politicians within the fold. This also, with many, has helped to destroy the human side of the practice, whether we like it or not. Under the law of action and reaction, this must go on until the period of action is completed, when reaction will set in and decentralization begin. Individualism and humanism will again result.

How long this may take, no one knows. The pendulum swings rhythmically from right to left, not stopping in the center. When it does stop, universal stagnation results. Let us then, temporarily, accept the working of the law.

But in accepting, we must not lose sight of the wealth of the past. Be careful. Do not stop the pendulum.

It may be well again to call attention to another fact too often overlooked. The doctor of the past came in close touch with all the ailments of the patient, not alone with his pocketbook. He was not only physician, but adviser and teacher.

Intimately associated with his people, having always their welfare at heart, he as a duty instructed them in the use of the more simple means of caring for simple ailments. He even went so far as to furnish them with remedies with which to meet the needs of home treatment, such as the old "Neutralizing Cordial" (now Glyconda) for gastro-intestinal disturbances, and "Compound Stillingia Liniment" for croup and sore throat, to be given until the doctor could call. Nor should we forget "Mayer's Ointment," for boils and other swellings, or "White Liquid Physic" for dysentery. All these, and others, might well be thought of, to advantage to-day. All are still serviceable, as of old.

In the last quarter of a century, we have traveled far afield. We have exchanged many good and tried friends for new acquaintances, often to our patient's detriment.

I do not long for all that is past, nor do I value all that is old. But I often ask myself, "Shall I displace an old friend, known and tested, for one unknown, commended to me by some laboratory specialist who has never practiced medicine?"

We humans travel in a circle and finally reach the point from which we started. Do not some of our "authorities" stand to-day very near the point where medicine stood ages ago? Are our leaders very far from the "charm" of the toad's eyes, the expressed juices from animal tissues? What of the numberless new serums and vaccines once vaunted as "sure cures"? Where are they? How far have we progressed from the customs of the long ago?

FROM THE LABORATORY STAFF

Dr. Stephens' editorial, this number of THE GLEANER, aptly describes in part, conditions that now confront the practicing physicians, their patients, and the public at large.

Insidiously, the treatment of disease has been transferred from the medical profession to parties who have never taken a therapeutic course, who may not even know the names or the uses of most of the remedial agents established more than a hundred years ago in the Pharmacopoeia, and used to-day by physicians the world over.

Dr. Stephens, by reason of his long experience as a practicing physician, has the right to speak "by authority," and to "call a spade a spade."

Read his editorial. Ponder the subject as a whole. Consider the present, contrast it with the past, as concerns the position of the physician and the pharmacist.

That the present unfortunate condition is not incurable, is the hope and belief of the writer of this editorial, which coincides with that of Dr. Stephens, in that we both have hopes for the best service medicine can give the people of America. This must be through the practicing physician and the not-less-actively-qualified pharmacist.

But we must not forget that the course of medical and pharmaceutical practice in the passing along has resulted in marked improvements. For example, one might refer to such standard drugs as ipecac, belladonna, and hydrastis, the evolution of which has been accomplished by the union of the thoughtful physician and the careful apothecary.

Improvements, we may say discoveries, are to-day being made in the direction of vegetable materia medica, as shown by the unexpected prominence of the Indian's gift to medicine, Hamamelis or Witch Hazel. Not only have the simple preparations of Hamamelis increased in favor the world over, but contributions in the form of prescriptions have grown into unexpected demand. We can point to the preparation known as Solution Hamamelis Camphorated which is described and illustrated on the back page of this number of THE GLEANER.

In this connection, I venture to claim the privilege of giving my personal experience with Solution of Hamamelis Camphorated.

For many years, my eyes were subject to painful inflammation at the edges of the lids, a "sty" often forming that needed to be opened by a physician. Over a year ago, under advice of a physician, I began bathing the lids morning and night, with Solution of Hamamelis Camphorated, applying the solution freely to the external surface of the entire lids. Since this treatment was instituted, there has been no irritation or sty. In my opinion, the ailment was caused by bacterial invasion, probably over the surface of the lids.

Not only has the American materia medica been enriched, but to us have come products of other lands. Crude drugs have been introduced and fine pharmaceutical preparations made from them, the last of these that now comes to the mind of this editor being ephedrine. Such introductions and discoveries are not altogether confined to medicine. In a commercial direction we find an oil derived from a Chinese nut (tung oil from *Aleurites cordata*) taking such a place in the paint industry that the proprietor of one Cincinnati establishment informed the writer that he purchased it in ten and twelve carload lots. It occupies a place in the making of varnish and paint that cannot be filled by any other oil.- J. U. L.

GLEANINGS AND COMMENTS

ECZEMA

(Contributed)

You may be interested in knowing that I have recently had exceptional success in treating several forms of eczema, including that misnamed here "serous dermatitis," with a lotion consisting solely of Iodized Echafolta 3 iij in Water ℥ iv. Internally, the patient is given the following:

R̄x Sp. Med. Calendula	3 iij
Sp. Med. Baptisia	gtt.xx
Sp. Med. Alnus	gtt.xl
Sp. Med. Echinacea, q.s., ad	℥ iv

M. Sig.: Drops 15 in one-fourth glass water, three times daily, between meals.

CIRCULATION POOR

Question.-Patient with poor circulation, especially in hands and feet. She persists in doing her own work and, when she over exerts herself, knots form on her legs, sometimes nearly as large as a walnut. When they go down the flesh is left discolored as if the place had been bruised by a blow. What is the cause of this, and what remedies will be helpful in treatment?

Reply.-It is impossible to give an accurate diagnosis without a complete history and description of the case. From what is given, we would think of (1), Phlebitis; (2), Myositis, or an inflammation at musculo-neural junction; (3), a Neurosis.

Whatever may be the immediate cause, it will be necessary to improve the circulation of the blood. The remedy of choice is Specific Medicine Cactus, 3 ij to the four-ounce mixture, giving teaspoonful doses of the mixture every four hours. Next in order would be Macrotys, which could well be combined with the Cactus, adding 3 j to the four-ounce mixture. We feel confident that these remedies will give much relief if continued for a period of time. Study also the action of Arnica, Belladonna, and Pulsatilla, as they may be indicated.

NEURITIS WITH DROPSY

Question.-My sister is suffering greatly from neuritis of intercostal nerves, with dropsy of legs and feet. She is anemic, and has chronic diarrhea, from which she has suffered nearly all her life. This, of course, precludes some remedies commonly employed for dropsy. She is sixty-four years of age and not of a nervous temperament. She has heart attacks, with irregular heart action, relieved by lying down. Appetite is variable. Digitalis soon affects her stomach and she loses her appetite.

Reply.-For the chronic diarrhea we would suggest large doses of *Mangifera*, about three drams to the four-ounce mixture, a teaspoonful of the dilution being taken every four hours.

For the neuritis and referred heart pains we would consider Cactus, combined with *Bryonia*, as in the following:

R̄x Sp. Med. Bryonia	gtt.x
Sp. Med. Cactus	3ii
Glyconda	
Distilled Water, aa, q.s., ad	℥ ii

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture after each meal and at bedtime.

For the dropsical condition, the effect of the apparent damaged heart condition, we recommend a study of Crataegus.

The remedies mentioned may be alternated, or combined in one prescription. We would also recommend the study of Nux Vomica and Belladonna in this case.

FOLLICULAR TONSILLITIS

Question.-Please suggest treatment for follicular tonsillitis.

Reply.-It is difficult to form a prescription that will apply to all cases of this kind. However, we have found that usually three remedies are indicated, Aconite, Belladonna, and Phytolacca, with sometimes a fourth, Bryonia.

Aconite and Belladonna have a certain definite effect upon the throat, while Phytolacca has a place in cervical gland involvement, and Bryonia for the aching that is usually present. The following prescription has been found very helpful:

R̄x Sp. Med. Aconite	gtt.v
Sp. Med. Belladonna	gtt.v
Sp. Med. Phytolacca	3ss
Aquaedest., q.s., ad	℥ iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture every two hours.

To obtain success in treatment of this, as with other ailments, the indications for remedies to be applied must be followed. A careful study of the remedies themselves will suggest the method of application.

SUBCULOYD LOBELIA AS A RESPIRATORY STIMULANT

Question.-I am looking for something useful as a stimulant to respiratory centers, especially in the case of "blue" babies, that need some kind of stimulant to get them started. Will Subculoyd Lobelia answer this purpose?

Reply.-Subculoyd Lobelia is a very important remedy as a stimulant to respiration, and has been successfully employed in the case of a "blue" baby, following delivery. However, we must be sure that the condition is due to an interference in respiration, and not to a condition of open foramen ovale. Subculoyd Lobelia may be given to these cases of true asphyxia neonatorum, in doses of 3 minims, repeated as required. However, if the blueness be due to a wrong in development of the heart, let us repeat the caution to use this remedy with the greatest care, or not at all. Where the blueness is due to the use of some one of the alkaloids, hyoscine, scopolamine, or morphine during labor, or following long pressure on the chest, we need the action of Lobelia, and here it acts well as a respiratory stimulant.

APPETIZERS

Question.-I am trying to find something to produce an appetite in my wife. It is very hard to get her to take anything.

Reply.-We have found Specific Medicine Hydrastis very helpful to aid the appetite, giving it in one-drop doses, before meals, in a wineglass of water. We have also found the use of one grain, each, of quinine sulphate and powdered capsicum, in capsule, before meals, very efficient.

PROSTATIC TROUBLE

Question.-Am now seventy years of age and have practiced medicine forty-one years. Some three months past I developed some prostatitis, with enlargement of the rectal plexus of veins. On massaging the prostate, some pus appears in the urine. Have never had gonorrhoea. There is much aching in the prostate, with a heavy feeling in the lower part of the rectum, just inside the sphincter.

Reply.-From the description given we feel that two remedies are indicated, Collinsonia and Staphysagria; Collinsonia for the condition of the rectal veins, Staphysagria for the irritable prostate. These may be combined as follows:

℞ Sp. Med. Collinsonia
 Sp. Med. Staphysagria, aa 3j
 Glyconda
 Aquae Dest., aa, q.s., ad ℥ iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture every four hours.

In a few cases such as this, we have had very good results with Fluid Extract Herniaria, twenty drops at a dose, in a tablespoon of water, three times a day. This should be given over a long period of time.

In prostatic troubles we would also suggest the study of Specific Medicine Gaultheria, as advised by contributors in GLEANERS 36, 37, and 38, which please review.

DRINK HABIT

Question.-Have you any remedy recommended to cure the drink habit? It is getting the best of a patient of mine, and he is willing to try anything that will help him to stop drinking.

Reply.-We have no remedies commended as a "cure" for any particular disease or condition. However, certain agents have been found useful in treatment of the liquor habit. We commend the administration of Specific Medicine Black Haw to overcome the craving for drink. The following prescription is illustrative:

℞ Sp. Med. Black Haw 3 ijss
 Sp. Med. Capsium gtt.v
 Glyconda, q.s., ad ℥ iij

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture every four hours.

Capsium acts as a stimulant and also helps to take away the craving. A patient with this habit, as with other habits, must have the desire to quit, and the physician must insist on co-operation, or there can be no permanent benefit. The general health of the patient must be looked after, kidneys, liver, and bowel function improved. Good, nourishing diet must be given. Plenty of sleep and rest, and clean, wholesome amusement and outside interests beyond the regular occupation, are beneficial. Treatment of this and allied conditions must be both physical and mental if one is to succeed.

Other remedies that may be indicated and that deserve careful study and accurate application, are Nux Vomica, Hyoscyamus, Passiflora, Hydrastis, Fowler's Solution, Ammonium Carbonate, and Belladonna. Each case requires treatment directed to the correction of some wrong method of living, and the gradual leading of the patient back to normal. The "drink habit" is a disease condition and requires all the skill and perseverance of the medical attendant. Even then, failure may result through lack of proper help from the patient himself.

GELBIA IN ASTHMA

(Contributed)

Was called to an old man, eighty-five years of age, suffering greatly from asthma. Gave him, orally, Gelbia, 3 ss in a little water, and directed that this be repeated through the night, as needed. When I called next morning he looked worn, and the nurse stated that he had had a bad night. Next evening was called again. I gave him the same dose, 3 ss, hypodermically, in the chest muscles. Left no medicine, but asked the nurse to phone me if I were needed. Next morning he stated that he had had a very good night and wanted something to eat.

This is but one case I might report out of dozens. I would say, in asthma, give this remedy hypodermically, not orally. My favorite place for injection is in the muscles of the chest.

HYDRASTIS IN BRONCHORRHEA

Question.-Would Hydrastis be helpful in treatment of an annoying watery secretion from the bronchial tubes? Patient is a lady, nearly ninety years of age.

Reply.-Hydrastis is a very useful remedy in any mucous membrane condition, characterized by excessive secretion. In the case described, beneficial results could very well be expected from its use. To get its best action, we would use it in small doses for a long period. An illustrative prescription would be as follows:

℞ Sp. Med .Hydrastis ʒj

Water, q.s., ad ℥iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the dilution every four hours.

ECHINACEA IN ABSCESS

Question.-Fifteen years ago Mrs. J. L. S. was bitten by a rattlesnake on the right leg. Just a year later an abscess formed in the right groin and had to be lanced. It was very purulent. However, the wound healed without complications. Since that time she has had similar experiences, ranging from four months to three years apart. The abscesses form in different places, usually in some lymph region up and down the right leg. Another abscess has now formed. I have instituted a treatment of Echinacea, and believe it will eventually clear up the toxins in the blood stream. In this case would you consider the Specific Medicine or Subculoyd Echinacea, used hypodermically, the more effective? Any suggestions will be appreciated.

Reply.-In the case described we consider Echinacea to be the remedy indicated, using the Specific Medicine orally in twenty-drop doses, three times daily, for a considerable time, perhaps for months. In the meantime look for such causes as diabetes, nephritis, lues, or other systemic conditions. Other remedies to be considered are Calcium Sulphide, Sulphur, Sulphurous Acid, and Baptisia. All are worthy of study. But of anyone remedy, Echinacea would be the drug of choice. Use it locally as well as internally.

"BLEEDING HEART"

Question.-Has the common Bleeding Heart any value as a remedial agent?

Reply.-We find in the Dispensatories no record of the medicinal use of the cultivated "Bleeding Heart." However, one of its very near relatives, *Dicentra canadensis*, common names Turkey Corn, Squirrel Corn, Wild Turkey Pea, is quite extensively employed by physicians. As stated on the label for Specific Medicine *Corydalis*, it is anti-syphilitic, increases waste, and promotes nutrition.

The qualities and uses of this preparation are as given upon the label following:

Specific Medicine *Corydalis* Colloidum

Dose.-Gtt. x to ʒ ss., in water.

Specific Medicine *Corydalis* is made from the tubers of *Dicentra canadensis* or *Corydalis formosa*, known in the drug market as Turkey Corn, sometimes called Squirrel Corn.

Indications.-Blood dyscrasia, with sluggishness of digestive organs, deficient and impaired secretion of mucous membranes of stomach and intestinal canal; disturbed menstrual flow occurring from debility following severe fevers and other like causes. Has stimulating influence on the emunctories of the skin.-DR. FINLEY ELLINGWOOD, Amer. Mat. Med. and Ther. (Abridged).

"MILKWEED"

Question.-What is "Milkweed"? Is it used in medicine?

Reply.-Various plants belonging to widely different families are known by the common name "milkweed," because of their milky juice. Perhaps the best known of these are the Milkweed Family, the Asclepiadaceae, to which five pages of Gray's Botany are devoted, and the Spurge Family, the Euphorbiaceae, more than thirty varieties of which are named by Gray. Both these families include plants well known in medicine. So numerous are they that, to avoid confusion, it has been found necessary to list some of them under their common names. Thus, *Asclepias incarnata* is listed among the Specific Medicines as "Swamp Milkweed," to distinguish it from the better known *Asclepias tuberosa* ("Pleurisy Root"), which is known simply as Specific Medicine *Asclepias*.

In like manner, it was found necessary to distinguish between the three varieties of Euphorbia, commonly used by Eclectic physicians, namely Euphorbia corollata, the original species of Spurge used in medicine, and hence the variety listed by us under the name "Euphorbia"; Euphorbia hypericifolia, listed as "Spotted Spurge," and Euphorbia pilulifera, or "Asthma Weed." Various other varieties of "Milkweed" have been used in domestic medicine, but as we make no preparations therefrom, they need not be mentioned by us in this connection.

SHINGLES

Question.-Please suggest treatment for shingles. Is Libradol of any value in such cases?

Reply.-As a local application for shingles we have found Echafolta Cream very soothing and comfortable. Apply it directly to the chest wall by means of a spatula, and cover with absorbent cotton. Then apply a layer of gauze, and two two-inch adhesive straps over all, applied rather tightly, to assist in immobilizing the chest.

Libradol would be very useful after the blisters have healed completely. Many patients with this condition continue to have severe pain, even after healing of the lesion. We have also found three-drop doses of Specific Medicine Piscidia, given three times a day, very useful as a pain relieving agent in these cases.

GELBIA IN MANIA vs. SUBCULOYD STRAMONIUM

Question.-Please advise if Gelbia is indicated in mania.

Reply.-Gelbia has been found valuable in pain, as in neuritis, sciatica, and other conditions. It owes its action to that of its component drugs, Gelsemium and Lobelia, and may be used for its relaxing effects in mania, acute alcoholism, and allied conditions.

Here, however, Subculoyd Stramonium is more often indicated.

Stramonium is an energetic remedy, whether it be given by mouth or subcutaneously, and its use must be under close medical supervision and stopped as soon as the desired effects are obtained.

Stramonium is indicated in mania of the furious, enraged, destructive type. Beginning with 5 minims of the Subculoyd Stramonium, hypodermically, the dose may be repeated every three hours. The amount given, and the interval between doses, may be increased or decreased as the condition of the patient may warrant or demand, or its effects become apparent.

In the case of the so-called nervous debility type, smaller doses, 2 minims of the Subculoyd hypodermically, or the same amount of Specific Medicine Stramonium orally, may be administered three times daily. Since patients react differently in their susceptibility to this drug, each case will require individual study to ascertain the dosage needful. It is best to start with the small dose, and gradually place the patient under the influence of the drug.

CONSTIPATION

Question.-I am personally troubled with chronic constipation and a very sluggish liver. Tongue is coated most of the time. Do you commend any special form of diet for this? I am forty-one years old, and weigh 155 pounds.

Reply.- Treatment of chronic constipation falls under three heads, as follows:

1. Habit. So train the bowel function that there shall be a certain time in the day for this important act, and let nothing interfere with this time. In fact, endeavor to have an action, without straining, usually immediately following the morning meal. This regimen, rigidly adhered to, will be a great help. At any other time of the day when the call comes, answer it at once. This preserves the normal sensitiveness of the rectal mucosa.

2. Diet. Use plenty of water or its equivalent, but tea and coffee sparingly. Fresh fruits and vegetables should be eaten in abundance, with some roughage, that is foods with fiber, such as celery, skins of potatoes (baked), leafy vegetables, such as lettuce, cabbage, and spinach, with whole-wheat or rye bread. Eat little meat and sweets. All food should be well chewed before swallowing. Drink plenty of water.

3. Medication. Apply remedies that will improve tone, increase secretion, and aid peristalsis. A few remedies usually indicated are Cascara, Nux Vomica, Chionanthus, Hydrastis, Colocynth, Xanthoxylum, Podophyllum, and Rhubarb. Use cathartics very sparingly. All remedial agents must be administered according to the definite indications presented.

A pinch of Sienna Leaves, taken at bedtime, well chewed and swallowed with a half-glass of water, is very efficient in helping to establish normal morning bowel movement.

From the description of the case given, we believe the following prescription will prove very useful:

R \bar{x} Sp. Med. Nux Vom gtt.x
Sp. Med. Chionanthus 3j
Podophyllum Laxative (Dewees')
Glyconda ,aa, q.s. ,ad 3 iv
M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture an hour after each meal.

PULSATILLA AS A NERVE SEDATIVE

Question.-In THE GLEANER I have found many suggestions helpful in my work. Perhaps you can give some suggestions for a male patient, married, age fifty-eight, health and habits good. Is unable to have sexual intercourse though he has not in any way abused himself. He states that he has some nervous symptoms. I have prescribed for him Specific Medicine Pulsatilla, 3 ss in Water 3 iv, taking teaspoonful doses of the mixture every three hours, but there seems to be little benefit from the treatment.

Reply.-In our opinion the dosage of Pulsatilla is insufficient. In the case at hand, two or even three drams of this medicine in a four-ounce mixture is none too large. Please study also the uses of Specific Medicines Salix Nigra Aments and Phosphorus. If there be any bladder or prostatic irritation, we would think of Specific Medicines Fragrant Sumach, Staphysagria, and Hydrangea. As a general, systemic tonic, Nux Vomica is often useful. All remedies, however, must be given according to the definite indications for their use, as presented in each case treated.

ECZEMA IN BABIES

Question.-What have you for treatment of Eczema in babies? Reply.-In the usual cases of eczema in babies we have found the use of Ammoniated Mercury Ointment to be almost a specific. For very young infants we usually prescribe equal parts of this ointment and Ointment of Rose Water (Ungt. Aq. Rosea). Due attention must, of course, be given to proper diet, elimination, and hygiene.

MULLEINED OIL IN DEAFNESS

Thickened Membranes of Ear

Question.-In simple deafness I am getting good results from that old remedy, Mulleined Oil. Can you suggest anything for thickened membranes of the ear, sometimes a cause of deafness?

Reply.-In thickening of membrane tympani, it is usually thought that a permanent condition is present. In other words, many physicians feel there is little that will overcome this condition.

Many excellent reports have been received from physicians who have used Mulleined Oil with apparent benefit in deafness. Dr. Foltz recommended the use of Specific Medicines Pulsatilla, Hydrastis, and Phytolacca in deafness. We would recommend a further study of these remedies in this particular field.

FRAGRANT SUMACH FOR INCONTINENCE OF URINE

Question.-If I remember correctly, some years ago I used your preparation of Rhus tox. for incontinence of urine, for both elderly and young people. For adults, as I recall, I gave it in twenty-drop doses.

Reply.-In the above question reference is probably made to Rhus Aromatica, rather than to Rhus tox. To avoid confusion, in the Specific Medicine list the former is labeled Fragrant Sumach. The dosage suggested seems to us rather large, yet in the ordinary cases no harm would result from twenty-drop doses. We prefer to use it as follows:

℞ Sp. Med. Fragrant Sumach. ʒ i to iii

Glyconda

Water, aa, q.s., ad. ʒ iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture every four hours.

The Glyconda is added to facilitate the suspension. It is also usually indicated in these cases. For bladder troubles of the aged we would suggest the study of Thuja, Belladonna, Hydrangea, and Buchu. In treating incontinence of urine, one must distinguish whether this be due to atony or to irritation of the parts.

ACIDS AS CAUSING DISEASE

Question.-What acids, in your judgment, tend to accumulate in the human system? What are their sources, and what pathologic conditions do they produce? What acids, other than uric, tend to make the urine excessively acid? Is it your opinion that these acids greatly hasten old-age symptoms?

Reply.- The subject of acids in the human system as causing disease is too large to cover in the brief space at our command. Uric acid, as such, is not to-day credited with causing many serious conditions. It is true that acids and other products of metabolism, if not removed or counteracted in some way, do have a tendency to hasten "old age," especially from their effect upon the blood vessels, as they may easily produce thickening of the walls and high blood pressure, with accompanying kidney, liver, and nerve derangements. Diet has a tendency to render the urine acid or otherwise. We must remember that urine is Nature's method of removing acid products. The protection against acids is found in the blood stream, which is always alkaline.

NEURITIS, WITH DROPSY AND ANEMIA

Question.-Please suggest treatment for patient suffering greatly from neuritis of the intercostal nerves, with dropsy of legs and feet. She is also anemic.

Reply.-For the neuritis we would suggest the study of Belladonna and Pulsatilla. As a remedy to aid in the elimination of water by the kidneys we suggest the study of Specific Medicine Hydrangea. Apis should also be studied for its effects in removal of fluids.

For anemia, Lloyd's Iron is very efficient.

ACID STOMACH

Question.-In the Southern state, where I now live, there seem to be many more afflicted with acid stomach and such like troubles than I ever observed during my forty years in the North and East. I have myself been troubled with acid stomach, which nothing seems to relieve. I believe this condition is brought on by improper diet, as well as by the hot climate. Have used Nux and Aconite, as well as Podophyllum.

Reply.-We have no doubt that much of this stomach trouble is brought about, primarily, by improper diet. Our experience with Southern cooking leads us to believe that there is too great a preponderance of starches and sugar (carbohydrates), also fats. We would advise the use of as many fresh vegetables as possible, with restriction of fats, such as butter, cream, etc.

In this condition do not forget the use of Belladonna. Five drops may be added to your Nux prescription. The following is illustrative:

℞ Sp. Med. Nux Vomica gtt.x

Sp. Med. Belladonna gtt.v

Glyconda, q.s., ad ʒ iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful an hour after each meal.

Study also the action of Specific Medicines Chionanthus and Jalap.

INFANTILE ECZEMA IN BOTTLE-FED BABIES

Question.-What can you suggest in the way of treatment of Eczema protean in babies, caused by bottle feeding?

Reply.- Treatment must be, first, to correct all dietetic wrongs. We have found that many babies who develop this trouble are receiving too great an amount of cane sugar. This is but one of the wrongs of diet to be considered. Some may need cod-liver oil, orange juice, or other necessary food accessory. After hygiene and diet have been corrected as far as possible, we have nothing better as a local application than Ammoniated Mercury Ointment. This is usually prescribed, ʒiij in enough Ointment of Rose Water to make one ounce. Apply this locally, twice daily.

We have also found the internal administration of Specific Medicines Apis and Rhus to be very useful, as in

℞ Sp. Med. Apis gtt.x
 Sp. Med. Rhus gtt.iiij
 AquaDest.,q.s.,ad ʒiv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture three times daily.

ECZEMA RUBRUM

Question.-A man, aged sixty-eight, has a troublesome type of eczema on one leg, extending almost from the knee down to the ankle. It is on the front only, the calf and back of the leg being free. A much smaller patch has appeared on the outside of one arm below the elbow. When he first consulted me the parts were obviously inflamed and numerous "crusts" had formed. These I got cleared away, and applied a soothing ointment. At the same time I also gave him a good "blood" medicine, to which, in view of his age, I added a portion of Lloyd's Iron. Though there is now no actual broken skin, the parts still present an angry appearance, and there is a slight tendency to "weep." Can you suggest cause for the trouble? What further treatment do you recommend?

Reply.- The form of eczema here presented is apparently that known as eczema rubrum, which is usually very stubborn as to ultimate cure. As to causes. In what condition is the general health? Is there any evidence of lues, past or present? Are there any varicose veins?

Our present conception of eczema is that it is a cutaneous reaction to many varied causes, totally different in themselves, but all producing a similar histological and clinical picture. These causes are both external and internal, the external being in the great majority, but all requiring a receptive (or better), a sensitive skin.

Among the external causes for eczema are extremes of cold and heat, especially cold; cold, irritating winds; strong soaps, chemicals, dye-stuffs, and emanations from certain plants. All these are predisposing in character. Internal causes include such diseases as gout, rheumatism; lues, gastro-intestinal disorders, nervous exhaustion, hypothyroidism, and hypersensitivity to certain substances (allergy), especially in children.

Treatment must be based upon the conditions present. Externally stimulating applications are indicated, alternated after a time with soothing remedial agents. The following is very useful, especially in the form here described:

℞ Acid Salicylic gr.x
 Starch ʒj
 Ungt. Zinc Oxide, q.s., ad ʒj

M. Ft. Ungt. Sig.: Apply twice daily, after cleansing.

After several days' use of this stimulating ointment, use the following:

℞ Sp. Med. Echinacea
 Bismuth Subnitrate, aa ʒj
 Lanolin,q.s.,ad ʒj

M. Ft. Ungt. Sig.: Apply twice daily, after cleansing.

For cleansing, olive oil is useful; mild soap and water also, if the dressing is immediately applied. Internally, use Fowler's Solution of Arsenic if the lesion be scaly and dry. As alteratives, consider Berberis, Phytolacca, Stillingia, Corydalis, and Lloyd's Iron. All treatment should be directed toward improvement of the patient's general condition. With this in view, study Specific Medicines Apis, Rhus tox., Gelsemium, and Nux Vomica. All internal medication, as in all abnormal conditions, must be in accordance with the indications presented.

DATURA STRAMONIUM

Question.-Can you furnish me the alkaloid Daturine, made from the seed of Datura Stramonium? I desire to use it in treatment of the Opium habit.

Reply.-We do not manufacture this alkaloid. Our Subculoyd Stramonium, introduced many years ago for the treatment of opium and morphine addicts, carries the total alkaloidal content of the drug. Like Specific Medicine Stramonium, this preparation is made from the leaf of the drug. As with Lobelia, it has been found that the seed is of less therapeutic value than the leaf, provided the leaf is of good condition, and is gathered at the proper season of the year.

ICE PLANT, MONOTROPA UNIFLORA

Question.-I am mailing a plant that I have found to be of great value as a tonic and laxative. With me it has never failed to relieve a case of chronic diarrhea within twenty-four hours, and without constipation following. Would appreciate the true name of this plant.

Reply.- The plant sent was a variety of the Ice Plant, or Indian Pipe. The official species of Ice Plant is the *Monotropa uniflora*, from which we make a Fluid Extract. The American Dispensatory says of this species:

"Ice-plant root is a tonic, sedative, nervine, and antispasmodic. It has also been employed in febrile diseases, as a sedative and diaphoretic. . . . It is undoubtedly of value, and is deserving of more confidence and attention than is at present bestowed upon it. It is seldom used at the present day."

URTICARIA FOLLOWING PREGNANCY

Question.-Woman, forty, has had two pregnancies, the second terminating artificially on account of parenchymatous nephritis after threatened abortion. There is great muscular soreness, especially in chest and shoulders. Urine is scanty and frequent, with low specific gravity, otherwise negative. Hands are swollen on arising; low blood pressure; pale complexion; frequent attacks of hives. What remedies are indicated?

Reply.-In cases such as this, three of the Specific Medicines are of great value, namely, Apis, Gelsemium, and Macrotys. These may be used separately, or combined, as the indications present. This patient also presents a condition calling for a general tonic and supportive treatment. Lloyd's Iron, Ignatia, and Pulsatilla should be administered, according to their indications.

VERATRUM IN ANGINA PECTORIS

Question.-Is Veratrum helpful in Angina Pectoris?

Reply.-If there be a full, bounding pulse, which is not common in this ailment, Veratrum may be used, but with caution. Gelsemium is much the better remedy, because of its soothing effect upon the vascular system. This may be given either alone or associated with Cactus or Crataegus, as required. Lobelia is also of value in this condition.

ITCHING DUE TO NEUROSIS

Question.-Can you give suggestions to relieve an "itching" that comes only during the night, and extends from the shoulders to the arms and hands?

Reply.-From the brief description given, we would consider this to be a neurosis. Is there any evidence of skin eruption or swelling?

Based upon this, we would suggest the internal use of Apis and Pulsatilla, with the application of Echafolta Cream, upon retiring. An illustrative prescription would be:

R̄x Sp. Med. Apis gtt. xxx
 Sp. Med. Pulsatilla 3 i
 Glyconda
 Aq. Dest., aa, q. s., ad ʒ iii

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the dilution every four hours.

ERYNGIUM IN ACID BOWEL DISTURBANCES

(Contributed)

In acid bowel disturbances and in kidney and bladder distress. Specific Medicine Eryngium has been my sheet anchor. In cystitis and in frequent urination I use it as follows:

R̄x Spec. Med. Eryngium 3 i
 Spec. Med. Apis m. x v
 Spec. Med. Fragrant Sumach 3 i
 Glyconda
 Water, aa, ad ʒ iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful every two hours, with a glass of water.

Eryngium is a remedy that will well repay further study. Patients who have been benefitted by this remedy will return and bring friends that have like troubles. For bed wetting this formula is excellent, but the proportions must be varied to suit the case in hand. Study the specific uses of the above remedies as given on the labels.

BERBERIS IN SYPHILIS

Question.-Kindly tell me if Specific Medicine Berberis may be given in a solution as strong as ʒj in ʒvi of water. How long should treatment be continued after one year, when blood test shows positive reaction?

Reply.- The suggested dosage of Specific Medicine Berberis is not excessive, as established dosage is from one to thirty minims. An ounce of the medicine in a six-ounce mixture would average about ten minims to the teaspoonful. But one should be on the lookout for physiological effects, such as tremor, dullness, drowsiness, and active diuresis. If these occur, one should reduce the dosage to five minims or one-half teaspoonful of the suggested dosage.

In our opinion, Berberis has no active effect against the treponema of syphilis, and therefore it could not be expected to render the blood test negative. However, it is one of our best remedies in assisting the action of other remedies, such as iodide of potassium, stillingia, and echinacea. We think of Berberis in the so-called syphilitic taint, especially where manifested by lesions of the skin and mucous membranes. Remedies have their certain specific fields of usefulness, and it is not well to expect them to act outside this field. When using Berberis with iodide of potassium, my prescription would read:

R̄x Specific Medicine Berberis 3 j to 3 iiij
 Potassium Iodide 3 ij
 Glyconda, q. s., ad ʒ iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture an hour after meals, followed by a half glass of water.

Glyconda makes an ideal vehicle for this prescription, because of its alkaline reaction. A neutral or acid reaction will cause a precipitate, and interfere with absorption of the medicine.

Specific Medicine Berberis may be used for a very long period; in fact, its best work has been observed where one has persevered in its use. It is a true alternative, and exerts its force by building up the blood stream and removing broken-down materials.

THERAPEUTIC FIELD OF APOCYNUM

Question.-Please give me information concerning Specific Medicine Apocynum, with special reference to its effect on blood pressure, the gastro-intestinal tract, and dose.

Reply.-Apocynum is the remedy for watery infiltration of tissues, accompanied by weak heart action, scanty urine, dull relaxed tissues, skin blanched, full, easily indented.

Where there is low arterial tension, low blood pressure, Apocynum improves the tone of the arterial walls, at the same time improving the action of the heart itself, undoubtedly through its action upon the heart muscle. In the doses we advise, it acts to raise low blood pressure.. On the other hand, if high blood pressure be present, its effect would not be dangerous, if used in the smaller doses, no more than Digitalis. Its held of action, however, is more efficient when given in low blood pressure. By its action in improving circulation in the kidneys, Apocynum removes water from the system.

Large doses of Apocynum cause hydragogue catharsis, nausea, and vomiting. It was formerly used as a drastic cathartic. In the present improved form, very little nausea ensues if it be given in medicinal doses. It may be given in capsules, in doses of from one to five drops. Or Specific Medicine Cinnamon may be added to the prescription. To overcome nausea, Dr. Ellingwood advises combining with the Apocynum in the prescription, an equal amount of Specific Medicine Echinacea. Apocynum has no apparent therapeutic effect on diseases of the gastro-intestinal system, but exerts its influence upon the cardio-vascular-renal tissues.

The dose of Specific Medicine Apocynum varies from one-fourth minim to twenty minims. Our usual prescription is as follows:

℞ Specific Medicine Apocynum gtt. x to 3 j
Water, q.s. ad ℥ iv
M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture every two to four hours.

CHOREA IN YOUNG GIRL

Question.-Please suggest treatment for a case of chorea in girl eleven years of age. So far it has resisted all treatment.

Reply.-We have had very good results in chorea from the following:

℞ Sp. Med. Solanum gtt.xxx
Sp. Med. Macrotys 3 j
Water, q.s. ad ℥iv

M. Sig. A teaspoonful of the mixture every four hours.

Study also Belladonna, Rhus tox, and Pulsatilla. Due attention must be paid to hygiene, and the correction of such foci of infection as infected tonsils, with the use of the properly indicated remedies.

CHRONIC CONSTIPATION

Question.-A patient has for years had chronic constipation, with deficient digestion, and is at times very nervous. Please suggest treatment.

Reply.-We suggest the following:

℞ Sp. Med. Nux Vomica gtt.x
Podophyllum Laxative (Dewees')
Glyconda,aa,q.s.,ad ℥ iij

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture an hour after meals.

INSOMNIA

Question.-I have an elderly lady patient with arteriosclerosis, blood pressure 198. She is troubled with insomnia and has dizzy spells. Outside of this, she is well and has good appetite. Her age is 77.

I have used the Specific Medicines for years, and had most excellent results from them. Thanks for THE GLEANER. It has been of much service to me.

Reply.-We have found the use of Passiflora very effective in insomnia, especially when the causative factors have been determined. In this case, which is associated with high blood pressure, we would combine Gelsemium with Passiflora, as in the following:

℞ Sp. Med. Passiflora 3 ii
 Sp. Med. Gelsemium gtt.xxx
 Glyconda.
 Water, aa, q.s., ad ℥ iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture an hour after each meal.

This prescription will not force sleep, but will act in a kindly manner to equalize cerebral circulation and tend to produce tranquil sleep.

Study also the action of Specific Medicines Veratrum, Lobelia, Pulsatilla, and Cactus in this case.

"GAS" ON THE STOMACH

Question.-Several of my patients, after eating, no matter what, have much gas on their stomachs. Please suggest treatment.

Reply.- The following prescription is quite helpful for this condition:

℞ Sp. Med. NuxVomica gtt.x
 Sp. Med. Hydrastis 3ss
 Elix. Lact. Pepsin, q. s., ad 5 iii

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture a half hour after each meal.

ECHINACEA IN SNAKEBITE

Question.-In this section of country, Montana, rattlesnakes are abundant. In an emergency case, how much Subculoyd Echinacea may be safely used intravenously in an adult, and how often may the dose be repeated?

Reply.- The intravenous dose of Echinacea, like that of others of the Subculoyds, has not as yet been fully determined. The use of this particular class of remedies is based upon their hypodermatic action.

We would, personally, not fear to use twenty minims of Subculoyd Echinacea, diluted with an equal amount of sterile, distilled water, repeating as often as required. Watch for untoward symptoms, such as nausea, giddiness, etc. Should such appear, stop the drug immediately, or use it by mouth, if its continued action is desired. The use of remedies intravenously is fraught with danger, and requires extreme caution.

Some years ago, 1910, a questionnaire was sent by Lloyd Brothers to physicians in the country sections of Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico, asking them to give their experience in the use of Echinacea in snakebite and stings of venomous insects, with such other treatment as they employed. The reports, which were summarized in two booklets of sixteen pages each, were unanimous in favor of the value of Echinacea in this direction. The treatment employed was to bind the wound with a bandage saturated with pure Echinacea, or a solution of Echinacea and water, at the same time giving the medicine either orally or hypodermically. Of the entire number of cases reported, but one resulted fatally. One physician wrote:

"All my moccasin-bitten patients have pulled through with Permanganate of Potash and Echafolta applied to wounds. In this country I think 50 percent of bites from diamond-back reptiles prove fatal"

OZENA

Question.-Please give me some information on ozena and the sharpening of the olfactory nerves in this affection.

Reply.-Ozena, known also as Putrid Catarrh, is due usually to caries of some of the bones forming the nasal passages. From destruction of the delicate Schneiderian membranes, the sense of smell is naturally much obtunded.

Thorough cleansing with Normal Salt Solution, followed by packing the nose with gauze saturated in 50 percent solution of Echafolta, is palliative. If a cure is to be expected, this disease is best treated by a specialist in this direction.

PREDISPOSITION TO INFECTIONS

Question.-I would deeply appreciate suggestions as to what Specific Medicines would be helpful with a patient who does not respond to treatment. She is a white woman, 38, single, of a highly strung, nervous temperament. She is predisposed to infections. She has had chronic acne, now almost completely cured, but has frequent outbreaks of small boils about the shoulders and neck. Several months ago an ovarian cyst was removed, and since that time she has been depressed, run down, physically and mentally. Complains of vague joint pains and rather severe pain in the right pelvis, and a constant frontal headache starting three days after her operation, from which she has not had a single day's relief. I have known this patient many years, and know that she does not complain without cause. Still, I feel that most of her symptoms may be explained on the basis of neurasthenia.

Reply.-For the nervous symptoms of this patient, we would suggest a careful study of Pulsatilla. This is not a powerful remedy, and therefore it requires persistent use, over a fairly long period, to obtain the desired results.

For the tendency to suppurative processes, nothing has given us better results than Echinacea.

For the frontal headache, Bryonia is the remedy. This will also be found useful because of the joint conditions.

These remedies may be combined in a single prescription.

R̄ Sp. Med. Bryonia	gtt.xv
Sp. Med. Pulsatilla	3 j
Sp. Med. Echinacea	3 ij
Glyconda.	
Water, aa, q.s., ad	℥ iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the dilution after meals and at bedtime.

This prescription, however, is only suggestive. Upon proper study, other remedies may be found to be indicated. We would suggest the study in this case of Macrotys, Hydrastis, Caulophyllum, Mitchella, and Berberis.

GELBIA TO REPLACE MORPHINE

Question.-What dosage of Gelbia would you advise to replace morphine in a case of severe muscular tearing along the spine, at the point of junction of the lower thoracic and upper lumbar vertebrae, the result of an accident? After this accident there was severe pain in the sacro-iliac region, which has gradually increased until it became necessary to utilize morphine to ease the suffering. There is a tubercular history in the case, that is a part of the general condition. The whole picture is one of tubercular infection, but the X-ray is negative as concerns the spinal area. The patient is taking from one-half grain to one grain of morphine a day. I wish to replace this with Gelbia. What is your advice on the replacement?

Reply.-As we see this case, it is necessary to give relief to the patient, and at the same time gradually get away from morphine. Our suggestion is that one half the usual dose of morphine that the patient is receiving, be combined with ten minims of Gelbia. We have found Subculoyd Lobelia very efficient in reducing the amount of morphine needed to relieve pain, and Gelbia is much more analgesic than the Subculoyd Lobelia. We would suggest that the patient be not informed as regards this substitution.

The amount of morphine could be gradually reduced and the Gelbia increased to 15 to 20 minims at a dose. Theoretically, after several days the morphine could be dropped altogether, but so many factors enter into treatment of a drug tolerance, that it is difficult to say definitely just how an individual case will react. We take it that the morphine is now being taken hypodermically, and our method of replacing it with Gelbia is based upon that method of administration.

It is also suggested that a study of Stramonium be made in connection with this case, especially the Subculoyd preparation of Stramonium.

INDICATIONS FOR GELSEMIUM AS CONTRASTED WITH BELLADONNA

Question.-I have never given Gelsemium, because, while I have found all other indications for its use, I have not observed the contracted pupil. How much contracted should it be? I infer, not to the "pin-point contraction."

Reply.-In our experience, Gelsemium is indicated by the moderate contraction of the pupil, showing evidence of hyperemia in the cerebral centers. This is accompanied by a flushed face and a nervous excitability that makes a further indication for the use of Gelsemium. On the other hand, Belladonna, according to our system of practice, is indicated by "dullness of features, with pallor and dilated pupils," showing evidence of congestive conditions of the cerebral center. Naturally, a difference is found when the doses are infinitely small; and when these drugs are administered to their so-called physiological effects.

LOW BLOOD PRESSURE WITH DIABETES

Question.-In GLEANER 40 you give a prescription for low blood pressure. Can this be properly used in the case of a patient with diabetes? Can it be taken indefinitely? Will it injure the teeth?

Reply.-The prescription in GLEANER 40 for low blood pressure may be used in diabetes, or any other systemic condition, with proper changes to meet the case in hand. In other words, use the remedy indicated to overcome the disease processes presented.

In addition to the remedies named in GLEANER 40 (Specific Medicines Belladonna and Nux Vomica and Lloyd's Iron), we would suggest the study of Hydrastis, Cactus, Crataegus and Phytolacca, all of which may at times be found useful in this condition.

We have had no reports of the staining of the teeth from the use of Lloyd's Iron. Nor do we see how this could occur, this agent being an organic iron preparation.

BRITTLE BONES

Question.-I would like advice on a case in hand, a man about 45 years of age. Ever since he was a baby his bones have been exceedingly brittle. At the present time he is not in the best of health, but nothing to be alarmed about. He tells me that the least bump may result in a broken bone. At one time a slap on the back resulted in two broken ribs.

Reply.-From the description we would say this is a case of brittle bones, due to wrongs of diet and improper absorption of phosphorus, necessary to combination with calcium in forming the calcium and phosphorus compounds needed to stiffen the bones. In this condition we would suggest the following:

℞ Sp. Med. Phosphorus gtt. xxx
Water, q.s., ad ℥ iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture an hour after each meal and at bedtime.

This prescription should be given for a long period, with occasional resting for a few days.

Diet plays an important part in the treatment. Plenty of butter and olive oil, cod-liver oil in doses suitable to age of patient, with plenty of sunshine and fresh air, and some form of light treatment, such as the carbon arc, or mercury arc lights.

Needless to say, a condition such as this will require a long period of treatment, and everything must be done to improve the patient's general health.

PAIN NEAR APPENDIX

Question.-My wife, age 27, has pain in or near appendix, sometimes lasting for several days. The pain is dull, then sharp, and at times is accompanied by severe cramps like indigestion. In every other way she is apparently well.

Reply.-It is difficult to prescribe for this condition, which may be due to various causes, and which cannot be determined from the meager history given.

We would consider the possibility of an ovarian neuralgia, and in this case we feel that Pulsatilla would be the remedy indicated, possibly combined with Dioscorea. We would suggest, tentatively, the following:

℞ Sp. Med. Pulsatilla.
Sp. Med. Dioscorea, aa 3 i
Water, q.s., ad ℥ iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture every two hours until relieved. A more complete history of the case would be of help in prescribing.

BLOTCHY SKIN FROM SYPHILIS

Question.-I have two patients whom I am treating for syphilis. Both are doing well, but their skin is blotchy or mottled. Can you suggest something that will clear up this condition?

Reply.-We would recommend the following:

℞ Sp. Med. Berberis 3 iv
Sp. Med. Iris 3 i
Fowler's Solution 3 ss
Water (or other menstruum), q. s., ad. ℥ iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture every four hours.

Locally, apply to the face, twice a day, with gentle massage, bay rum, to which has been added glycerin 3 i to each four ounces.

SUBCULOYD ECHINACEA IN SEPTICEMIA

(Contributed)

I use Subculoyd Echinacea extensively, and in puerperal septicemia have found it wonderful. For a number of years I have frequently been called to treat this condition, and in these cases, especially where there is temperature of 105 and 106, with no retained membrane, but a slight thin discharge with an overpowering odor and extreme general depression, have found it very satisfactory. I have used it in a large number of cases, giving it intravenously, S to 20 Cc., diluted with an equal amount of hot, distilled water, once to three times a day. With this drug and Potassium Permanganate douches once a day, I have seen the temperature drop to 100, with perfect recovery .

Probably climatic conditions influence dosage, as is often mentioned in THE GLEANER. I have often been called in consultation with physicians who have recently come from the North, and who have used the Eclectic remedies. Often I advise them to double or treble the dose they have been using, and on their doing so, their cases have cleared up nicely. The dose they have employed in their Northern practice does not seem to be sufficient in these far Southern states.

In paralytic cases, I have found Rhus tox., given in drop doses, of marked benefit, beginning a month after the apoplectic attack, and steadily continuing drop doses.

RETENTION OF URINE

Patient, then 54 years of age, came to me in 1928. He had been caught in a rainstorm and thoroughly chilled. Had had retention of urine from 5.00 P. M. until 10 next day, and was suffering greatly.

It was impossible to pass a catheter, no matter how I tried. After the attempt he passed a little blood. I gave him the following prescription, telling him to be at the hospital at two o'clock if he did not get relief before that time.

℞ Sp. Med. Lobelia 3vi
Sp. Med. Cannabisindica 3 ss
Sp. Med. Gelsemium 3 i
Water and Glyconda, aa, q. s., ad ℥ iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful, taken immediately, repeating every two hours until relieved, but not to take more than five doses.

A week later I heard that he had gone back to work, as the medicine had helped him after the second dose. The same prescription has helped him four times, the last time being only last week.

Comment.-The dosage given by our correspondent is rather larger than usual, but apparently the patient came to no harm. Many times, in emergencies, it is good judgment to use larger doses than are suggested on the labels of the Specific Medicines. However, a patient taking such active agents, should be under the observation of his physician or of some dependable person. A better treatment, in our opinion, would be the use of smaller doses, frequently repeated, increasing until the desired effect is obtained.

In genito-urinary diseases, where relaxation is desired, Lobelia is a very efficient and useful remedy. Gelsemium aids the relaxing effect of Lobelia, and in many cases seems to give better function to the bladder walls. The Subculoyd Lobelia may be used in doses of twenty minims, subcutaneously, to assist in passing the catheter more readily. The dose should be repeated, if needed, at half-hour intervals.

CHRONIC ECZEMA

Question.-I have a case of chronic eczema of the face, of long standing (about sixteen years), that has resisted the skill of several physicians. Patient is a man of about 70, slender, thick beard, skin dry. He has lived in the timber all his life, and I believe his trouble is caused by some timber poison. The eczema covers his entire face, and the itching is terrible. Health is otherwise good. Would much appreciate suggestions for treatment.

Reply.- To treat chronic eczema successfully is a long and difficult problem, taxing the skill of any physician. There is no "specific" treatment or preparation, in the ordinary sense of the term. We can only tell of some of the things that have been useful to us.

We take it this is a case of eczema rubrum, with a great deal of skin thickening. If the patient is continually exposed to some poisonous substance that irritates the skin and causes the inflammation, it will probably not be possible to cure him as long as he continues to come in contact with this substance, whatever it may be. It might be possible to discover just what is the cause, and by administering attenuated doses of the substance, to build up the patient's resistance thereto. This, however, is theoretical rather than practical. From the description given, we suggest the internal use of the following:

℞ Fowler's Solution of Arsenic	3 ss
Sp. Med. Nux Vomica	gtt.x
Sp. Med. Berberis	3 j
Glyconda.	
Water, aa, q.s., ad	℥ iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the dilution an hour after meals.

Locally, we would suggest Echafolta Cream as a soothing and healing application, with Howe's Pomade where a slight stimulation is desired. We suggest the following:

℞ Sp. Med. Echinacea.	
Bismuth Subnitrate ,aa	3 ij
Lanolin.	
Vaselin, aa, q.s. ,ad	℥ ij

M. Ft. Ungt. Sig.: Apply locally three times a day. To cleanse the skin before each application, use olive oil.

Study also Iris, Phytolacca, Podophyllum, Hydrastis, Apis, and Lloyd's Iron, administering each in accordance to conditions calling for its use.

Our remarks are necessarily very general in character, and are made with the thought of suggesting lines of treatment, rather than as a course to be strictly followed.

COUGH AFTER GRIPPE

Question.-Please suggest some treatment that will be helpful in eradicating cough after "grippe." Patient is male, 61. Cough is paroxysmal, day and night, with yellow sputum resembling pus. Patient is of nervous temperament and does not gain in strength.

Reply.-From the description given, we would suspect lung abscess. Does the examination of chest show evidence of fluid or moist rales? Is there evidence of any pleurisy?

Symptomatically, we would consider Sanguinaria to be indicated, also Lloyd's Iron, which is very useful in building up resistance, especially after influenza and other exhausting conditions.

In these conditions, we have also found Fragrant Sumach very useful. The following prescriptions are illustrative:

(1)℞ Sp. Med. Fragrant Sumach 3 i
Glyconda.

AquaeCinnamomi,aa,q.s.,ad ℥ iii

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture every four hours.

(2)℞ Sp.Med.Sanguinaria gtt.x
Syrup Orange, q. s., ad ℥ iii

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture every four hours.

These prescriptions may be given in alternation, with help to the patient.

SULPHUROUS ACID IN STOMACH DISORDERS

Question.-I am told that Sulphurous Acid in connection with vegetable remedies is very helpful in treatment of stomach disorders and diabetes and in high blood pressure. Please give me some information in this direction.

Reply.-Sulphurous Acid is very useful in the treatment of various fungous stomach disorders, especially those due to fermentation. However, it is very seldom used in the same prescription with vegetable remedies. It is better to give it alone, in water, or to direct the patient to take the indicated dosage in drops, diluted with water. In high blood pressure, this agent has been used up to five-drop doses, given three times daily, after meals.

Other remedies that may be used in alternation with Specific Medicine Sulphurous Acid are Nux Vomica, Sodium Sulphite, and Ipecac.

In diabetes mellitus, we have found. the following prescription useful:

℞ Sp. Med. Chionanthus 3 i

Sp. Med.FragrantSumach 3 ii

Glyconda ,q.s.,ad ℥ iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture after meals and at bedtime.

HYDRASTIS IN THROAT AFFECTIONS

(Contributed)

Recently a friend informed me that Hydrastis is a marvelous remedy in sore throat, tonsillitis, etc., and I have found this to be the case. Two or three drops on the tongue, every one or two hours. Most Hydrastis preparations are very objectionable in taste, so I use Lloyd's (Colorless) Hydrastis, which is very pleasant.

CHIONANTHUS IN COLITIS

Question.-I have a bad case of colitis with liver complications, no gall stones. I have used Specific Medicine Chionanthus, but would like further suggestions for treatment.

Reply.-For gentle influence upon the liver, we know of no better remedy than Chionanthus. Other remedies useful for such conditions are Specific Medicines Chelidonium, Hydrastis, Iris, Podophyllum, and Sanguinaria. In all liver and bowel disorders, these remedies are worthy of study, but each must be applied in accordance with conditions presented.

In such disorders, Podophyllum is especially useful, but in this particular case we would use it in the milder dosage, for its general glandular effects. The following prescription has served us well under like conditions:

℞ Sp. Med. Chionanthus 3 i
Podophyllum Laxative (Dewees') ʒ i
Glyconda ,q.s., ad ʒ iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful an hour after meals.

Podophyllum Laxative is a pleasant preparation, and easy to take. In fact, it is so easy that patients very often take too much, with a consequent increased bowel action.

ECHAFOLTA CREAM FOR ECZEMA

Question.-I have a spot on each hand that becomes very raw and angry when it comes in contact with soap and water. Please suggest treatment.

Reply.-For the affection described we would advise the use of Echafolta Cream until the raw and angry condition is allayed; this to be followed by the use of Howe's Pomade, for the stimulation of healing. The Echafolta Cream should be applied after each washing of the hands. Needless to say, the less use of soap and water the better. Olive oil may be used as a cleansing agent, wiping it off with paper towel, and then applying the cream.

SPECIFIC MEDICINE GELSEMIUM IN NEURITIS

Question.-In GLEANER 37, I find a formula for the use of Gelbia in neuritis. Will you kindly give me a formula using Specific Medicine Gelsemium for oral use, in place of Gelbia.

Reply.-In our opinion, for oral use the Specific Medicine Gelsemium is preferable to Gelbia. We would use it for neuritis as follows:

℞ Sp. Med. Gelsemium gtt. x to xxx
Water,q.s.,ad ʒ iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful every hour, two hours, or four hours, as indicated by the action desired.

This prescription states the extremes of dosage usually indicated for this remedy. It is to be varied to suit the conditions present.

We would call attention to the fact that Gelbia is a combination of the two remedies, Gelsemium and Lobelia. The action of the two combined seems to be that they mutually assist each other.

GELSEMIUM IN SCIATICA

(Contributed)

I have treated a number of cases of Sciatica with Gelsemium. and in every case it has proved successful. Of all the cases treated only one showed any symptoms of toxic reaction, and in this there was no disturbance of the heart. I can think of no general condition of the patient in which Gelsemium would be contra-indicated, unless it might be in asthma. The one case abovementioned (not a regular patient of mine), for a period of nearly two weeks had received sufficient quantities of morphine to keep him resting the most of the time.

The morphine, perhaps, had as much to do with the reaction as the Gelsemium. Whether this be the case or not, it is evident that where morphine has been administered, Gelsemium should be used with caution.

Gelsemium acts well, not only in sciatica, but in neuritis. A point to be noticed in its use is the drooping of the eyelids, which is one of the symptoms of the toxic effect of the drug. I have used both the Specific Medicine Gelsemium and the Subculoyd, but with a preference for the former.

I have been cautioned about the danger of an abscess forming at the point of injection from the alcohol in the Specific Medicine, but with careful massage before and after the injection, and being sure that the needle is well into the muscle, I have had no bad results. In giving the hypodermic, if quick relief is desired, endeavor to strike the sciatic nerve, but as a rule it may be given in the arm. If relief follows injection into the buttock, continue lower in the leg, merely following it down until the patient is free from pain.

My experience has been that the effect of Gelsemium, given hypodermically, lasts about two hours. In the more severe cases, it will then be necessary to repeat the dose. I usually start with about 30 minims, gradually lessening the dose as the pain subsides. Needless to say, I always give Gelsemium orally, in conjunction with the hypodermic, and whatever other remedy may be indicated.

ASCLEPIAS IN FEVER

(Contributed)

Specific Medicine Asclepias is my main fever remedy. It increases secretion and is safe and lasting in effect.

ACHYLIA

Question.-Have been suffering lately from achylia; no organic lesion, according to X-ray and stomach analysis. Please suggest treatment.

Reply.-In cases such as this we would suggest the following:

R _x Sp. Med. Nux Vomica	gtt.x
Sp. Med. Hydrastis	3 ss
Sp. Med. Chionanthus	3 i
Simple Elixir, q.s., ad	℥ iij

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture one-half hour after meals and at bedtime.

It is possible that the gall bladder condition may have a bearing upon the lack of hydrochloric acid, possibly reflex in character. The Chionanthus in the above prescription has a gentle action in improving the function of the liver and its appendages.