

The GLEANER

(A Publication of the Lloyd Laboratory)

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DEVOTED TO THE THERAPY AND PHARMACY OF REMEDIAL
PLANTS AND THEIR PRODUCTS, BOTH NEW AND OLD



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THE GLEANER

Cincinnati, Ohio, February, 1934

Number 42

EDITORIAL

A. F. STEPHENS, M.D.

Success in Prescribing Depends Upon Correct Analysis of Symptoms Presented

We do not treat Symptoms, but conditions, as indicated by symptoms. Success in the prescribing of medicine depends upon the precision with which a symptom-group is interpreted.

A correct interpretation of symptoms, insures logical treatment to the physician who is familiar with the action of remedies.

Ofttimes the elimination of a major factor by the use of one remedy will clear up a complexity of troubles. THE GLEANER editors must be guided solely by the information furnished by those who seek help. If such information is incomplete, our advice may be faulty.

Our conception of any case referred to us depends entirely upon the accuracy and thoroughness with which the case is described. Let us take a well-known example, that of pneumonia. As is well known, this disease destroys forty per cent of its victims, under the ordinary process of treatment. To be able to group the symptoms presented into a whole, and call it pneumonia, is a name only. As regards treatment that term tells us little. So let us analyze a case into its factors. In this disease we may have either or both of two conditions. In each there is congestion of the lung, with cough, pain, elevated temperature, increase in pulse rate, increased respiration, lessened secretion, and deranged nervous system. But there is a variety of characteristics as such. Does the patient suffer from excitement? Is he restless, with flushed face, bright eyes showing cerebral hyperemia? Is the pulse rapid, its volume full and bounding? Does he complain of irritating cough? Is the skin flushed with lessened secretion? Are there symptoms of oncoming active delirium, or does the patient lie in semi-stupor with dull expression of the face? Are the eyes dull in expression? Is the skin pale, with a tendency to clammy perspiration? Does everything about the case indicate depression?

The cases and symptoms differ diametrically, and should not be treated alike.

One must study carefully each patient, forgetting the name of the disease. Be careful and thorough in describing conditions present, and let us have the result. Then we shall be in a position to help.

In this connection we must concede that the majority of questioners are not fully acquainted with the *Materia Medica* of vegetation. They should study it in books written by authorities who know its value. Not as an experiment, for the specific uses of each Specific Medicine has been for over a hundred years under careful investigation by thousands of physicians and pharmacists.

In the next GLEANER this subject will likely be continued.

FROM THE LABORATORY STAFF

Attention is called to the following contribution by Prof. Otto Raubenheimer. Doctor Raubenheimer enjoys special opportunities, being a life-long pharmacist of distinction, as is shown by the fact that he has for many years not only been a Professor of Pharmacy but is a member of the Committee on Revision of the Pharmacopeia of the United States, as well as of the National Formulary Revision Committee.

We feel sure that the readers of THE GLEANER will find his views of exceptional interest and value. Physicians in his section of the Eastern States can rely on him for either prescriptions or for Specific Medicines in original bottles. He writes:

"I keep a full line of Lloyd's Specific Medicines and dispense them on prescriptions.

"I have always been more or less in the herb business; in fact, have built over my yard and converted it into what I call an Herbatorium."

In this connection we will state that Professor Raubenheimer is not alone in his opinions concerning the swinging back of medical and pharmaceutical thought to vegetable remedial agents. To our patrons about New York City, his two pharmacies are among those where prescriptions carrying any plant liquid can be filled accurately, and Specific Medicines obtained in original packages.

The following extract from one of his letters should be read by all our patrons:

* * * * *

"Inasmuch as I am supplying your Specific Medicines, I would greatly appreciate receiving

"1. Your latest Price List,

"2. Your manual on *Materia Medica*,

"3. Your handbook on synonyms.

"I desire to place them in the department in which I keep the 'Specifics.' "

Many physicians, also, may be needing these as well as other prints. Let us mention two of exceptional value.

DOSE BOOK. This 250-page book gives facsimile reproductions of the labels of all the Specific Medicines, including their uses, written by recognized medical authorities, besides a fund of information concerning plant uses and doses.

COMPANION. This 100-page publication is a veritable encyclopedia concerning plant preparations, their uses, and doses. To physicians and pharmacists needing information in these directions, we will mail them on application with our compliments.

No longer is there an excuse for urging a physician or a pharmacist to use an expensive remedy because it is a novelty or a rarity, or because it is a something that may (or may not) replace an established remedial agent.

Physicians and pharmacists who were once indifferent to the problem of their own, as well as their patient's pocketbook, are now turning their attention to economy in medicines, bearing in mind that an inferior "cheap" medicine is expensive, at any price.

The prescribers of Specific Medicines do not need to consider this question, whether they be pharmacists who fill prescriptions, or physicians who furnish their patients from their offices. At the present time neither physicians nor pharmacists can afford to experiment with uncertainties, be they cheap or expensive.

To the users of Specific Medicines this will not be a new thought. Let us quote from our "Companion," printed in 1925:

Price.- The small dose, cleanliness, and satisfaction in therapeutic effect, make Specific Medicines desirable alike to physician and pharmacist. Doses of even the most expensive must be calculated in the fraction of a cent, the cost as a rule being the fraction of a mill. For example, Ipecac is one of the most expensive Specific Medicines. The dose is from 1-10 to 1 minim, which would make one cent pay for 12 to 120 doses. Nux Vomica, one cent will furnish from 40 to 400 doses. In like manner the cost per dose of a few of the principal Specific Medicines is shown as follows:

Aconite, 1 cent pays for.64 to 640 doses
 Cactus, 1 cent pays for.3 to 30 doses
 Gelsemium, 1 cent pays for.3 to 295 doses
 Jaborandi, 1 cent pays for.10 to 120 doses
 Podophyllum, 1 cent pays for. 4 to 42 doses
 Rhus Tox, 1 cent pays for.15 to 600 doses
 Veratrum, 1 cent pays for. 6 to 320 doses

The foregoing figures are object lessons for physicians accustomed to furnishing patients with remedies in which teaspoonfuls, or even wineglassfuls, often of expensive remedies, are given at a dose. Money value should not govern where life saving is at stake. If a dose of medicine costing twenty-five dollars will save a life, seek it and give it. But, practicing physicians have a right to economize both for themselves and their patients. In our opinion it is their duty to do so where effectiveness is maintained.

A prescription of Sp. Med. Aconite, gtt v, Gelsemium gtt xxx, Water four fluid ounces, teaspoonful at dose, prescribed by Dr. H. T. Webster, I accept, once saved my life.* The expense of the medicine was but the fraction of a cent. Figure the value of it.

To Pharmacists.- The sick do not consider the amount of medicine, but, what medicine accomplishes. If a medicine that costs but the fraction of a cent cures the patient, he is satisfied to pay for the cure. Pharmacists accustomed to filling prescriptions with the Specific Medicines consider them the most satisfactory, both as to service and profit, of all remedies used in prescriptions. The calculation of expense may be made on the following invaluable prescription, which is typical of the entire line:

Dose.-℞. Sp. Med. Gelsemium gtt. xx.
 Aqua ʒ iv.
 Misce.

Sig.-A teaspoonful of the dilution every hour. *This editorial is written by J. U. L.

GLEANINGS AND COMMENTS LIBRADOL IN PROSTATITIS

(Contributed)

In looking over your booklet on Libradol, I am surprised to find that no one has recommended it as a suppository in prostatitis and cervicitis. I find it useful also, applied over the ovaries, to relieve inflammation in that section, also for swollen pile tumors. When applied back of the ear, it often relieves earache. In fact, I find it useful wherever inflammation is present. Had a fine illustration of its usefulness recently.

A former patient of mine was brought to me by his brother from northern Oklahoma because two surgeons had insisted upon an immediate operation, one for renal calculi, the other for biliary calculi.

I plastered Libradol over the gall bladder and right side and back, and gave Specific Medicines Gelsemium, Bryonia, and Macrotys every hour. Fever dropped from 103 to normal, and in less than a week all signs of either kidney or gall bladder stones had disappeared. This without the use of morphine. No operation was necessary. Without the use of Libradol over the affected part, I believe this could not have been accomplished.

ECHINACEA IN CONTINUED DOSAGE

Question.- Has Echinacea any cumulative effect? I can find nothing on this point in your literature or in my textbooks. I have a patient who for the past five months has been taking this remedy in dram doses, three times a day, and another who has been taking it in the same dosage for three months, and is not yet ready to discontinue it, as it keeps the bowel action normal. The condition for which I am giving it, keratitis, is now at a standstill.

Reply.-We have seen no ill effects from long-continued use of Echinacea. It should be remembered, however, that in dram doses, some effect might be expected from the alcoholic content. The experience of physicians of our acquaintance who state that in acute infections they have used Echinacea without ill effects, in dosage as high as one-half ounce, continued for days, would seem to rule out the danger of cumulative action from this particular drug. Felter reports cases of "bursting headache, joint pains, dry tongue, reduced temperature and gastro-intestinal disturbance, with diarrhea," in some individuals who seem to be peculiarly susceptible. But no authentic cases of toxic action have been reported. Usual dosage, Echinacea dr. j, Water oz. iiij. M. A teaspoonful of the mixture every 4 hours.

℞ 3 i to water ℥ iv. A teaspoonful of the mixture every four hours.

ALCRESTA IPECAC IN AMOEBIC DYSENTERY

Question.-Will Alcresta Ipecac have any lasting effect in amebiosis? If so, how should this remedy be given, and how long should treatment be kept up?

Reply.-Alcresta Tablets of Ipecac is a very dependable form of Ipecac to use in amebic dysentery which we infer is the form of infestation meant by our correspondent. In our clinical work we have had two cases in which free amebae were found in stools, and by the aid of Alcresta Tablets of Ipecac we were able to keep the stools free for a period of six months. At that time we lost sight of the patients. Our method was to give two tablets, three times daily, until no ameba could be demonstrated. In one case this required three weeks, in the other, four.

We have found this form of Ipecac to be exceedingly valuable for use in dysentery, as the remedy passes unchanged through the stomach, and hence has no nauseating properties. It acts directly upon the bowels, and may be given in even larger doses than mentioned above.

LINARIA VULGARIS

Question.-I am enclosing a specimen of a plant known here as Dogweed or Toad-flax. A tea of this weed is very commonly used in this section for Diabetes mellitus, and has apparently cured many cases. What can you tell me regarding it?

Reply.- This use of Linaria, common names Toad-flax, butter and eggs, etc., is to us new. However, in the United States Dispensatory, we find it commended as diuretic and cathartic, and that "it has been used in dropsy, jaundice, and cutaneous eruptions." We make no preparation of Linaria, nor is it now much employed by physicians, so far as we know. Still, it is quite possible that it is valuable in directions not as yet recognized by the profession at large. Should any of our physician friends have investigated this common wild plant, it would please us to hear from them regarding what results they have obtained.

THE BEAN IN ALBUMINARIA

(Contributed)

I wish to report a line of treatment that has done good service in my hands, but so far as I know, is not in use by anyone else. I think it should have a wider use.

From the common white "navy bean" of the grocery stores I have made a fluid extract by grinding them to a coarse powder, soaking them in alcohol for three or four weeks, and then straining off the liquid. Of this I use from five to ten drops as a dose every four hours. The condition for which I have found this beneficial, is the presence of albumin in the urine.

I have used it in cases of chronic Bright's disease, where uremic coma was already developing with as much as 10% albumin showing, the albumin entirely disappearing in ten days. Cases referred to me in the public health service, with bloating of eyelids and feet, and pronounced incurable by others, have apparently recovered under this treatment.

Comment.-We know of very little in print regarding the use in medicine of the common white bean, *Phaseolus vulgaris*. However, as reported in GLEANER 10, a prominent physician of Cincinnati, Dr. John Davis, more than forty years ago considered that the pods of this common white bean furnished the best diuretic with which he was acquainted. His method of administering them was in the form of a tea or decoction. For a considerable time we made a careful study of bean pods in the hope of determining for Dr. Davis the constituent that gave the drug its value, therapeutically, but without success. Our study, however, was made from the organic side. Were we to undertake the study to-day, we would do it from the inorganic side, in an attempt to discover the relationship between its inorganic constituents and the plant structure. The inorganic constituents of plants are becoming, increasingly, a subject of interest to physicians.- J. U. L.

HELIANTHUS, WILD SUNFLOWER

Question.- The enclosed plant is used in this section for jaundice. Please tell me its botanical name and its uses, if any such are recorded.

Reply.- The plant enclosed was *Helianthus hirsutus*, a species of Wild Sunflower. This particular variety is not mentioned in the dispensatories, but it is not unlikely that all the species of Wild Sunflower have medicinal properties. According to the American Dispensatory, sunflower seeds and leaves are "diuretic and expectorant, and have been used with considerable benefit in pulmonary affections." This dispensatory says further:

"The pith of sunflower stem in infusion is diuretic, and may be used where this class of agents is indicated. . . . The oil obtained from the seeds by extraction has been employed with benefit in cough, in dysentery, in inflammations of the mucous coat of the bladder, and in disease of the kidneys."

From the above it will be noted that *Helianthus* has a direct action upon the kidneys, hence its local use in treatment of jaundice is apparently in line with recorded observations.

SEPTICEMIA

Question.-I have a case of septicemia caused by streptococci of low virulence. Temperature rises to 102 or 103 about twice a day. There is a deep red stripe down the center of the tongue.

Reply.- The remedy of prime importance in septicemia is *Echinacea*. We would suggest as follows:

℞ Sp. Med. *Echinacea* 3 ij

Water, q.s. ,ad ℥ iv

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

For quicker action, *Echinacea* may be given hypodermically (*Subculoyd Echinacea*), 20 minims every four hours, until evidence of sepsis is overcome.

Where the tongue shows a deep red stripe down the center, *Acid Hydrochloric* is indicated.

℞ *Acid Hydrochloric Dilute*.gtt. v

Syrup Orange. ℥ iii

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

If periodicity is marked, quinine may be given, preferably after the tongue has cleared from the use of hydrochloric acid.

Any source of infection should be sought, and if possible, removed.

"FATHER SMITH'S" DISPENSATORY

Question.-Kindly give me the botanical names of "Square Stalk" root and "Wild Purslane" of Peter Smith's Indian Doctor's Dispensatory, published by the Lloyd Library.

Reply.-"Square Stalk" is Scrophularia marilandica. "Wild Purslane" is Portulacca oleracea. Peter Smith, 1753-1816, was not an educated man, but he had a wide knowledge of the medicinal qualities of plants under his observation. He called himself an "Indian doctor" because, as he said, he "relied much on herbs, roots, and other remedies known to the Indians," though he did not confine himself to botanical remedies. Starting from New Jersey about the year 1780, he wandered with his wife and "some small children" to Virginia, thence to the Carolinas and Georgia. He was a devout

Baptist of the old school, and preached the gospel as he went. A strong anti-slavery man, even in that early day, he could not be content in his Georgia home, with its "many slaves and scorpions," and taking his family with him on horseback (twin babies among them, carried in baskets hung to the horns of the saddle ridden by his wife), he crossed mountains, rivers, and creeks from Georgia through Tennessee to Kentucky, intending there to abide. But finding that Kentucky had also become a slave state, he emigrated to Ohio, settling on Duck Creek, near the limits of Cincinnati, reaching there about 1794.

His "Indian Doctor's Dispensatory," published in 1812, used only the common names of plants, but their appearance and habitat were so carefully described as to render the most of them to be easily identified. Many of the names he employed are now lost, among them being those mentioned by our correspondent. "Square-stalk" root is possibly Scrophularia nodosa, "Carpenter's square," but this is merely a guess.

In 1901 the Lloyd Library published a reproduction of this "Dispensatory," which so far as can now be determined, was the first Western book published on materia medica. From this we extract as follows:

"Peter Smith, preacher, farmer, physician, pioneer, aggressive abolitionist before Wendell Phillips or William Lloyd Garrison were born, is buried in a neglected graveyard near Donnelsville, Clark County, Ohio. No photograph or other likeness remains to revive the features of this picturesque personage."-J. U. L.

DOSAGE OF THE SPECIFIC MEDICINES

Question.-I am a regular physician and not very well informed as regards the Eclectic ideas concerning dosage. Besides, I personally believe in, and am inclined to large doses. I would like to inquire particularly regarding the dosage of Fragrant Sumach, Asclepias, Drosera, and Spotted Spurge. Are the doses given on the labels for children, and if so of what age, or are they for adults only? If for adults, what should be the dosage of these remedies for children?

Reply.-We take it this physician has not been receiving THE GLEANER regularly, for in it have appeared some very excellent articles that would solve his difficulty. We would especially refer to the table prepared by Professor Watkins, published in GLEANER 10, giving the dosage, in general, for children up to the age of 14, and to a special article in GLEANER 17, "Doses of Energetic Remedies for Children." Both of these numbers of THE GLEANER are now out of print, but the articles could be republished, should this be desired by our physician friends.

The doses of the Specific Medicines, as given on the labels, are the result of many years' patient study by competent observers, of the bedside application of these remedies. With the standard Specific Medicines, experience has proven that small doses, frequently repeated, act more kindly than larger doses, and are quite as effective.

As regards Fragrant Sumach. Up to the age of 14 we would advise as follows:

R̄x Sp. Med. Fragrant Sumach... gtt. xxx
Water ℥ iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture every hour or two.

For the adult, I would use a dram of the Specific Medicine to the four-ounce mixture.

Drosera.-For infants and small children up to about five, this remedy is usually employed in ten drops to the four-ounce mixture.

For children from six up, and for adults, ʒ i may be added to the four-ounce mixture.

Asclepias.-For infancy and early childhood we would advise that this be given in drop doses, in water.

Spotted Spurge.- The usual dose of this remedy is twenty drops of the Specific Medicine to four ounces of whatever vehicle may be desired, a teaspoonful of the dilution being given every hour, to effect. In the infant, one soon gets the effect of the remedy, and its use need not be long continued. In the adult, especially in treatment of uterine and vaginal disturbances, its use must be continued for a considerable length of time.

It is very difficult to give a set rule as regards dosage. One is influenced not only by the age and weight of the patient, but by the severity of the disease and other attending conditions. Experience with a remedy over a considerable time gives one a knowledge concerning dosage that cannot be imparted by either book or pen. The physician gets so familiar with the action of his remedies that he knows just the amount to use to overcome the various conditions that call for their use.

GAULTHERIA WITH ENLARGED PROSTATE

Question.-In an old number of THE GLEANER I find reference to the use of Gaultheria in enlarged prostate. I have suffered from this for five years. Pass much urine, which comes from an infected bladder. I wash this out twice a day with permanganate solution. Lately have lost weight and have dizzy spells. Please suggest treatment.

Reply.-We have no doubt that Gaultheria, if used properly, as the literature recommends, would be of much benefit. We also suggest the study of Belladonna, Fragrant Sumach, and Thuja. We suggest the following:

℞ Sp. Med. Belladonna gtt. x

Sp. Med. Fragrant Sumach ʒ i

Glyconda, q. s., ad ʒ iij

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

Study also Salix Nigra Aments, Agrimonia, and Eryngium, and use according to their definite indications.

VERTIGO

Question.-A patient is afflicted with vertigo. When lying down he becomes very dizzy, but when standing the condition improves. Please suggest treatment.

Reply.-It is very difficult to give a satisfactory answer to this question, because of the many causes for the condition. From the very brief description given, the evidence seems to point toward an internal ear condition, possibly some inflammation of the semi circular canals. If this is the case, it is one for the consideration of a specialist on the ear and its diseases.

Gelsemium, Phytolacca, Veratrum, and Rhus tox. are but a few of the remedies useful for symptomatic treatment, when given according to their indications, after due consideration of the underlying causes.

EQUISETUM ARVENSE

Question.- The enclosed weed, which looks to me like Equisetum, or Scouring Rush, is very common in this part of the country, growing along railroad tracks.

An old diabetic patient of mine has been drinking an infusion of this weed, being told of it by a woman who called it "Snakeweed." Is this its proper name, and has it ever been used as a diabetes remedy?

Reply.- The plant enclosed is Equisetum arvense, or Field Horsetail. It is closely related to the official variety of Equisetum, E. hyemale, and according to the American Dispensatory, its medicinal properties are the same.

In pioneer days, Equisetum was a great favorite with those who knew its virtues. They used it in about the manner above described. We have never heard the plant called "Snakeweed," but this title was given to many different herbs. Nor have we found Equisetum mentioned in the dispensatories as applicable to diabetes mellitus.

CHOREA

Question.-A girl, 15 years of age, is very badly afflicted with chorea; arms, legs, and body in motion all the time, day and night.

No rest. Cannot walk nor talk. It is a task to give her any kind of medicine or food, and liquids go anywhere but in her mouth. At all times she has great difficulty in swallowing. So far, all treatment has failed. I am now using the bromides.

Reply.-In this case, we would first ascertain if the tonsils are diseased. If so, they should be removed. This will go a long way toward the cure of the patient.

In the medical treatment of chorea, we have found Belladonna and Macrotys very useful. For a girl of 15 we would advise:

R̄x Sp. Med. Belladonna	gtt.x
Sp. Med. Macrotys	3j
Water, q.s., ad	℥iv

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

We would also suggest the study of Solanum.

We wish here to sound a note of warning regarding the use of Bromides, not only because of their bad effect upon the digestive system and upon the skin, but because, if continued very long, they seem to blunt the intelligence, although they are useful in quieting sudden attacks.

RENAL-VASCULAR DISEASE

Question.-Patient, woman, 47, during the last three years has had several light attacks of apoplexy. She complains of her head feeling heavy. Feet and hands are cold; sluggish action of the bowels; pulse at times subnormal, as also the heart. On one occasion the mouth was twisted to one side and speech was imperfect. Was unconscious for a few hours. Kidneys very irregular.

Reply.- This condition requires a tonic and supporting treatment, with due attention to the bowels. We would suggest the following:

R̄x Sp. Med. Nux Vomica	gtt.x
Sp. Med. Belladonna	gtt.v
Podophyllum Laxative	℥ss
Glyconda, q.s., ad	℥iij

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture before each meal.

BLADDER INFLAMMATION (CYSTITIS)

Question.-Patient, lady, 38, married but no children. About two years ago she had some several kidney stones removed, and afterwards small gravel continued to be noticed in her urine. She has intense pain accompanied by tenesmus and burning after urination. Specific gravity of urine is 1020; straw color, slightly alkaline, apparently like that of any healthy individual.

Reply.-In this case we would suspect the presence in the bladder of one or more stones and would suggest an examination, either by X-ray or the cystoscope. If this be the case, no relief can be expected until the stones are removed. However, if the condition be due to a cystitis, we have many remedies that are useful. We would suggest Belladonna and Fragrant Sumach, as in the following:

R̄x Sp. Med. Belladonna	gtt.x
Sp. Med. Fragrant Sumach	3 i
Glyconda.	
Water, aa, q.s., ad	℥iv

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

We would also suggest that the patient be placed upon distilled water for drinking purposes, and that coffee, salt, and meat, especially red meat, be used very sparingly, if at all.

If properly indicated, Apis, Gelsemium, and Hydrangea may be employed.

PARALYSIS OF ARM AND LEG

Question.-Several months ago I suffered a slight stroke of paralysis in my right arm and right leg. The arm has practically recovered and leg is better. In Ellingwood's *Materia Medica* I find Capsicum recommended for paralysis. Is this remedy still commended for this condition? If so, in what dosage should it be taken, and how often?

Reply.-We have never used Capsicum for paralytic conditions, but we see no reason why it should not be beneficial, if indicated. Our standbys in treatment of this condition are Nux Vomica, Cactus, and Iodide of Potassium, the latter especially, giving it in small doses, such as five drops of the saturated solution, in water three times daily, an hour after meals, continuing this treatment over a long period of time. We have also found Phytolacca very useful for removing broken-down tissues and restoring normal function. In high blood pressure, which is sometimes found in such cases, we feel that Capsicum might be contra-indicated. Specific Medicine Nux Vomica is more kindly in its action than other preparations of Nux Vomica we have used. We would suggest small doses of this remedy for its tonic effect, giving not over ten drops to four ounces of water, teaspoonful doses of this mixture four times daily.

Where there is low blood pressure, with feeble heart action and nervous symptoms, Cactus may be given.

VERTEBRAL INJURY FROM ACCIDENT

Question.- Two years ago I was severely injured in an automobile accident. An X-ray shows that three of the vertebrae in the small of the back are growing together and have become ankylosed. On the right side one seems to extend out over the other more than an inch, in shape of an egg, but larger. My back at this point burns all the time. I am not helpless. I can go about as I please, but nothing ever stops this pain or burning.

Reply.- The condition described is due to an impingement of some of the spinal nerves. In this condition, Libradol should be a

palliative of the pain, but if there be an overriding of fragments of bony tissue, internal medication will be of little use. However, with symptoms of this kind, a few of the Specific Medicines have been found of value, namely, Rhus Tox., Apis, and Gelsemium. In producing absorption of soft diseased tissues, Phytolacca has some power. In absorbing bony outgrowth, Iodide of Potassium also has some effect. We would suggest the following prescription:

R̄ Sp. Med. Rhus Tox	gtt.x
Sp. Med. Phytolacca	3 i
Water, q.s., ad	℥ iv

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

In addition to this, we would advise five drops of saturated solution of Iodide of Potassium, in water, three times a day, an hour after meals.

PSYCHO-NEUROSIS

Question.-As a child I passed through many harrowing experiences that so affected my nervous system that I was subject to long and intense spells of despondency. In later life, these culminated in recurring attacks of various neurotic sensations, such as great depression of spirit, fear of death, greatly augmented when physically ill, complete loss of happiness, dark moods of great distress. During these times my stomach is of course inactive, with formation of gas and coldness of body surface, and insomnia.

I have tried every psychological means, it seems to me, to uproot from my subconsciousness the original mental ideas responsible. I have no organic disease, appetite is good, and am carrying on my practice with fair success.

Reply.- This condition is apparently one of psycho-neurosis, and from the description given, the patient is making a wonderful fight against this. In this case, we would suggest the use of Specific Medicine Phosphorus, using 30 drops in four ounces of water, and taking teaspoonful doses of the mixture three times a day. This should be continued over a long period of time. We would also suggest the study of Staphisagria and Salix Nigra.

ARTHRITIS

Question.-A patient, 63 years of age, has had this trouble a long time, generally in the small joints, but occasionally a large joint is affected. In one attack the small joints of the toes were quite affected; in another, the case looked like pellagra-gout. There is little swelling or redness and no fever. The attacks last several weeks. The present has been of five weeks' duration. The Salicylates do no good, Potassium Iodide no better. Counter-irritation by means of small cantharides blisters seems more helpful than liniments. Light therapy helps a little, but cloths wrung out of hot water do about as well. Colchicum seems to have helped him most.

Reply.-In this case of arthritis, we believe that Specific Medicine Colchicum will give the best results. We would combine Bryonia with it, as in the following:

R̄ Sp. Med. Colchicum	gtt. xxx
Sp. Med. Bryonia	gtt. xxx
Aq. Dest., q. s., ad	℥ iv

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

BRONCHIAL ASTHMA

(Contributed)

So many remedial agents of greater or less merit have been introduced during the past few years for the treatment of this disease, that we are prone to overlook some of the old standbys that, through years of dependable service have proved their merit. I therefore present a report that I trust may afford some benefit to others afflicted in like manner.

Mr. R., age 79, came to Florida at the suggestion of his physician, hoping to escape the severity of a Northern winter. But while en route, he contracted a heavy cold that settled in the bronchi, bringing on an old complaint, bronchial asthma. Despite his advanced years, he evinced remarkable vigor. However, a few days of "muggy" weather enhanced his suffering, which was attended with pronounced dyspnea and extreme nervous excitement. The tubes were dry and much energy was expended in an effort to expectorate. The newer "orthodox" remedies had been applied, with the usual narcotics, without any appreciable benefit.

Upon being called, I prescribed

R̄ Sp. Med. Lobelia	℥ j
Syrup Tolu, q. s., ad	℥ vi

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the dilution as needed.

This soon loosened the phlegm, but the patient's nervous excitement was so pronounced that his groans and mutterings were incessant, and could be heard at a considerable distance. A nervous collapse was imminent. His family, entertaining little hope of his recovery, summoned the near relatives.

In sheer desperation I prescribed Specific Medicine Conium, gtt. v, in water, every two hours. The excitement was allayed, and in a remarkably short time this venerable patient was returned to a normal condition of health.

Since this experience, I have employed Specific Medicine Conium in numerous cases attended with nervous excitement, with the most gratifying results. I have come to regard it as one of the most dependable remedies in those cases where its use is indicated. It will often take the place of opiates to great advantage.

Comment.- This report on the use of Lobelia in bronchial asthma is most interesting, as is also the report of the physician's use of Specific Medicine Conium in nervous excitement. We wish to congratulate our correspondent on his therapeutic judgment in the selection of remedies.

PSORIASIS

Question.-A patient, 25 years of age, has had psoriasis from birth. Has had treatment from many physicians, but so far, without benefit. Is this disease curable? If so, we will greatly appreciate suggestions for treatment.

Reply.-Under our present knowledge, psoriasis is thought to be incurable. There are, however, some remedies that have been found useful; internally, Berberis and Fowler's Solution; externally, a ten-per-cent Ichthyol Ointment (using as a vehicle equal parts of

Lanolin and Vaseline), has served us well. The disease disappears, only to reappear at variable periods of time. For internal use we would suggest the following:

℞ Fowler's Solution 3 i
Sp. Med. Berberis 3 i
Water, q.s. ad ℥iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the dilution, three times daily, in a wineglass of water.

DIABETES INSIPIDUS

Question.-A patient, a girl 15, has diabetes insipidus. Its onset was fifteen months ago, but nothing was done about it until three months ago, when she came to me. She voids twelve quarts of urine daily, sp. gr. 1.001. The first month I prescribed Fragrant Sumach, gtt. xx, four times a day. Then I prescribed as follows:

℞ Fragrant Sumach ℥ ij
Sp. Med. Belladonna gtt.xx
Water, q.s., ad ℥ vi

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

Under this treatment she is improving, but very slowly. Sp. gr. of urine is still only 1.002. She has not lost much weight, is still plump, and goes to school. She is not as nervous as she was, but has frequent headaches. Please give suggestions for treatment.

Reply.-In our opinion, the physician's management of this case is very good. Belladonna and Fragrant Sumach are surely indicated. We would suggest also the study of Pulsatilla, with the restriction of water and its equivalent in other liquids. Otherwise continue the treatment, as outlined.

PROFUSE AND PAINFUL MENSTRUATION

Question.-Please advise in a case of profuse and too frequent menstruation in girl 14 years of age, tall, slim, active, with dark hair and eyes. Menstruation occurs usually every two and a half weeks.

Reply.-In cases such as this, we have found Pulsatilla and Hydrastis very useful. We would suggest the following:

℞ Sp. Med. Hydrastis 3 ss
Sp. Med. Pulsatilla 3 j
Water, q.s., ad ℥ iij

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

This prescription should be taken between expected menstruation periods. Then, about two days before the expected period, give Macrotys and Black Haw, as follows:

℞ Sp. Med. Black Haw.
Sp, Med. Macrotys, aa 3j
Water, q.s.,ad ℥ iv

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

We believe the above treatment will prove very useful. Another remedy that has given us very good results in excessive flow is Trillium.

IRRITABLE BLADDER

Question.-A patient, 65 years of age, has had, continuously for ten years, pus in the urine, with slight trace of albumin and many shreds. Some cystitis. His general health is good. As his voice is always husky, and for the irritation of the bladder, I am prescribing Specific Medicine Collinsonia. What other remedy may be combined with this that will act in harmony with the Collinsonia?

Reply.-For the irritable bladder Specific Medicine Fragrant Sumach may be combined with Collinsonia, using 3 i to the fourounce mixture. Study also Specific Medicines Belladonna, Nux Vomica, Thuja and Apis.

BRACHIAL NEURITIS-CHIONANTHUS FOR INFECTED GALL BLADDER

Question.- (a) I am looking for some remedy that holds promise of clearing up a crippling attack of brachial neuritis from which I have been suffering for the last month. (b) Will Chionanthus give best results in a case of chronic gall bladder infection?

Reply.- (a) Brachial neuritis is a condition that is rather slow to relieve. In many cases, there is a focus of infection, teeth, tonsils, prostate; or there may be some underlying constitutional wrong, such as anemia, neurasthenia, or nervous exhaustion. In our experience, Pulsatilla has been very useful, giving this in double the usually recommended dosage, from two to three drams to the four-ounce mixture, a teaspoonful every four hours. With this, Specific Medicine Gelsemium may be combined, adding twenty drops to the above prescription.

Gelbia has been found very useful to allay the painful nerves, giving daily doses of 10 to 20 minims of the remedy.

(b) Chionanthus has a special action upon the blood vessels and lymphatics associated with the hepatic system. It gently influences the production and drainage of bile. Here we would think also of Dewees' Podophyllum Laxative. Salicylic Acid, in two-grain doses three times a day, is also useful. It must be well diluted with water.

Sodium Phosphate, a teaspoonful in cold water on arising, has also given excellent results.

* * * * *

A further report from this physician reads as follows:

"I took the Pulsatilla and Gelsemium, as suggested, and obtained a certain degree of relief, but only of a transient character. The neuritis has now lost its intense painfulness, or rather, it has given way to a crippling form of arthritis. A physician friend suggests that the trouble may have originated in pressure from a 'cervical rib.' Radiographs show that the cervical enlargement is present, but my attendant physician is confident that this condition has existed from birth. He is positive that any operative procedure would be useless. The pain and immobility is confined to the right arm and shoulder. I have merely a little beginning arthritis in the left elbow."

Reply.-We feel that in this case Specific Medicine Colchicum would be very helpful. We would suggest the following:

℞ Sp. Med. Colchicum gtt.xx.x
Water, q.s., ad ℥ iv

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

A very useful remedy in such conditions is Rhamnus Californica (Specific Medicine Rhamnus), in ten-drop doses, night and morning, increasing the dose to just below catharsis. This remedy should not be confused with Cascara (Rhamnus purshiana).

Many cases of arthritis depend upon an absorption of toxins from the intestinal tract, and in such cases Rhamnus has great value.

In osteo-arthritis we have a very difficult condition on which to work. Especially is this the case where bony overgrowth has occurred. One should not expect too much from anyone method of treatment, but should let nothing remain undone to stop the ravages of the disease.

Has a thorough search been made for any focus of infection, such as the teeth, tonsils, nose, pharynx, lungs, prostate, etc.?

A further report from this case is desired.

FOOT TROUBLE RESULTING FROM FROSTBITE

Question.-For some years I have had under my care a woman 68 years of age who, when young, had her feet frozen. At the present time the left foot has a small ulcer on the external side, just above the ankle. When I first saw this case there was much edema in this foot. This has largely disappeared, but there is much pain in the tendon at the heel. Outside of this foot trouble, her health is quite good. For treatment I gave, three times each day, a No. 1 capsule filled with powdered Golden Seal. For a long time the results were very good, but of late have been disappointing. Please suggest treatment.

Reply.-We would, if possible, heal the ulcer, as much of the patient's trouble is due to this. Dress the ulcer with the following:

R_x Sp. Med. Echinacea.
Bismuth Subnitrate, aa 3 i
Vaselin.
Lanolin,aa,q.s.,ad ʒ i
Ft. Ungt.

Clean the ulcer thoroughly, gently removing all dead tissue, and applying the above ointment, to fill. Dress with sterile gauze over the ointment, then apply a three-inch woven elastic bandage from the toes to knee, putting it on snugly, but not too tight, to support the weakened walls of the blood vessels. Treat daily, occasionally touching the ulcer with a 5% solution of silver nitrate to stimulate granulation tissue.

As internal medication we would suggest

R_x Sp. Med. Colchicum gtt.x
Sp. Med. Macrotys 3 i
Water, q.s., ad ʒ iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture every four hours. This treatment should be followed persistently for a long time.

ABDOMINAL PAINS

Question.-Have had two sharp attacks of pain in the lower right side of the abdomen. Have suffered much from constipation, and believe I have a touch of appendicitis.

Reply.-We hesitate to suggest treatment in this case, because of the involvement of the appendix. Just what form this may be is hard to determine without further information and preferably an examination. In the absence of any acute inflammation, however, we would suggest the following:

R_x Sp. Med. Nux Vomica gtt.x
Podophyllum Laxative (Dewees') ʒ iss
Glyconda,q.s.,ad ʒ iv

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

ECHAFOLTA CREAM AFTER SHAVING (Contributed)

If after shaving one will apply a little of this ointment to the face, it will make the skin "softer than a schoolgirl's." It will also prevent irritation. Oneida Witch Hazel Compound has no superior as a Soothing Balm.

ECHAFOLTA AND CALENDULA IN SKIN DISEASES

(Contributed)

I am taking the liberty of enclosing a formula that for the past twenty years I have found exceedingly helpful in all skin diseases. It is as follows:

Echafolta 3 ii

Calendula Ointment ʒ i

M. Sig.: Apply as needed.

Comment.-We are glad to pass this on for the consideration of other physicians. A remedy that is helpful in the practice of one doctor may well prove of use to another.

ECHAFOLTA CREAM WITH NASAL ULCERS

(Contributed)

For some time I have been studying this preparation, and find it to be the finest application (after cleansing) that I have ever used for nasal ulcers. It seems to keep the tissues from crusting, and patients claim it makes the nose feel normal and enables them to forget there is any trouble. Use also Oneida Witch Hazel Compound.

STILLINGIA LINIMENT WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

Question.-I am adding to the list of medicines that I keep in stock Compound Stillingia Liniment, but would like some advice as regards its dosage with young children, from one to ten years of age. How much should they take, and how often should it be repeated? Is this remedy contra-indicated in croupy, catarrhal conditions, because of their acute conditions?

I have Mundy "Diseases of Children,"* but in small children find it difficult to get the dosage right.

Reply.-For children, we often add ten drops of Stillingia Liniment to two ounces of simple syrup, and give this every hour, or oftener, in teaspoonful doses. The mixture should be well shaken or stirred before each dose. This remedy is not contra-indicated in acute catarrhal conditions. From drop doses in children, very little if any untoward results would follow except emesis.

In the proportions mentioned above, a separate dose would not be necessary for children of the ages mentioned. Approximately five eighths of a drop would be carried in each teaspoonful. One half teaspoonful would carry five sixteenths of a drop. In like manner, dosage can be either increased or diminished as desired.

*Out of print.

SUBCULOYD LOBELIA IN COLDS AND INFLUENZA

(Contributed)

In the ordinary variety of "colds," Subculoyd Lobelia is a wonder. In influenza, it lessens the intensity and abates the fever. I would be glad to hear from other physicians in this direction. In my own case I have used it, taking a "shot" about every three months, and have not had a cold for over three years. According to my observation one injection of Subculoyd Lobelia will "kill" the cold, but does not prevent the patient from contracting another one. When this occurs, another treatment is necessary.

DRYNESS OF MOUTH AND THROAT

Question.-Patient; man 71 years of age, is troubled with dryness of mouth and throat. This condition interrupts sleep, and is always worse in the early morning, from 4.00 to 7.00 A. M. Patient is healthy. Has been a heavy tobacco chewer up to two years ago.

Reply.-In persistent dryness of the mouth, we may always look for some interference with the nerve supply to the salivary glands, especially the parotid. Perhaps the quitting of chewing tobacco has removed a constant stimulus in the production of saliva. Again, there may be a stoppage of the ducts, this being manifested by a cystic condition of the mucous membrane near the orifices of the gland. In the case reported, we would suspect certain senile changes to have taken place in the glands, or affecting the nerve supply.

Lobelia is a very good agent for stimulating the glands of the mouth and throat. We would suggest the following:

R \bar{x} Sp .Med. Lobelia gtt. xx

Water, q.s., ad \bar{z} iv

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

Jaborandi is also helpful, twenty drops in four ounces of water, giving a teaspoonful of the dilution every four hours. Study also Aconite, Hydrastis, Berberis, and Phytolacca.

SPASMODIC ASTHMA

Question.-A case of spasmodic asthma is greatly bothering me. Have used several of the remedies mentioned in THE GLEANER, such as Lobelia, Gelsemium, and Ipecac, but they do not seem to affect the case. Various other remedies have failed. Any helpful suggestions will be appreciated.

Reply.- The doctor's experience with this case of spasmodic asthma is not uncommon. We have all had the same experience. It is true that in Lobelia, Gelsemium, Belladonna, Ipecac, Grindelia, Asthma Weed, etc., we have some very fine remedies, and that oftentimes these remedies, given singly or in simple combinations or in alternation, will relieve the patient; again we are confronted with a case that refuses to yield.

In every case of spasmodic asthma, a thorough physical examination should be made, in order to ascertain the underlying cause. This may come from bronchial, cardiac, renal, protein sensitization, wrongs of the gastro-intestinal tract, "nervous" condition, etc. When the cause is found, every effort must be made to remove or neutralize it. Until this is accomplished, our treatment can be only symptomatic. Again let us repeat, search for and remove the cause, wherever possible. One case we remember seeing early in our hospital training, cleared up entirely when a nephritis was corrected that was found only on a careful examination of the patient. Other physicians had treated only the bronchial system, and had not discovered any renal disturbance. Certain toxins (either endo- or exo-) are capable of precipitating an attack of bronchial asthma. Each case must be studied by itself, and each demands special examination and attention.

For the relief of the paroxysms we know of nothing better than Subculoyd Lobelia. Following such an attack, the patient may be placed upon Specific Medicine Lobelia, given internally, with associated remedies as may be indicated.

A volume might be written upon spasmodic asthma. We have touched only upon the keynote of its management; that is, "Seek for and remove the cause." No set prescription can be given that will suit all cases.

ASTHMATIC CONDITION

Question.-Seven years ago my wife became affected with what I and other physicians thought to be asthmatic bronchitis, caused by the dust of flour, she doing a great deal of baking. We have tried many remedies without avail other than temporary relief in causing exudation of the mucus that gorges the larynx. There is absolutely no affection of the lungs, but recently she complains of shortness of breath. She never has had an ache of any kind, does not know what a headache is, and has never had any stomach, heart, kidney, or bowel trouble. She is now sixty-two years of age.

Reply.-We would suggest that every possible source of disturbance be canvassed, such as animal emanations of all kinds, cosmetics, face powders, and vegetation. Feather pillows will sometimes cause the most severe asthmatic attacks. Try to find out by allergy examination the cause, if possible. In the meantime try:

℞ Sp. Med. Asthma Weed 3 ii
 Sp. Med. Lobelia 3 ii
 Sp. Med. Gelsemium 3ss
 Water, q.s., ad ℥iv

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

CATARRH WITH ASTHMA

Question.-Patient, age thirty-four, light complexioned, weight 130, has catarrh accompanied by asthma, and at this season of the year, hay fever. He has good habits, uses no liquor or tobacco. Drinks coffee in the morning, tea at other meals.

Attacks are very severe. Tongue is pointed and red, with some coating at base and sides, gray or yellow. There is much inflammation of fauces and base of tongue. Throat feels swollen, and swallowing is sometimes difficult. He is pale and thin, and very nervous. Is often constipated.

Reply.-From the description given, this is a case of hay fever due, no doubt, to a reaction from some irritating substance. The medical treatment suggested is, internally:

℞ Sp. Med. Sanguinaria
 Sp. Med. Ipecac, aa gtt. x
 Sp. Med. Echinacea ℥ij
 Water, q. s., ad ℥iv

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

As a nasal and throat spray we suggest Lloyd's Colorless Hydrastis, three times a day.

The nostrils may also be packed with a 50 per cent solution of Echafolta in Glycerin at bedtime, using cotton plug for this purpose. For the constipation, Fluid Extract Cascara may be used as needed.

The diet should consist of nourishing, easily digested foods, meat and acids being omitted as much as possible, also highly seasoned foods and condiments. Plenty of fresh vegetables and fruits are needed. The patient should have plenty of sunlight and be in the open air at least two hours each day, either walking or taking some other form of exercise.

ASTHMA. SEVERE ATTACK FOLLOWING OPERATION ON BOWELS

Question.-Patient: man, seventy-one, robust for his age. Has for some years had light attacks of asthma, relieved without much trouble. Seven weeks ago he underwent an operation for total occlusion of bowels, caused from adhesions resulting from an old appendicitis operation. This last operation healed nicely, giving no trouble, but two days following it came a suffocating attack of asthma from which he came near dying. Since that time he has had a tightness in the bronchi and larynx with a bad cough, sometimes dry, but at others loose. At night this seems to be much worse, and the constant tickling in his throat makes him want to cough almost all the time. Various cough mixtures have given little relief. Codeine gives fair relief, but leaves him constipated. Kindly suggest treatment.

Reply.- Two remedies are suggested in this case, Cactus and Lobelia. They may well be combined, as follows:

Sp. Med. Lobelia gtt.xx
 Sp. Med. Cactus 3j
 Water, q.s., ad ℥iv

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

For relief of the trouble at night use gtt. v of Sp. Med. Lobelia in a tablespoonful of water, every half hour, giving this just up to the point of nausea and relaxation. Then stop. Study also Sanguinaria, Grindelia, and Crataegus.

BURNS SLOW IN HEALING

Question.-Please suggest treatment for woman, sixty-five, who about four years ago was burned with gasoline on both feet, one just below the ankle, the other at the instep. The wounds apparently heal, and then break out again. At times they are very painful.

Reply.-As a soothing agent and to promote healing we would suggest the use of Echafolta Cream. If a more stimulating dressing is desired, use Mayer's Ointment. This is an old German remedy, held in high esteem by Eclectic physicians.

GLANDULAR ENLARGEMENTS

Question.-Young man, farmer, about twenty-four, has glandular enlargements on his neck and under his chin. There is no history of syphilis or gonorrhoea.

Reply.-For enlarged glands no remedy has with us been more successful than Phytolacca. This remedy acts more efficiently, however, in the acute and subacute forms, and the case described is no doubt one of chronic adenitis. For its alterative effect we would suggest the following:

R_x Sp. Med. Iris
Sp. Med. Phytolacca,aa 3 j
Podophyllum Laxative, Dewees' .5 ss
Water, q.s., ad ℥iv
M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture an hour after meals.

The local application of some form of Iodine, once daily, will assist in reducing the enlargement. One such preparation is the "Iodine Ointment," U. S. P. X.

Needless to say, a long period of treatment will probably be required to show any effects. Possibly there are some infected teeth that require attention.

We would suggest the study of Stillingia, Berberis, and Lloyd's Iron, and their use, if indicated.

CHRONIC INTERSTITIAL NEPHRITIS

Question.-Please suggest remedies most helpful in chronic interstitial nephritis. Patient is troubled by a constant tinnitus aurium (a hissing sound), with low blood pressure and general weakness. However, he is not confined to his bed.

Reply.-In chronic interstitial nephritis we have found Specific Medicines Apis, Belladonna, Hydrangea, Fragrant Sumach, and Barosma, very useful. These, of course, should be given in accordance with their respective indications.

Is it possible that the tinnitus aurium is due to retention of certain substances that should be removed by the impaired kidneys?

The properly selected remedy, together with a well-regulated diet and proper attention to elimination, will do much to improve this condition.

ALKANET ROOT

Question.-Please give me some information concerning alkanet and its uses.

Reply.-The alkanet plant is a native of Southern Europe and is cultivated for its red coloring constituent. This is obtained by covering the crushed root with castor oil, macerating and straining. The coloring matter is absorbed by the oil, which is used by pharmacists in such proportion as may be desired for coloring ointments, hair oils, etc. Since alkanet is not used by us in making medicinal preparations, we have had little practical experience with it.

LLOYD'S IRON AND CACTUS

(Contributed)

Cactus and Lloyd's Iron, in the right combination, has worked wonders for me as a restorative where the heart's action has been impaired, and some anemia exists.

Lately, two patients, thirty-seven and forty-seven years of age, have come to me who had become run down, owing to wrong dietetics, and had gradually lost weight for a period of three years. I gave to both the same prescription with good results:

℞ Lloyd's Iron 3i
Sp. Med. Cactus 3ii
Water, q. s., ad ℥ iv

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

Sometimes I find that Nux Vomica is indicated with this for a man, and Ignatia or Pulsatilla for a woman.

I find your literature exactly what I need to refer to from time to time in my practice. Please keep my name on your mailing list.

CONIUM MACULATUM

Question.-Please identify the enclosed plant for me, giving its uses, if possible.

Reply.- This plant was identified by Professor Aiken, of the Lloyd Library, as *Cicuta maculata*, Lamarck, better known as *Conium maculatum*, Linne; common names Hemlock, Water Hemlock, Poison Parsley, etc. It grows from three to six feet tall, usually in low, swampy grounds. The stem is marked with purple lines. This plant is very poisonous. According to tradition, a decoction from it was used in Athens for the execution of criminals, and this was the drink that caused the death of Socrates.

TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS

Question.-Please give me information regarding care and treatment of tuberculosis, both pulmonary and sinus infection from this ailment.

Reply.-Much might be written upon this subject. There is, of course, no "specific" to date for tuberculosis, but we presume our correspondent desires the remedies of the Eclectic materia medica that may be of aid.

First, where pulmonary tuberculosis develops, throw all preventive measures possible about the patient to prevent spread of the disease. The patient should have a room to himself, one that is well ventilated, and with the maximum amount of sunshine. Patient should have his own dishes, and should cough into gauze, which should then be destroyed. Rest, physical and mental, fresh air, sunshine. good food, and relaxation periods are points to be stressed. Good elimination via kidneys, bowels, and skin should be maintained. Patients should be kept slightly alkalized.

Such tonics as Nux Vomica, Hydrastis, and Lloyd's Iron should be employed. For referred pains, pleurisy, etc., we would think of Bryonia, Rhus Tox, Sticta, Asclepias, and occasionally Macrotys and Arnica. For assistance in overcoming sepsis consider Echinacea, Sodium Sulphite, Baptisia, Phytolacca, Berberis, etc.

Where there is accompanying sinus involvement, a competent nose and throat specialist should determine whether operative procedure is advisable, with the idea of drainage and better aeration. Such local

pathology as septal deviations, spurs, enlarged turbinates, infected tonsils, adenoid masses, etc., as may be detrimental to health of the patient, should, if possible, be removed. Attention should be paid to the general health in this condition. Alkaline washes for the nasal passages may afford some relief.

INCONTINENCE OF URINE

Question.-I have a patient, woman, sixty-three, in fine physical and mental condition other than a so-called "internal trouble" prolapsus uteri-of many years' standing, resultant from childbirth.

Because of heart affection I consider an operation out of the question.

At times there is swelling of the abdomen, but the most serious trouble is incontinence of the urine, which at times is so sudden that it pours forth in a torrent. Patient is a lady of much natural refinement and feels bitterly what she deems the "disgrace" of this happening, though as yet it has not occurred in public.

Reply.-The cause of the trouble is no doubt due to impaired control of bladder sphincter. The remedy is Fragrant Sumach, with which Belladonna may be associated to improve innervation. An illustrative prescription is as follows:

℞ Sp. Med. Belladonna gtt. x
 Sp. Med. Fragrant Sumach ʒi
 Glycyrrhiza ʒi
 Water, q.s., ad ʒiv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful every four hours.

It might be useful in this case to fit a soft rubber ring pessary of the proper size, to support the uterus, as there is no doubt some pressure from this organ.

Worthy of study in this direction are the following: Specific Medicines Thuja, Epigaea, Rhus Tox, Uva Ursi, Althaea, and Chimaphila. Among these remedies will surely be one or more that will prove beneficial, but each must be administered according to its special indications.

ENURESIS IN CHILDREN

(Contributed)

Recently I began prescribing a glass of lemonade in the evening for children afflicted with enuresis, and have had some very favorable results. In some cases the ailment has been stopped altogether, in others, modified. Have you had any similar reports along this line?

CHRONIC URTICARIA

Question.-I have a case of skin trouble that for five years has baffled the physicians of this section. A stroke of the hand will at any time start a burning and itching. Welts will appear. Sometimes it will not bother all day. After a bath, and when the patient gets warm in bed, the whole body become a torture. A quick sponge bath with hyposulphite of soda or salts will quickly relieve, but only for a time.

Reply.-Such a symptom complex may be encountered in many disease conditions. From the description given, we would judge the case to be that of a chronic urticaria which is rather exceptional. It may be due to hereditary predisposition. Nervous and digestive disturbances with formation of intestinal toxins are important factors. Substances taken into the stomach may produce an urticaria, either by a mechanical irritation of the stomach or bowel, or by causing a toxemia. Intestinal parasites and undigested food act by mechanical irritation. A large number of substances, both food and drugs, perfectly innocuous to the ordinary individual, act as poisons to others. In chronic urticaria, some of the most frequent causes are gastro-intestinal disorders, neurasthenia in its various forms, and renal disease. A profound nervous shock has, in some cases, been the causative factor.

Treatment, to be successful, depends upon our ability to remove the cause. Diet must be given special consideration. The body hygiene, elimination, sleep, exercise, etc., must be carefully watched. The kidneys, bowels, and skin should all be made to function properly. Gastro-intestinal disturbance must be overcome, dyspepsia and constipation routed.

Internally, such remedies as serve to "tone the gastro-intestinal tract" would be considered. Among those more prominent are Nux Vomica, Chionanthus, Berberis, Podophyllum, Leptandra, Arsenic, and Lloyd's Iron. For the intense itching one would consider Rhus tox., Apis, Ipecac, etc. Local applications are legion, some of their most frequent constituents being Carbolic Acid, Tar, Menthol, Chloral, Camphor, etc. We are, however, inclined to believe that in the case herein described, success will attend the treatment only when the cause has been discovered and removed, paying especial attention to correction of gastro-intestinal wrongs and maintaining free elimination, via kidneys, skin, and the bowels. "A case properly diagnosed is half cured."

ENLARGED UTERUS

Question.-Somewhere I have seen Specific Medicine Fraxinus recommended for internal administration for enlarged uterus. Patient has been advised to have a hysterectomy performed, but I have hopes of avoiding this through proper medication. The case is not malignant.

Reply.-Where malignancy is not present we would advise the use of Specific Medicine Fraxinus in combination with Specific Medicine Ergot. Such a combination has in our hands proved of value in cases of subinvolution of the uterus. One must be sure, however, that there is no malignancy. Should this be present, we cannot expect to aid through medication. The patient's general health should be carefully watched, and such tonics as Hydrastis, Nux Vomica, Lloyd's Iron, and Macrotys may be employed. Any menstrual irregularities, particularly as relating to metrorrhagia and menorrhagia, should be carefully noted. The wasting of too much blood from an enlarged uterus would often indicate a surgical removal, as suggested in this inquiry.

Medication should be given a chance, keeping a watchful eye for malignancy. Should there be no response to medication, one should not hesitate to advise surgical procedure.

CHRONIC ECZEMA

Question.-Patient, male, sixty, otherwise healthy, no venereal disease, three years ago developed a skin trouble that bothers him continually. Several physicians pronounced it Erythema, and have treated him for this, but without results. I have had this case three months and used various forms of treatment, including Specific Medicine Iris. This at first seemed to work well, but presently the skin became hard, like a congestion, and itched almost unbearably. After the itching stopped, small red specks appeared, at first disappearing in a short time, but reappearing in a day or two, when they would form small pimples and remain permanently. Is this caused by the Iris?

Reply.-From the description given, this seems to be a chronic eczema rather than erythema. It has probably reached the papular form and will require considerable study to cure it entirely. During the painful itching stage, some soothing treatment, such as Echafolta Cream, is useful. When this stage has quieted down, use a stimulating ointment, such as Howe's Pomade, or Mayer's Ointment.

In our opinion Iris has had nothing to do with the increase of the trouble. However, in place of Iris, Phytolacca may be indicated; also Berberis.

TORTICOLLIS

Question.-Please suggest treatment for spasm of the muscles of the neck.

Reply.-In the absence of details, we understand this question to refer to "wry neck," or torticollis (literally, "twisted neck"). There are two main forms of this, the spastic or fixed form, and the intermittently spasmodic form.

The fixed form is very little affected by any form of medication. Its treatment is surgical, either operative or by means of appropriate apparatus for correction of the deformity, or both. The intermittent, spasmodic or acute form, is usually amenable to medical treatment. Many of these cases are due to exposure to cold, being so-called muscular rheumatism, "stiff neck." In this form we have an involvement of the muscular structures, especially the sterno-mastoid muscle. Macrotys is here the remedy of choice. Belladonna is often indicated, and in acute conditions with increased temperature and flushed face, Gelsemium. Locally, the application of Libradol, hot, covered with cotton and kept hot with the hot water bottle or electric pad, will be found very useful in relieving the stiffness and soreness.

Sticta seems to relieve many cases where there is associated pain of the chest walls and shoulder. Where there is poor capillary circulation and swelling, Arnica may be used. In cases with chronic rheumatic taint, Colchicum is indicated. By many Aralia is used for this condition, and if the tissues are dry, with dry tongue and mucous membranes, Jaborandi is indicated. Some cases of torticollis are due to carious teeth or other foci of infection. All such causes must be located and corrected to get complete relief.

The treatment resolves itself into correction of the underlying wrongs; with the use of the indicated remedies, bearing in mind the usual rheumatic diathesis and other possible associated causes.

"BILIOUSNESS"

Question.-What is helpful in a case of biliousness with a tendency to dizziness, and even mental disturbances such as vague recollections?

Reply.- The term "billiousness" covers a large field of symptoms. In order to treat the condition intelligently a thorough study of the case in hand is necessary. From the symptoms mentioned, the condition may be due to a possible absorption of toxic products from the intestinal tract. If this be the case remedies that will clean out the tract and influence the action of the liver are indicated. Here Nux Vomica and Podophyllum are useful. The following is illustrative:

R̄ Sp. Med. Nux Vom	gtt.x
Podophyllum Laxative, Dewees'	℥ ss
Glyconda, q.s., ad	℥.ijj

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

SUBCULOYD ERGOT

Question.-Will Subculoyd Ergot lose any perceptible amount of its activity after, say, six months' time? I have been told that Ergot preparations are especially liable to such a loss.

Reply.-Subculoyd Ergot, like our other "Subculoyds" is a permanent preparation. This was shown quite conclusively by Doctor Lambert, of Chicago, who, in 1915, made exhaustive clinical tests of these preparations, both in his private practice and in hospital work.

Subculoyd Ergot has even more conclusively stood the test of time, it being, so far as we know, the first plant hypodermic ever prepared for physicians' use. It has been in constant use since its introduction in 1884, and we have never received a report that it has lost its activity. It was for many years distributed under the title "Lloyd's Ergot," and was really the forerunner of the Subculoyds, with which it is now listed.