

THE MEDICINAL PLANTS OF NORTH AMERICA

Revised from the Transactions of the American Eclectic Materia Medica Association

EDITED BY ARTHUR WEIR SMITH, A.M., M.D., *Secretary*

Volume I

The leading doctrine of the Eclectic medical profession is: that the investigation and the practice of medicine should be entirely free and untrammelled; that no central body-association, combination or conspiracy-should have the power to prescribe a certain *standard of faith or medical creed* which shall be received and forced upon every member of the profession by threats of professional disgrace and ruin. We recognize every enlightened, educated and honest physician as standing upon the same platform of professional respectability and enjoying the same rights, no matter what doctrines he may advocate in medicine, or what system of practice he may deem it his duty to adopt. Thomas Vaughn Morrow

BERWYN, ILL. 1914

PREFACE

The American Eclectic :Materia Medica Association was organized at Chicago, October 23, 1901, to develop, by correspondence, the Medicinal Plants of North America.

No doctor has reliable knowledge of the curative power of a drug, except where he has proved it in his own practice. A remedy may appear to have cured in a given case, but no opportunity occurs for him to verify the cure, but if his experience is recorded, other observers may verify it and it thus becomes a standard remedy in similar cases,

Our Association makes a monthly report to members of recorded cases, and invites their opinion as to the value of the claims made in the record: in other words, what is reliable and what worthless. In this way we are revising our materia medica.

In the extensive reading necessary to complete the work which we have undertaken, much interesting matter has been brought to our attention which might be properly named the "Eclectic Practice of Medicine," and some space has been given to this line of work. This brings very forcibly to mind that the fundamental principle of the American Eclectic School of Physicians is liberty of opinion as to the methods of treatment employed and the remedies used.

When, in 1849, Prof. Morrow penned the immortal words which we introduce in our title page, this was no small matter. Prof. I. G. Jones, writing in 1853, tells us that calomel was given by the dominant school for almost every disease, while bloodletting was the common practice, We learn from Dr, Wilder's "History of Medicine", that the American Medical Association was organized in 1846 in order to boycott and ostracize Eclectics and other independent physicians, who refused to be dominated by the Regulars of that day, We note also in this study that the Eclectic physician makes what he believes to be a rational selection of curative measures and subscribes to no creed; he also grants the same liberty to others,

ARTHUR WEIR SMITH.

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THE MEDICINAL PLANTS OF NORTH AMERICA.

ASCLEPIAS TUBEROSA,-By J. D. McCann, M.D., Monticello, Ind.

Pleurisy root has been one of the most valuable remedies in my medicine case. I need not go into any botanical description, as that is in all the text-books, but will give practical facts proven by daily use of the remedy, I would as soon attempt to treat a septic intestinal tract without echinacea as a threatened pneumonia without asclepias, Asclepias is the remedy in all inflammatory conditions of the thoracic cavity; in fact, in all cases where there is irritation or inflammation of serous membranes it will afford relief. In acute catarrhal fever asclepias will help to relieve the congestion, and will moisten the dry, irritable membrane, Where there is "cold in the lungs," asclepias is my first thought and in pneumonia my first remedy, When the lung or any part of it is becoming solid, asclepias will help to soften and loosen the mucus, and allow the needed expectoration to take place, In pleurisy and "stitch in the side," asclepias will help to relieve the inflammation and effect a cure more speedily than any other remedy.

In rheumatism with a dry skin, or where a rheumatic joint gives the sensation on bending it of adhesions being broken up, give asclepias and you will not be disappointed, In fevers of children, where the mucous membrane is dry and the tongue parched, give asclepias. If there is an arrest of cutaneous secretions, and there is an internal as well as an "infernal" trouble, give asclepias to moisten the skin, so that there may be an elimination of the excrementitious material.

I would not advocate asclepias as a remedy for all nervous conditions, but it is useful when a person is working under high tension and needs relaxation, The action is like taking a tight rubber band from about the finger; asclepias relieves the constriction and consequent nervous tension.

Asclepias is a most valuable cough remedy, especially in dry coughs. Lloyd's specific asclepias is the preparation always in my medicine case, and the one most often used, yet I like the ground root prepared as an infusion. If we desire it in the form of a syrup, it may be sweetened with honey.

I do not care to be understood as using asclepias always as a single remedy, but, if deemed proper, I combine it with some other indicated remedy.

GELSEMIUM.-By Percy Lee Templeton, M.D., Montpelier, Vt. (Materia Medica Reports, January, 1905.)

I must confess gelsemium is a remedy on which I place little reliance. I carry it now, but for several years it was not in my case. The late Dr. R. S. Newton, dean of the New York Eclectic Medical College, was very enthusiastic regarding its use in fevers, and claimed that it could be safely used in almost any sized dose. He died of cerebral hemorrhage, and in some unexplained way I associated the drug with his death, for he delighted in his last days to express his personal satisfaction in the use of it.

I have employed gelsemium in brain troubles, but, getting no relief from the distressing symptoms, I was led to employ more direct means to equalize the circulation.

My father at one time used gelsemium a good deal, but latterly gave it up entirely. It was some thirty years ago that he took ten drops of the fluid extract to relieve a headache, when he thought this remedy indicated, and, getting no relief, repeated the dose in a couple of hours. His headache was relieved after a time, but his eyelids drooped, and he saw double for two days afterwards.

I have used gelsemium very successfully in the treatment of chordee and in all stages of gonorrhoea. It has proved quite satisfactory in false labor pains. It is fairly good in cerebral congestion, and in nervous conditions, and where the pulse is full-or, in other words, full, but easily compressed.

ASCLEPIAS CORNUTI.-By Frank Webb, M.D., Bridgeport, Conn. (Eclectic Review, February, 1910.) Abstracted.

Asclepias cornuti, milkweed or silkweed, grows plentifully throughout the United States. The tincture should be made from the bark of the root, four ounces to the pint of alcohol, in the usual way; or an infusion may be made with eight ounces of the root to the pint of water.

Asclepias cornuti is one of our safest, and, I can unhesitatingly say, the most powerful diuretic that we have. In albuminuria, where we have the well-known digitalis symptoms—a feeble, open pulse and scanty urine, accompanied by dyspnea and edema of the feet, there is no remedy that can compare with it. It strengthens the heart and consequently the pulse, and stimulates the kidneys, so that in a very few days the edema and dyspnea disappear. In mitral regurgitation it acts better than any remedy I have ever used. In a case of mitral stenosis accompanied by anasarca, I have put two drachms of convallaria in four ounces of the infusion of milkweed, and had the nurse administer one drachm every hour, and inside of thirty-six hours the patient had passed over three gallons of urine, and was able to lie down, which he had not been able to do for a long time.

In a case of albuminuria which grew worse under treatment, I was led to use milkweed on seeing it recommended in Beach's "Reformed Practice of Medicine" as the best remedy for dropsy we have. The patient had rheumatism, but got no better from treatment, and I was called to the case. I found her sitting in a chair, as she could not lie down, complaining of shortness of breath; no muscular soreness, no temperature; limbs, arms and hands swollen; puffiness under the eyes; most pronounced constipation; cough and scanty urine. She had great thirst, and the usual gastric symptoms. The urine was loaded with albumin, but contained no indican and no casts. My first treatment giving no results, I ordered an infusion of milkweed made from the fresh root, a wineglassful to be given every three hours, night and day. The first day she passed one quart of urine, the second day over three quarts, and the third day over two gallons. For the thirst, I directed that she drink water freely. She recovered; and after the lapse of a year there was no return of the trouble.

LEPTANDRIN.-By W.B. Witt, M.D. (*American Medical and Surgical Journal*, December, 1855, p. 511). Abstracted.

I have used this remedy extensively in my practice, and have always had good results from its use. I have used it most in the incipient stages of dysentery in an unmixed state. It is as beneficial in the later stages, where a thorough bilious evacuation has not been produced, and where the urgent symptoms remain present. It is not only useful but a very certain agent in such cases, operating in about eight to twelve hours generally, though it sometimes requires fifteen. In these cases it will be necessary to keep up its administration for a longer period than in the earlier stages, but should not be given so frequently after it begins to operate as before; and, as the secretions have been more or less deranged, it will be necessary to continue it until they are restored to a normal condition. My experience has been, since I have used it in cholera infantum, combined with some aromatic, that I have not lost a single case, and in many instances, where I have had good nurses, the effects have been truly astonishing. The secretions have become normal in a few hours, and the parents sometimes say they "guessed the child was not so sick as they thought it was." For more than three years I have used it as the only active agent given in nine tenths of the cases I have treated for this disease,

In typhoid fever I have used it in the following combination: R Leptandrin, quinia sulph., aa grs. xv; pulv. ipecac, capsicum, aa grs. v, M. Fiant pilul. xv, Sig, One pill every two hours.

During last winter I had several hard cases of this disease, and in every instance succeeded in removing the febrile state, and reinstating a healthy action of the secretions in a short time, I have used it extensively in old chronic cases, and found it a valuable agent in such cases, as it operates very mildly, without debilitating the patient, and also does not induce constipation by over stimulation,

From an extensive use of it, I look upon leptandrin as one of our most efficient and certain cholagogues,

[We have here apparently a specific for three pathological conditions, which we name, dysentery, cholera infantum and typhoid fever, As we have been instructed (King's Dispensatory, ed, 1870) to combine it with podophyllin or neutralizing cordial, as if not to be depended on alone, forty years have passed without our knowledge of it as a single remedy having increased to any great extent. Having contributed an article on this remedy to our National Transactions (Vol. XXVI, 1898, p, 61), I present it here.

LEPTANDRA VIRGINICA,-By the Editor,

There is a certain mystery expressed by writers in regard to the therapeutics of leptandra, It appears to cure diseases caused by a toxic element in the blood, as typhoid fever and dysentery, while it is a remedy for chronic inflammation of the bowels, I do not mention the many diseases which writers have claimed were cured by leptandra, but enough to suggest its wide curative range, if we can rely on the records, I have used it mostly in combination, but also alone. The common combination is leptandrin and podophyllin; and several observers have noted that this combination produces better results than podophyllin alone, though no one pretends to give a valid reason.

My own experience with leptandrin is limited, and not sufficient to establish a law of cure; but I recall one case, in particular, where this mystery, before referred to, was strongly impressed upon me.

The patient, a man, 35 years old, married, having a family, called me to his home to treat him for what I diagnosed as lithemia, There was irritation of the urinary tract, with a red, sand-like deposit in the urine, a sallow skin, a coated tongue, and pain of a rheumatic or neuralgic character, I supposed it to be a condition caused by a deficient action of the liver, anti an indigestion, which would be relieved by small stimulating doses of podophyllin, On examining my medicine case, I could only find a pill containing one part of podophyllin and two parts leptandrin as the active ingredients, I gave him chispill, directing the dose so as not to produce a cathartic action, He reported that my medicine did him more good than all the remedies previously taken, He informed me that he had lived in Evansville, Indiana, for several years, and had been treated for a condition which his physician called "malaria," without much benefit.

After some time elapsed, I was again called to treat this patient for a similar condition, This time I prescribed podophyllin, intending to give a single remedy for a specific effect. Imagine my surprise when he reported that my medicine had not helped him, I now added leptandra to the prescription, with the most happy results,

At another time, for some ailment which I attributed to the uric acid diathesis, I prescribed certain tonics and alteratives, but not leptandra; and again no benefit was derived until that medicine had been added.

What is the explanation of the mysterious action of leptandra in this person?

Does the uric acid diathesis depend upon the liver, and is leptandra a remedy that adds tone to the feebly acting organ, and so effects a cure in such cases as that of my patient?

This I supposed to be true when I had him under treatment, and until recently, Croftan, in the *Clinique*, last year, in a learned article takes the ground that the uric acid diathesis is not dependent on uric acid, but that the symptoms are caused by autointoxication from xanthin bases, The fundamental etiological factor is an increased katabolism of cell nuclein, notably that of the leucocytes.

His thesis is sustained by the recent investigation of Kossel, Horbaczewski, Virchow and others.

The author sums up as follows: "Normally the katabolism of the nuclein of the leucocytes flood the blood with a toxic substance, which is normally converted into uric acid by the kidney epithelia, rendered harmless and excreted;

an excessive katabolism of nuclein, in the course of time, overtaxes this disintoxicating function of the kidneys, and produces progressively increasing functional derangement of those excreting glands; a derangement which is augmented by the steadily increasing acidulation of the blood by phosphoric acid, and, possibly too, by nervous influence, As the kidney function becomes impaired uric acid is no longer found in so large quantities, but the excretion and also retention of the xanthin bases is correspondingly increased, with all the consequences, and gives us lithemia, uric acid diathesis, gout, etc."

Is this the solution of the mystery of the action of leptandra? Does it, instead of stimulating the intestinal glands, liver, etc., as taught by almost every writer on the subject, actually stimulate the protoplasmic function of the kidneys; and, by promoting normal cell action in these organs, assist in eliminating a toxin from the system, and in this way aid nature in curing dysentery, typhoid fever, cholera infantum and the less formidable, but very prevalent, lesion known as lithemia?

My experience does not warrant me in giving an affirmative answer to this question, but it certainly suggests the importance of further experiment with leptandra in all cases associated with the uric acid diathesis, and when toxins exist, or are generated in the blood.

[In the discussion which followed the reading of this article, Dr. Mathews said: "In a case of intestinal disease, the patient being in a pitiable condition, I gave him podophyllin, but he was not benefited; I then gave him leptandrin, and he reported that the medicine did him more good than that of a half-dozen doctors who had previously treated him. He was cured by leptandrin." Will the reader please give his experience with this remedy?]

GELSEMIUM.-By M L. Doom, M.D., Tacoma, WVash. (*Materia Medica Reports*, January, 1905).

While the general indications for gelsemium are well understood, but little attention has been given to its dual action in pathological conditions. We are wont to think of the remedy as a sedative and relaxant. without assuming to know how it acts.

I find it our best remedy in infantile paralysis. sea sickness, vertigo from car travel. in doses of one to two minims. In like manner, I give it in the hundred and one ailments of the climacteric, and in hepatic and renal colic. When I fail to pass the catheter, one drachm injected into the rectum removes the obstruction. For dribbling of urine, in youth or old age, small doses of specific gelsemium-ten minims to four ounces of water, in teaspoonful doses, acts well. The pains of locomotor ataxia are relieved by two minim doses four times a day. For angina pectoris, spasm of the larynx, twitching of the facial muscles or the orbicularis, it is efficient. In lumbago and sciatica inject ten or twenty minims, with an equal quantity of water, into the muscles once a day. Its use in meningitis, and inflammatory conditions, is well known.

THE GERM THEORY OF DISEASE.-From Keye's "Renewal of Life" 1909 ed., p. 115.

"In all serum therapy in which experiments have been vigorously carried on since Koch, in 1882, published his first article relative to his discovery of the germ (of tuberculosis) it has been decided that such serums, should such a one be discovered to prevent tuberculosis, will not act so as to destroy the germ directly, but in a secondary way, by stimulating to increased energy the white corpuscles of the blood, or as Buchner puts it, that perhaps in the white corpuscles the defensive power of the blood(alexin) originates, while *MI* Etschnikoff believes their action is due to increasing phagocytosis. How often the blood in a state of health prevents the growth of disease germs in a similar way, no one will be able to compute, but it is known that even germs of the most severe diseases may be found in the secretions without having excited the disease of which they are characteristic, and it is this power which in itself constitutes immunity. * Ehrlich's lateral chain theory of immunity is looked upon as a hypothesis of great value in explaining natural and acquired immunity, it being based upon the specific action of toxins, a distinct toxin being found for each substance eliminated from the body, being a bacteriolytic serum stimulated by the presence of one kind of germ or pathological substance,

and being devoid of action upon a different variety."

ECLECTICISM: Drs. Forman and Gunn, Editors, *Chicago Medical Times*, Vol. 1, p. 92, give this definition:

"Eclectic practice is liberal individuality, in other words, we must treat every case upon its own phenomena in a pathological sense. At the same time true Eclectic practice ignores depletion in this (puerperal eclampsia) as in all other diseases."

[This opinion was delivered in 1869 and is true to-day. Eclectic is a name adopted by reformers. Their opinions are like their watches, no two just alike, but each believes his own. It means true progress in medicine. No Eclectic is bound by authority. To call bleeding in uremic convulsions depletion is an exaggerated interpretation of the meaning of the term as applied to the doctrine of sustaining the vital force.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

Henry Reny, A.M., M.D., Biddeford, ME., writes, November 27, 1909: "In reply to your request for an article on caulophyllum and mitchella, will say that I have prescribed caulophyllum alone with gratifying results in many cases of amenorrhea, dysmenorrhea and Irregular menstruation, for over twenty years, when the following indications were present: Pelvic pains extending to the hips; tenderness and fullness with relaxed condition of the pelvic tissues; but have obtained better results with viburnum in threatened abortion and cramp-like conditions of the generative organs, although I find it excellent as an antispasmodic when indicated, and value the remedy very highly. I use specific tinctures,

G. W. Holmes, M.D., Sharpes, Fla., writes, December 1909: "Dr. A. J. Crance evidently thinks that there is a good deal of old foggy ideas in the reports. I think the young fellows have not learned the old fellows' idea. I, as an old tree, want to put on more young wood every year than a young one can possibly do, so I hoist the black flag and buccaneer-like fake from all. I cultivate the acquaintance of my Old-school and Homeopathic friends, and in society converse with them, and in this way get their opinions as to the value of the drugs employed by them. I hate to note the everlasting comparisons going on in our journals as to the superiority of our school over others. We don't say quack, but we mean something like it. If our fruits do not show superiority, we ought to be silent, and if we achieves success it is not necessary to proclaim it from the housetops."

F. Stephens, St. Louis, Mo., writes, January 14, 1910: "I have had little experience with caulophyllum and mitchella.

The former I have used slightly for its emmenagogue effects, and sometimes I have thought it did good, and again I have thought it did not, and was unable to determine just what conditions prevailed. I have seen mitchella recommended highly for the pregnant woman, and twice have given it for the purpose of making labor easier, and each time I had hemorrhage follow its administration, and that incases where there had been no tendency to such an accident. I took it that the devil was after me, and quit. I do not know to this day why this was so. I wish some wiseacre would tell me."

W. Leming, M.D., Tucumcari, N M1., writes, February 19, 1910: "In regard to mitchella and blue cohosh I know little, but can speak differently of asclepias tuberosa. It is a leading remedy for irritation of the skin and mucous linings of the body, and is a remedy for certain wrongs of metabolism evidenced by albuminuria, dry, itching skin, the itching being persistent and unrelieved by scratching, or only for a moment at most. I believe that asclepias is one of our best soothers of the coverings and linings of the body; therefore I use it as an adjunct in a great many wrongs of these parts, including dry skin eruptions, dry coughs, tuberculosis. and irritation of the kidneys and intestines with this dry skin."

Ralph B. Taylor, Columbus, O., writes, February 19, 1910: "The February report just received, and I consider it the best one you have issued in a very long time. Caulophyllum is a remedy which I use with very great confidence. I do not think it and macrotys can be used as substitutes for each other in a haphazard way, As a *partus preparator* it has very few, if any, superiors, and I think it doubtful, if there are any that take its place. All of my obstetrical cases are placed upon a tonic containing this remedy for a few months before labor. In cases of so-called false pains, or wild pains, I never found a remedy which will act as positively and as promptly as caulophyllum. When there are pains in the back, extending down the thighs, from which a great many women suffer, it is almost a specific. For irritation of the bladder, especially during pregnancy, I combine it with eryngium. This forms a valuable remedy."

Henry Reny, A.M., M.D., writes, February 12, 1910: "In answer to the question 'Why am I an Eclectic?' I first heard of Eclecticism through an Allopath when I was employed in a drug store, from 1810 to 1882. We controlled a good share of the prescription business, and Dr. Q. (a regular), who was city physician at the time, was prescribing hydrastis daily, and he requested me not to let his confreres know that he was doing so, because it was an Eclectic remedy, and they would condemn him for using a quack drug; also, as hydrastis was his sheet-anchor in stomach troubles, he did not want to discontinue its use. I was then studying medicine under him as my preceptor, and this remark against the Eclectics led me to investigate. I procured Scudder's "Specific Medication" and "Specific Diagnosis,"~ and by comparing the scientific application of remedies to pathological condition with the numerous shotgun prescriptions I had compounded, I felt duty-bound to embrace Eclecticism, and from a successful experience of over twenty-five years with specific medication I cannot, judiciously be other than an Eclectic."

LOBELIA INFLATA.-By G. W. Holmes, M.D., Sharpes, Fla.

Tincture of Lobelia Seed.-I regard lobelia in this form as more valuable than ipecac in allaying nausea, especially when it is of a secondary or reflex origin, Take ten drops of the tincture of lobelia seed in three-fourths of a glass of water, and of this give a teaspoonful every ten minutes, as the usual dose.

A week ago last Sunday an auto came for me to visit the wife of a young brother doctor of the Regular school, who had been prostrated by a violent and incessant nausea and vomiting. It was supposed to be sympathetic, and for more than a week both food and water had been vomited. There was much tenderness on palpation over the region of the ovaries, and the patient said she felt as if she was about to become "unwell" I prepared the tincture of lobelia seed, as above specified, and began its administration; and, as neither food nor water had been retained for some time, I directed an enema of milk, one pint, in which was dissolved 20 grains of chloral hydrate and 40 grains of sodium bromide. A pad was applied and the injection retained by manual aid, and to be repeated night and morning. Improvement was perceptible in half an hour. I directed leontin, two to four drops, to be taken three times a day, to relieve the irritation of the ovaries and the general pelvic disorder.

Nausea in these cases is in some degree measured by the amount of irritation of the reproductive organs. This is a matter demonstrated, and is a true and tried principle, and treatment directed in accordance with this diagnosis will not fail.

The above treatment succeeds when cerium oxalate and all other measures become a mockery and the doctors are counted "no good."

Old lobelia is a true and tried friend, and is always in my case. In the small dose I believe it acts according to the homeopathic law-a dual action, as that school now teaches; and to this body of physicians I am willing to give due credit, and I would not on any account be without the knowledge I have derived from this source. My friend, the young *doctor*, who called me, knew nothing of these things, and was disposed to underrate the teaching of our school also, as regards the action of certain drugs, which I regard as demonstrated.

The following case presents a picture the reverse of the former. My neighbor, a carpenter by occupation, was suffering from autoinfection; ptomaines of some sort were troubling him, and he sent for me. I gave him an old-fashioned lobelia emetic, which cleaned out the stomach, scattered the ptomaines, relieved the cramps and the vertigo, and he was all right the following morning.

In these cases the patient is impressed by the success of the treatment, and knows that he gets his money's worth.

I am for putting on new wood every year, while I hang on to the true and tried.

LEPTANDRA VIRGINICA.-By E. M. Hale, MD. (*New Remedies*, ed. 1875, pp. 371-389.) Abstracted.

This plant has a high reputation among Eclectics, but I have of late years doubted its efficiency in many diseases for which it is recommended. The claim that is made for it as a remedy in *all* functional derangements of the liver, by Eclectics, is too sweeping, and resembles the assertions of the Allopaths, that mercury is the only remedy in all hepatic affections. Burt's proving of leptandra, with large doses of the fluid extract, gave the following symptoms: Dull aching pain in the lower part of the right hypochondriac region, near the *gall-bladder*, with dull, aching pain in the umbilicus and rumbling in the bowels; dull aching in the whole of the liver; the pain extends to the spine, but is worse near the gall-bladder; constant, dull, burning distress in the epigastric and hypochondriac regions; dull, aching, burning distress in the region of the gall-bladder, with frequent chilliness along the spine; profuse, black, undigested stool, followed by great distress in the region of the liver, extending to the spine; pain is of a hot, aching character, with chilliness along the spine; profuse, black, undigested stool followed by great distress in the region of the liver, extending to the spine; pain is of a hot, aching character, with chilliness along the spine; sharp cutting pains near the gall-bladder; great, burning distress in the back part of the liver and in the spine; pain in the left shoulder and arm; jaundice, with clay-colored stools.

These symptoms show that leptandra does exercise a powerful influence over the liver and its secretions, but what its real influence is has not been decided. Burt's proving, and the experience of botanic, Eclectic and Homeopathic physicians, go to show that leptandra first arouses the secretory action of the liver, then the secretory glands of the intestinal canal, and finally the more distant glands of the body. It may facilitate the elimination of the excrementitious portions of the bile. It is now claimed that cholesterine, like urea, acts as a direct poison to the nerve centers. Its retention causes headache, vertigo, languor, depression of spirits, painful sensations in various parts of the body, etc., and it is highly probable that leptandra increases the elimination of this substance, as when given in medicinal doses these symptoms disappear.

In large doses leptandra irritates the hepatic cells, and, if continued, their irritability is exhausted, and elimination of excrementitious substances from the blood ceases. In the first (primary) an attenuation is indicated, and in the second (secondary) a material dose of the remedy is indicated when these conditions appear as the symptoms of disease.

Dr. H. M. Warren, Jonesville, Mich., reports the following case:

"Mrs. W., aged seventy-five, was attacked suddenly with the following symptoms, her health up to the previous evening being good: Deliriousness, complete prostration, heat and dryness of the skin, coldness of the extremities, fetid and tardy stools, tongue thickly coated, with a black streak down the center. [The last symptom is an indication for *veratrum vir.*, which is supposed to aid elimination by way of the kidneys.] Other remedies doing little good, I gave her five grains of leptandrin, 2' [supposed to be 2x] in half a tumbler of water. She recovered rapidly."

Prof. Hale reasons from Allopathic and Eclectic cures, from massive doses of the simple drug; the occasional cures from the small dose;

cases where the disease is made worse by the large and continued dose, and by the provings showing a primary and secondary effect which resembles distinct stages of phenomena of disease, that the dose in any case should be just enough to effect a cure, and that the dose should be small where the symptoms of the disease resemble the primary action of the drug in the proving, and large where they resemble the secondary action, but in no case massive. Eclectics have profited by this teaching in reducing the dose and invoking the dual action of the drug. In the cases reported by Dr. Holmes, he gave lobelia in small doses for the vomiting of pregnancy, and in large doses for an attack of biliousness. I believe Prof. Hale's teaching is true, and while it does not appear to me to be strictly in accordance with the homeopathic law, it is at least Hahnemannian.

Dr. Neidhard reports four cases in which these symptoms were present, occurring every two or three months: Yellow-coated tongue; constant nausea, with vomiting of bile; shooting or aching pains in the region of the liver; loss of appetite; urine of a brownish color, or very dark; pain in the transverse colon; giddiness; very dark, almost black, evacuations from the bowels. Eclectics teach that the dark or black alvine evacuations are "vitiating bile," and show the curative action of leptandra, whereas such evacuations may occur in the course of bilious and other fevers, as a symptom of disease, while leptandra will cause such evacuations in a healthy person. "I have known patients under Eclectic treatment to be kept under the action of leptandra day after day, until the third stage of poisoning—namely, that stage when watery, mucous and bloody stools occur—because the physician supposed he must continue the administration of the medicine until the black discharge ceases. When they did cease, then the disease was said to run into dysentery, but it was the *dysentery of leptandra*".

Leptandra is indicated in chronic diarrhea (*a*) where there is (*a*) chronic inflammation or irritation of the mucous membranes; (*b*) hepatic derangement or (*c*) diarrhea of debility. Where there is ulceration of the intestines, food passes through the bowels undigested, causing emaciation. This occurs in chronic diarrhea and in diarrhea of infants, and is a grave condition. Here leptandra is indicated if with the usual symptoms there are present a jaundiced hue of the skin, sallow complexion, pain in the region of the liver, lack of bile in the evacuations, and great debility. Here give leptandra 1x to adults and 3x trituration to children.

Dr. Coe regards leptandra our best remedy in chronic dysentery and diarrhea, and in cases where a false membrane occurs in the small intestines, produced by the gradual exudation of plastic lymph. In constipation and piles, with frequent rectal hemorrhages, it ameliorates all the symptoms. He directs massive doses, two to four grains twice or thrice a day. In "camp dysentery" and "camp diarrhea," where there is chronic enteritis complicating the disorder, leptandra is an efficient remedy. Dr. King (Eclectic) reports success in the treatment of cholera infantum with leptandra (grs. vi), in combination with quinia (grs. iii), camphor (grs. iss) and ipecac (3/4 gr.), divided in po. xii; dose, one every two or three hours, the interval between doses being gradually extended as improvement appears.

Dr. B. L. Hill reports success in the treatment of epidemic dysentery (1854-55) with leptandra, after evacuating bowels with podophyllum and leptandra or rhubarb. He gave half to one grain every hour, lengthening the interval as the discharges became darker. He regards leptandrin as "the very thing" needed in cholera infantum, changing the discharges from the light, watery or slimy condition to a darkened and apparently bilious state, rendering them more and more consistent, until they become perfectly natural, without having been arrested entirely or at any time aggravated. At the same time it seems to act as a tonic, restoring the tone of the stomach and increasing the strength and activity of digestion. He found, however, that 0.1 to 0.01 grain was equally serviceable when he turned his attention to homeopathy.

Dr. Wm. Fry, of New York, reports a case of dysentery cured by leptandra. The symptoms were: Mental suffering; dizziness and headache; chills, followed by fever; pain and uneasiness in the bowels; nausea, and constant profuse flow of saliva from the mouth during the chill; great thirst, but inability to keep any food or drink upon the stomach;

constant desire to urinate during the chill; urine high-colored and passed in small quantities; soreness of the rectum; hemorrhoids; painful dragging and stinging pains in the rectum; evacuations like raw beef mixed with mucus, having an intolerable fetid smell. Leptandra, 1x night and morning, cured.

Leptandra, 2x or 3x, cures bilious headaches when accompanied by constipation, furred tongue, bitter taste, indigestion, yellow urine, languor and depression of spirits.

Both Homeopathic (Hill, Getchell) and Eclectic (King, Jones, Morrow) practitioners concur in recommending leptandra in typhoid fever. The indicating symptoms are: Great prostration, stupor, heat and dryness of the skin; calor mordax, or coldness of the feet; dark, fetid, tarry or watery stools, mixed with bloody mucus, and an icterode condition.

In intermittent fever the combination of leptandrin with quinine is of approved value, or the one may be alternated with the other. It prevents the liability to a return of the disease, and is valuable in obstinate cases.

GELSEMIUM IN OTITIS EXTERNA DIFFUSA.-By the Editor. (*Materia, Medica Reports*, January, 1905.)

M. G., male, aged twenty-eight, after a long ride in an open car on a cold day, had pain in the right side of his head, which he attributed to a dead tooth. By evening the pain had become severe. His hearing on that side was impaired, and this first called my attention to the symptoms as indicating inflammation of the ear. The temperature rose to 101.5°, and the demand for effective treatment was urgent. As this patient had on several occasions taken thirty drops of specific gelsemium within an hour, to break up a cold, I decided to give him ten drops of the remedy at frequent intervals, and watch the effect. In this way he took fifty drops within an hour, and fifty more within the following twenty-four hours, and continued to take one hundred drops a day for the next three days, when the dose was gradually reduced.

There was no noticeable toxic effect except a staggering gait when he attempted to walk. The curative effect of the remedy was marked. In twenty-four hours he was very much better, and in a week he had entirely recovered. In addition to the gelsemium he had a hot-water bag applied to his ear.

This case, after the severe pain had abated, was referred to Prof. E. G. Trowbridge, of Bennett Medical college, specialist in diseases of the ear. He wrote: "I examined - and found that he had diffusive inflammation of the external auditory canal, which also involves the drum. I would suggest, as an additional treatment, that you syringe both ears with water as hot as can be borne by the patient; then dry with cotton and apply dry heat for a time, as long as there is any pain or sensation of fullness."

Prof. Trowbridge told me afterwards that he had reported the case, as described in my letter to him, to his class, as especially interesting on account of the large dose of gelsemium given and the success of the treatment.

Can we draw any definite conclusion from this case which will guide us to a correct knowledge of the action of gelsemium in acute inflammatory complaints? Trousseau taught (*Clinical Medicine*) that opium and its salts, given to relieve the pain of inflammation, relieves the latter at the same time. I do not know certainly that he explained that it relieved irritation and the consequent determination of blood. At any rate, I think this is a rational explanation of the action of gelsemium in the above case. We apply the ice-bag, or the hot-water bag, before or during the stage of congestion, to overcome the abnormal condition, which we know, if not relieved, will result in an inflammation and possible destruction of the part. The frontiersman, caught in a blizzard, applies snow to the frostbitten part, and the relief is prompt and permanent. He knows that, when after exposure to extreme cold, that if his ears look white instead of pink, they are frost-bitten, and to expose them at once to a moderate temperature would result in a severe inflammation, whereas, by applying ice or snow at once the circulation is reestablished and the inflammatory process aborted.

We say that the action is reflex; at any rate we know that the means employed relieves the pain, and the relief is the measure of its value. When we give morphine sulph. to relieve the pain of inflammation, it relieves the irritation at the same time; and we may affirm this of any narcotic. If we could separate the pain-relieving elements of opium, and give this preparation alone, we might expect to relieve inflammation in this way. Gelsemium appears to supply such a remedy in the case above reported. I sought its adenagic action. Tully employed this word to describe the action of certain remedies, where what would ordinarily be regarded as an overdose resulted in the cure of the disease for which it was administered. He thought that the action was more especially on the glandular system, and hence the name. To do this, as he expressly states, according to his experience, enough of the remedy had to be given to produce a slight toxic effect. In the case reported, I estimated that the patient would bear enough of the remedy to relieve the pain, and it would be safe if given in tentative doses; and as soon as the pain began to yield I estimated the amount given to accomplish this as the maximum dose required in this case, and continued until the inflammation had 'in a great measure subsided.

In those acute affections where we seem to have an exalted action of the heart, which was called sthenic by Brown, we really have, according to the above deductions, a condition of weakness; the system is below par, and the symptoms are from irritation of some part or the whole of the nervous system.

If I give a patient, whose tolerance of the remedy has been tested, thirty drops of specific gelsemium at bedtime, it will break up a cold by morning, and there will be no after-effects, only a feeling of well-being. How are we to account for this action of the remedy? The conclusion is that as it breaks up a cold in the incipient stage, so it breaks up an attack of acute inflammatory fever caused by cold. This action of the remedy was discovered by accident. I was pure empiricism. The nearest we can come to a scientific explanation is Tully's adenagic action, which is as clearly defined as that of emetics or cathartics.

Unless we know that the patient will tolerate the large dose given at once, we must begin with one drop, and, increasing the dose by drops, repeat it every ten minutes till the pain begins to yield, or as we observe some toxic effect.

I think gelsemium is as safe as opium or any of the narcotics, and I think this is demonstrated by experiment on healthy persons. In cases of accidental poisoning, morphine is an effectual antidote.

Dr. T. C. Miller (*Journal of Materia Medica*, October, 1868, p. 305), in his report of experiments on healthy persons to determine the action of gelsemium, found that notes of warning were sounded long before a fatal dose had been reached, and that these untoward symptoms were quickly removed by stimulants. I note some of these symptoms: "Persons experimented on could not move until ether was given." "In the case of one young man who was not very stout, but never had been sick, thirty drops four times a day caused a feeling of coldness and chilliness; larger ones, heat without chilliness, which was followed next day by perfect coldness, debility and relaxation. He would not take anything to relieve. The next day he felt greatly relieved." "A quantity of gelsemium to cause dilatation and immovableness of the pupil, also caused objects to appear as if seen through a mist or gauze, and darkness increases with each dose. All this soon passes off."

CORRESPONDENCE.

Dr. George Merrill, Cincinnati, O., writes, January 20, 1910:

"We are very much interested in the work of your Materia Medica Association. As we tried to express our thought in our letter of September 21, there is a 'therapeutic renaissance' apparent in all sections of the country and among all shades of medical belief and practice and the work that your association is doing is not limited in its influence to the Eclectic practice, but goes into and affects physicians of all schools.

"We are much interested in an article which appeared last month in one of our leading journals of the dominant school' (Regular), referring to crataegus oxyacantha as a remedy in affections of the heart, for it reminded us of the strenuous opposition which met us ten years ago when the writer made an effort to exploit a normal tincture of crataegus.

"The writer had made a trip to England and the Continent, and while on a visit to King's College, Cambridge, met several prominent physicians who had the crataegus under discussion. There is no doubt a vast difference between the preparation made from the English hawthorn berries, gathered fresh and made into tinctures in their prime, and the American experiments made by a number of our medical friends, which were more favorable; and now, after ten years or more, we have this tardy acknowledgment of the value from those who a decade ago would have looked upon its administration as a heresy. 'The world do move,' and it certainly is a source of gratification for those physicians, whatever their prejudices and education may be, who are broad-gauge enough to examine all things and 'hold fast that which is good.' "

Dr. E. Jentsch, Chicago, Ill., writes, February 12, 1910, of Eclectic affairs hereabouts and in general:

"I hope, for the sake of the Eclectic fraternity in general, that the ineffectual whimpering protests from our direction will ere long be converted into telling and vigorous aggression, which, judging from our present comparative insignificance, is the only way we will ever come into our own. It seems to me that the prevailing spirit of delicacy is much akin to fear and subserviency, which has and will continue to induce many Eclectics to sell their birthright for a mess of pottage."

[The name ECLECTIC ought to be made conspicuous in the titles of all our publications and in the names of our colleges. Our school is, and always has been, a protest against the tyranny of a medical trust. The Regular who claims to occupy the same ground is like the soldier who from a place of safety views his comrade fighting the battle of freedom.

I read an article not long ago, in a Regular medical journal, in which the author, with apparent pleasure, recounted how the Homeopaths who had joined his (Regular) medical society were made objects of ridicule by the Regular members and by the author in the article. I can only enter my protest, but I believe that if my Eclectic brother who contemplates joining a Regular medical society would read the address on "Medical Education" (also, incidentally, on the

"Rights of Man") by Prof. John King and Prof. J. R. Buchanan, *he would not join.*-
SECRETARY.]

R. B. Taylor, Columbus, O., writes, February 19, 1910:

"Referring again to the treatment of appendicitis, I notice your remarks regarding a case in practice which recovered without an operation.

"I recently had a case of a woman forty-three years old, who refused surgical interference of any kind, and who I thought would certainly die. She recovered without the use of any of the remedies or means which you have suggested, owing her recovery to her inordinate obstinacy and a kind Providence.

"Regarding the death-rate following operations for appendicitis, of which you also speak as being unduly large, it is only fair to the Surgeon and the wide awake physician to qualify *your* statement by acknowledging the surgeon's claim that the death-rate in early operations is but 1 per cent., while the death-rate in unoperated cases and in cases which are not operated on until the patients are moribund, is very great.

"The only fatal cases of appendicitis in my practice have been those in which there was an abundance of pus, and the operation was deferred until the alarming condition of the patient forced the family to authorize the operation.

"I do not advise an operation in all cases, but I believe that the indications for an operation here, as in other surgical diseases, is as marked and clear-cut as it is for gelsemium, caulophyllum, or any other remedy which we prescribe according to indications."

[When the case of appendicitis occurred to which reference was made in a former report, I did not know that a microscopic examination of the blood would show the presence of concealed pus, or that electricity would make it in a measure innocuous; but, at any rate, the surgeon's record of appendicitis after operation appears to me much like the practice of Dr. Sangrado, who finished his patient by the third visit.-SECRETARY.]

FRAXINUS AMERICANA. By Eli G. Jones, M.D., Burlington, N. J. This species of ash is one of the most valuable remedies in any materia medica. It is scarcely noticed by Eclectic writers. I have used it for many years, and when indicated can be depended on to cure.

In most cases of displacement of the uterus we find the organ heavy from enlargement consequent upon an inflammatory condition. It is folly to use any mechanical support in such cases. The thing to do is to reduce the size of the uterus. This can be done with the tincture of fraxinus Americana, ten drops three times a day.

In many cases diagnosed as fibroid tumor of the uterus, there is really an enlargement of the body of that organ. Here we have a remedy that can be depended on to reduce the enlargement. I have had cases to treat that had been cauterized and yet the uterus kept on growing larger.

The fraxinus has a special affinity for the uterus, and I have been very much surprised that our Eclectic physicians have not found out the value of this remedy ere this.

Many women are sent away for operation that the general practitioner ought to cure himself. I have had many cases of fibroid tumors of the uterus where the tumor has been absorbed under the influence of this remedy. When an attempt is made by a surgical operation to remove a fibroid tumor, if the woman does not die on the operating-table, the tumor invariably returns. I want my professional friends to get acquainted with this remedy. It has made many dollars for me, and some very fine cures.

MANDRAKE, VERATRUM, ACONITE. By Alexander Wilder, M.D., Newark, N. J. (*Materia Medica Reports*, January, 1905.) In relation to medicines, I have had a matter or two of personal experience that made me think.

While teaching school a pupil had one of those ugly erysipelatous lumps on her cheek. I learned that she had intermittent fever, and that since that she had recurrences of the ague, and also those erysipelatous occurrences. I gave her a teaspoonful of mandrake root. She got over the attack and it never returned. I have used podophyllin, but I believe the mandrake more beneficial and salutary.

I have had pneumonia four times, and the disorder was treated differently every time. The first time I "ministered to myself." The next two times I was dosed with tincture of veratrum. The confinement to bed was less than a week, but the depression of energy in convalescence was a period of months. I had the complaint again in 1885. I think aconite was administered, but I never inquired. I was not partial to its use, but I thought the doctor, having been a Botanic, would not use it, but from the effort to make me take rum, I judge that such was the case.

At the time of the Congress, in 1893, I had "grippe." It was a hard week for me. The summer was spent at home editing the Transactions, but when the winter came pneumonia came with it. I had a severe time. I think aconite was then used. I remember the hallucinations as if they had been actual occurrences. When the crisis came all seemed like a general change of objects around. I had seemed to see two wooden pillars at the foot of the bed. As I contemplated them they suddenly sank down as though they became non-existent. There was no noise in the apparent falling, and I was curious to know and asked the attendant what had actually occurred. The reply was nothing; but immediately a dose of aconite was administered. This was obviously what should not have been done. Just then the lady of the house, herself a physician, but sick abed at the time, urged by a mysterious prompting, arose and came into the room. She felt my pulse, and then asked would I take some brandy. She told me afterwards that my pulse had sunk to fifteen a minute.

You can judge from such experiences that I have a terror of these drugs. They hardly belong to the Eclectic category, but are rather acquisitions of the hybridism that has been grafted upon us.

PODOPHYLLUM. By N. M. Dewees, M.D., Cambridge, O. (*Eclectic Review. American Medical Journal*, December, 1909.) Abstracted.

Elixir of Podophyllum.-The root is gathered in August, washed and run through a meat cutter. It is spread on clean paper in a dark, cool, dry place till it is dry; then packed in a jar and covered with alcohol 80 per cent., water 20 per cent. Let stand four weeks, then pour off. Of this tincture twenty ounces are used to the gallon of elixir. Dose, a teaspoonful.

After many trials, podophyllum prepared in this way proved most satisfactory.

Case I.-Mrs. D., aged fifty-two, stoutly built, complained of spells of sick headache, recurring every two or three weeks. During these seizures quantities of gall were vomited. After quieting the stomach a teaspoonful of the elixir of podophyllum was prescribed at bedtime each night, until the bowels acted well, then every other night for a while, and finally once or twice a week as needed. There was no recurrence of the seizures for a year. She was then supplied with more medicine, to be taken as above, and had no more spells of that kind for more than two years, when she ran out of the medicine, and as I had moved away another physician was called. As she continued to grow worse she was taken to a hospital. An operation for gall-stones was begun, but she died on the table.

Case II.-Mrs. M., aged forty-six, a case parallel to the above described. The patient had had attacks of bilious vomiting every few weeks for fifteen years, but was not constipated. One-half teaspoonful of the elixir was prescribed three times a week; after a while once a week. As long as she uses the medicine she has no trouble.

Case III.-A lady, eighty-five years old, while convalescing from an attack of grippe, told me she had been troubled with burning of the feet for years to such an extent that at night she was forced to put them from under the cover in order to sleep. The elixir was prescribed in the usual teaspoonful doses at night. After the bowels had moved she was to take it once or twice a week as needed. Relief was prompt, and the trouble has not recurred.

Case IV.-Mrs. A, aged sixty-five, complained of burning of the feet at night. She was given the same treatment with the same happy results.

Case V.-Mrs. H., aged forty-eight, complained of pain in the feet towards evening. She said that they gave out and pained when she had to be on them at her work during the day. She was given the elixir as above directed, and prompt relief followed.

Case VI.-Mr. H., aged fifty-six, complained of pain in the feet, ankles and shin, and sometimes in the right knee. He had to quit work, and had been treated by many physicians without obtaining any relief. The elixir was prescribed as usual with prompt and permanent relief.

Case VII.-Child, two years old, had a severe attack of dysentery. Other treatment failing the elixir was prescribed in ten-drop doses every four hours. The next day there was no change and the dose was increased to twenty drops every four hours. This soon brought the desired change.

Case VIII.-Charles C., aged twenty-four, mill worker, had been sick about a week. He complained of nausea and vomiting, severe pains in the knees, ankles and feet; no swelling; some fever; marked yellowness of the skin, but no structural disease of the liver. I prescribed the elixir, a teaspoonful three times a day. The next day there was no nausea, and the patient was free from pain. The medicine was continued as before, the bowels not having acted yet. On my next visit, the third morning, I found him at the table eating his breakfast. The bowels had moved twice. His skin was very much lighter in color, and he was improved in every way. He was directed to omit the medicine for two days, then to take a teaspoonful every night for a week. In a week he was able to go to work again. Eighteen months have passed and he remains well.

In convalescence from eruptive diseases of children, where recovery is delayed, and the patient, if an infant, will not nurse or take food; abdomen full, upper lip swollen and its mucous lining like a blister, the elixir of podophyllum, ten to thirty drops every four to six hours, gives relief.

In the nausea of pregnancy, where the patient vomits bile, give the elixir, a teaspoonful, at bedtime.

LEPTANDRA VIRGINICA. By S. A. Hardy, M.D., New York City.

My experience with leptandra has been largely as a cathartic, and 111 cases of sluggish liver. In some cases of scant urine, leptandra, given for its action on the liver, while at the same time a diuretic was given, seemed to have a much stronger action than when giving diuretics alone. I have never thought of leptandra as a remedy, increasing the action of the kidneys, but when I have an opportunity will try it alone in such connection. I have always found its action on the kidneys more lasting than podophyllum, and have found it effective when podophyllum seemed of no particular benefit.

THE GERM THEORY IN PRACTICE. By the Editor. Notwithstanding statements to the contrary, I do not believe that Eclectics are governed in any great degree by the germ theory of disease in practice. I have hardly found it an aid in treatment worth mentioning. Lister began his reform in surgery by directing that a spray of carbolic acid be thrown upon the operator, and over the field of operation, so as to destroy the germs that were likely to enter the wound. Diseases were also treated from this standpoint to some extent, as this was thought to be the way to cure. It seemed plausible enough, but it was abandoned after it was found that the germicide occasionally killed the patient. Now the field of the operation, the operator, instruments, etc., are made aseptic; the use of a germicide, whether it be heat, soap and water, alcohol, ether, etc., is not in defiance of germs, but that germs floating in the air do no particular harm, and only concentrations of bacterial poisons are dangerous. This is, indeed, the truth of the matter in medical practice. The germs floating about in the air are not so dangerous but that the nurse and the attending physician will escape infection. I would not allow the mother to kiss her child dead from malignant diphtheria, but a homeopathic attenuation of the poison that causes the disease, such as we have in the well-ventilated sickroom or the street I regard as harmless. Were it not so, the plagues of Egypt would be mild compared with the suffering and death which one case of malignant disease would cause. We must take into account the exaggeration every reformer gives to his theory. The smallpox patient walking the street is to the vaccination enthusiast a source of danger that is criminal on the part of the doctor or the authorities who allow it, but, as a matter of fact, the poison of the disease is so diluted as to be practically innocuous. I grant that "cleanliness is next to godliness," and attention to this dilutes the poison of disease so as to make it practically harmless. When we know what caused the first case of smallpox, or can explain why cases of typhoid fever occur in localities remote from each other, we will be able to explain the cause of epidemics, and know why diseases spread in a community. The drinking water must be heavily charged with poison of typhoid fever in order to convey the disease.

We administer a remedy not to disinfect the system directly, but to change an abnormal condition to a normal one, and so enable the body to disinfect itself. We occasionally hear of a doctor giving cathartics in typhoid fever to clean out the bowels, and prevent the system from being poisoned from that source. While the fact remains that thousands of patients are treated without disinfectants or cathartics and that successfully. We dread a diarrhea in low states of disease because it means that the system is not able longer to disinfect itself.

The same principle holds good in puerperal fever; if the system fails to disinfect itself our douches are in vain. In pneumonia we do not aim to bring microbes to the surface and kill them, but we seek to enable the system to disinfect itself.

I have been forced to abandon the doctrine of Beach that disease is caused by a *materies morbi* that can be washed away, and accept a radically different theory on account of the curative action of the small dose, even the homeopathic attenuation of the remedy. One can abort disease if taken early, but I cannot conceive that thirty drops of gelsemium breaks up a catarrhal fever in a few hours by killing germs.

The germ theory of disease, therefore, in my opinion, is of little value as an Eclectic asset.

POLYMNIA UVEDALIA IN AGUE-CAKE. By O. B. Church, M.D., Cincinnati, O. (*Eclectic Medical Journal*, May, 1910, pp. 235-236.) Abstracted.

Mrs. P., an intelligent woman of middle age, had been ill for more than two years. The symptoms were: Pains in the abdomen and limbs, disturbances of digestion, constipation, flatulence, drowsiness, inability to work or stand for more than a few minutes at a time. An examination was made to determine the diagnosis, beginning with the pelvic region and extending so as to include the region of the appendix, gall-bladder, liver, stomach and chest, with negative results. A huge, hard tumor was, however, easily palpable in the left abdomen, and decided to be due to an enlarged spleen. Immediately the long established reputation of polymnia uvedalia, built up empirically, determined the treatment. To make sure of getting the real thing, and of dependable quality, I applied to Lloyd Bros. for ℞ Polymnia uvedalia, s. m. ℥iv. Sig. gttss. x, every three hours; ℞ Uvedalia ointment, ℥ij. Sig. Apply to tumor night and morning. Positive assurance of benefit and ultimate cure was given and prescriptions for renewal of remedies as needed.

Some three months later Mrs. P. reported that she was feeling very much better, and that she was able to work, could take long walks and was less inclined to sleep. I examined this patient some months later and found her condition most favorable; percussion showed the dullness, the absolute flatness replaced by normal resonance. The spleen could be barely palpated under costal arch.

LOBELIA IN ANGINA PECTORIS. By John Fearn, M.D., Oakland, Cal (*Eclectic Medical Journal*, May, 1910, p. 271.)

In this disease it is clearly relaxation that is needed as it is spasmodic-an excruciating spasm. I believe we have no remedy that will relax better than lobelia. My first case of this disease occurred in Ohio about thirty-four years ago. It was a typical case and the pain terrific. I at once gave her a teaspoonful of specific medicine lobelia. The relief was quick and complete, and there was no nausea. It did so much good in this case that I have since relied upon it. But if I were treating a case to-day I would certainly give a hypodermic injection of Lloyd's latest creation, fluid lobelia without alcohol or oil. This does the work quickly and safely. When the spasm is over, of course, you can use remedies to relieve cardiac irritation and weakness.

NATURE IN THE CURE OF DISEASE. By Percy Lee Templeton, M.D., Montpelier, Vt. (*Materia Medica Reports*, January, 1905.)

I very fully realize the limits within which my ability lies. My enthusiasm in medicine is not so great as my wonder at the enormous vitality of my patients and the surprising improvement that occurs if the system is not over drugged, the secretions kept as near normal as possible, while plenty of suitable liquids are imbibed. My practice grows simpler year by year. It seems as if my success among my patients is remarkable, and surely I keep on the safe side in medication. I have little faith in specifics, rarely relying on one drug at anyone time, therefore, my knowledge of one-drug treatment is lacking.

CORRESPONDENCE.

G. W. Holmes, M.D., Sharpes, Fla., writes, December 29, 1909:

"I like Dr. Herring's view as to the action of macrotys. I think that the cases he presents, treated with the drug, illustrate nicely its therapeutic action. It is a remedy for diseases of the reproductive organs in both sexes; and this is true of the entire class of these agents.

"Dr. E. M. Hale's opinion that macrotys acts on the cerebro-spinal nerves agrees with my own. I regard it as our best remedy in chorea; but have not employed it in delirium tremens.

"Last evening I had an opportunity to assist a young friend who had failed to get 'any kind of a catheter past a strictured urethra. I heated my catheter in a pitcher of hot water, and while hot filled it with sweet oil; then, holding my finger on the open end to retain the oil till it reached the stricture, introduced the instrument. By holding the catheter well up against the upper surface of the urethra the obstruction was easily overcome. The hot oil greatly facilitates the passage of the instrument as it escapes into the urethra. In this case the catheter passed into the bladder so readily as to astonish the doctor. The oil has also a soothing effect on the prostatic portion of the urethra."

R. B. Taylor, M.D., Columbus, O., writes, March 15, 1910:

"I am not able to write from personal experience concerning *asclepias tuberosa*, as I have used it very little, but among my mother's people, who were Thomsonians, it was accounted a remedy possessing great virtue, but I am not versed in their application of it.

"I notice your remarks anent Homeopathy and want to say that I think that there is much that is good in all schools. I have been able to learn from all sources medical since I have been practicing, and have all schools to thank for what little medical knowledge I have.

"*Gelsemium* has been a wonder with me since I began the practice of medicine. I use it almost to the exclusion of other so-called sedatives. *Aconite* I seldom use. In children with high fever and a tendency to convulsions, an initial dose of *gelsemium*, grs. v or x, according to age, followed by half-drop doses half-hourly, will soon quiet and soothe the little one."

Dr. Taylor writes (March 2) interestingly in answer to the question: "Why am I an Eclectic?"

"Dr. B. C. Stimson was my mother's brother and one of the pioneers of reformed medicine in this country. Incidentally, I might say that my mother's father and mother both practiced the Thomsonian system of medicine, and gave to the world five sons, who have practiced reformed medicine, all of them with signal success. This might be given as my reason for being an Eclectic.

"Dr. A. J. Crance, of Pasadena, Cal., seems to feel that Eclectics should be offering something new in the drug line or medical line. I firmly believe that we have not as yet learned all that is possible concerning the remedies which we already have. Had Eclecticism nothing to boast of except the development of the old remedies which have been neglected by other schools, she would have plenty to justify her existence as a school. Contrast their (Regular) knowledge of laboratory products with their ignorance of our *materia medica*. I have never met one of them who knew even the name of the remedy *apocynum*, which we give with *good* results. They stare at me with openmouthed wonder or smile in contempt when I speak of using *bryonia* in pneumonia, and would fall stark dead should I suggest *kali mur.* 3x in this disease. What have they to offer in capillary bronchitis? Simply this—most certain death. When treating this disease along their lines I lost them all, but since I chanced on Dr. Webster's treatment with tartar emetic gr. 1-8 to water ℥jv, a teaspoonful every two hours, to be alternated with *kali mur.* 3 x, gr. x; water ℥jv, a teaspoonful every two hours, I have cured them; and I am willing to use the word cured too.

"If a man is addicted to surgery he has no right to pose as a prescriber; at least I never saw one who knew anything worth mentioning about *materia medica*, and the reverse holds.

"I have never known a physician well schooled in *materia medica* who was not a successful practitioner."

Eli G. Jones, M.D., Burlington, N. J., writes, March 2, 1900:

"The study of the vegetable materia medica has always had a special fascination for me, and I have made it a special study for over forty years. Specific medication tells us only a very small part of what a remedy will do. I find that I do best to test the remedies myself, and from testing them in many cases I found a materia medica of my own, filled with remedies that do have a decided remedial action upon certain diseased conditions. A re-study of Eclectic materia medica is needed, and if I can be of any service I will be glad to contribute my mite."

W. H. Haifley, M.D., Amboy, Ind., writes, May 12, 1910:

"As to the size of the dose of macrotys, it is undoubtedly of importance. According to my experience, more than one drop of the specific medicine at intervals of three hours will produce violent headache in many patients."

GELSEMIUM. By W. E. Bloyer, M.D., Cincinnati, O. (*Eclectic Medical Gleaner*, Vol. XII. *Materia Medica Reports*, March, 1910.) Abstracted.

Gelsemium is *the* remedy in cases of fever when nervous symptoms predominate. The patient is restless, sleepless. There is irritation of the nervous system, as evidenced by the flushed face, bright eyes, contracted pupils.

If these symptoms prevail for some time, say two or three days, your patient is *ill extremis*. He is then in a condition in which opiates are decidedly dangerous and from which but few remedies will extricate him. He is on the verge of delirium. His weary eyes will not close in sleep. He soon begins to pick at the clothing. For what? For angel's feathers, sure!

Gelsemium will prevent his reaching this dangerous state if given properly and sufficiently early. Aconite and veratrum will not do it so readily and so kindly. Specific hyoscyamus will frequently serve us well as an adjuvant remedy. You have all seen these cases. Hygienic measures greatly assist, but they are insufficient to subdue. Only gelsemium in large doses will let him down properly.

LEPTANDRA VIRGINICA. By Eli G. Jones, M.D., Burlington, N. J.

"How dear to my heart are the scenes of my childhood,
When fond recollections present them to view;
The mustard and catnip, the black root and mandrake,
And all the old herbs that my grandmother knew."

When I began the practice of medicine, forty years ago, people wanted to be dosed; they paid good money for medicine and they wanted their money's worth. Liver troubles, biliousness, with yellow tongue and stinking breath called for podophyllum and its sidepartner, leptandrin.

I used to employ a powder in those days that the unwashed and unterrified called "scrapers." It was composed of podophyllin one grain, leptandrin two grains, capsicum one-fourth grain. One of these powders was given every three hours, associated with half a teaspoonful of cream of tartar in a little water. This cathartic generally operated from six to twelve times, when it was discontinued. I used to tell my patients that these powders were like affliction, that for the time was grievous to be borne, but that the end was joyous. I also impressed upon their minds that there were two things in this world that must never be interfered with; one was the spread of the gospel, and the other was the operation of a physic. The old improved cathartic pill was always a favorite of mine. In these latter days I have cutout so much physic, as I do not believe in the "clean out and clean up" theory.

In cases where there is constipation, flatulence and indigestion, caused by lack of bile, with lack of energy. and the patient is gloomy and melancholy, leptandrin is effective and harmless. In the lazy livers of city folks who lead a sedentary life, leptandrin gr. ij, night and morning, is effective. I have given six grains of leptandrin in these cases night and morning with good results.

Many of our soldiers returned from the civil war with camp diarrhea, which is a hard disease to cure. The symptoms are much like cholera morbus. For this condition I combined leptandrin, two grains, with gelsemin, one-sixteenth grain and gave powder four times a day. In chronic dysentery leptandrin is the remedy where it is complicated with chronic enteritis, shreds of membrane passing from the bowels. I add five drops of the tincture of leptandra to four ounces of water, and of this direct a tablespoonful to be taken every two hours. Leptandra is indicated where the stools are black, tarry and bilious, and contain undigested food.

In general, the symptoms indicating leptandra are: Dull, aching pain in the whole of the liver, worse near the gall-bladder; frontal headache; burning distress in the epigastric and hypogastric regions.

It should be remembered that leptandra does not debilitate like some kinds of physic; on the contrary, it is decidedly tonic in its action, giving tone and vigor to the entire secretory system.

APOCYNUM CANNABINUM. By W. F. Currier, M.D., Indianapolis, Ind. (Transactions National Eclectic Medical Association, 1900, p. 321.)

Apocynum is a remedy of great value. It is indicated in the atonic conditions of the system, where the arterial walls are loose, sieve-like, open; where the absorbent vessels are inactive, the feet and ankles edematous; eyelids puffy; cellular tissue filled with liquid everywhere; anasarca; the whole system is water-logged; the heart lazy, digestion impaired, kidneys and bowels unable to unload the constantly increasing leakage.

Apocynum is a remedy for dropsy, whether of body or brain. The author of this article desires to report a case which may be of interest to all:

Master Willie B., eighteen months of age, was attacked with a severe type of cerebral congestion, followed by marked effusion, and was given up to die by two physicians. We were called and found the following symptoms: A slow, dragging pulse, dilated pupils, cold extremities, temperature 97°, drowsy, pale, apathetic, bowels and kidneys sluggish; everything looked discouraging. Prescribed as follows: R s. m. belladonna gtt. ij, water 3iv. M. Sig. One teaspoonful every hour. Also s.m. apocynum, one drop every four hours. After these remedies had been given for two days the kidneys gradually became more active, the child more restless, and manifested some desire for nourishment. The treatment was continued without change until the symptoms passed away, when these remedies were suspended and others given instead. The boy made an uneventful recovery, much to the delight of the parents and surprise of the friends.

LEPTANDRA VIRGINICA. By W. Leming, M.D., Tucumcari, N. M. The case calling for leptandra presents a complete picture of intestinal and glandular torpor, with consequent systemic toxemia of a chronic or subacute character. There is the coated tongue, loss of appetite, headache, malaise, fullness of tissue, pains and aches of the body, with disordered bowel action, and generally an increased secretion of mucus indicating catarrhal relaxation.

Leptandra is not a drug to be employed as a cathartic, but as a tonic to the intestinal tract, the glandular and venous systems. It has been supposed to exert an influence on malarial infections through its power over the glandular system and the portal circulation, and probably this is the only way that the disease is affected by it, since such a state generally accompanies here. The remedy is reserved for use in the interim of the attacks.

The specific indications for leptandra may be summed up as follows: Glandular congestions; fullness of tissue; atonicity accompanied by systemic poisoning or malarial infection. Dose of specific medicine leptandra five drops and of leptandrin one-fourth grain.

ASCLEPIAS TUBEROSA AND LEPTANDRA AS DIRECT REMEDIES. By the Editor.

The transition in practice from the theory that disease could be washed away by diaphoretics, cathartics, etc., has caused the retiring of remedies of value which were formerly in compounds. Asclepias not being an active diaphoretic was combined with other diaphoretics; and in like manner leptandra was combined with more active cathartics. For this reason we lack knowledge of those drugs as direct remedies.

It ought to have suggested itself that if a remedy classed as a diaphoretic cured in certain cases and failed in others, it was a specific for a definite pathological condition; and in like manner a remedy employed as a cathartic, when it failed to effect a cure except in isolated cases, cured in some other way; but truth is at the bottom of a well and it takes a long time to find it.

As to asclepias tuberosa, viewed as a specific for a pathological condition rather than as a diaphoretic, I recall two cases. I was called to treat a lady sick with acute pleurisy, and I prescribed, as I believed, specifics for pathological conditions, but there was no improvement, and the case demanded relief. I recalled pleurisy root, and gave her the concentration of Keith. The improvement was prompt and striking, demonstrating its specific action, so far as one case could do this. On another occasion I was called to treat the father of a poor family, consisting of a wife and six children. The symptoms were characteristic of acute pleurisy. The bread-winner was out of commission and there was no money to pay for drugs or nurse. If there was a balm in Gilead it was urgently needed here. I thought of asclepias tuberosa. In order to be certain that the patient received the medicine, I had one of the elder children go with me to a drug store in the neighborhood where I bought the remedy (Hanse Brothers and White's fluid extract), and directed half a teaspoonful in water to be given every hour. The next day the symptoms of pleurisy had practically disappeared and he recovered rapidly. The season was winter and the temperature near zero.

Of leptandra I may speak in like manner. It was employed as a cathartic combined with other cathartics, and as a cholagogue acted on the liver and was supposed to carry off vitiated bile and other baleful matter, and, as a consequence, its specific action was overlooked. It was, however, found to be of value in dysentery, cholera infantum and typhoid fever, most likely suggested by the loose bowe lmovements in these diseases. I do not find, in our day, any considerable number of our physicians giving it as a specific in bowel disorders. It has also proved a valuable remedy in lithemia and diseases incident to the uric acid diathesis, which have been attributed to a disordered liver. As much doubt has been expressed in recent years in regard to the uric acid doctrine of disease, we must look further for an explanation of its action in these cases. I have suggested that its influence is exerted on the kidney sas well as on the liver.

SANGUINARIA IN PSEUDO-MEMBRANOUS CROUP. By Edward C. Rothrock, M.D., Mountain Home, Ark. (*Medical Brief*, November, 1880, p. 469.) Abstracted.

There is probably no disease known to the profession that has proved more generally fatal than the pseudo-membranous form of croup. In this disease the nitrate of sanguinaria has a specific effect, and without exaggeration has given me more satisfaction than any other remedy hitherto used. The dose is from a half to two grains in an ounce of water or syrup, a half to one teaspoonful everyone, two or three hours, as indicated. If this quantity should produce considerable nausea after vomiting, the dose should be reduced. I am fully convinced that, so far from exerting any beneficial influence, the repeated operation of emetics hasten the fatal result. The effort of vomiting cannot dislodge the pseudo membranous formation unless previous influences have partially separated its attachments, in whichcase the cough superinduced by vomiting may in some cases have this effect. If a cathartic is indicated podophyllin one-sixth grain, leptandrin one-half grain, may be given, but, as with emetics, cathartics are apt to be depressing. Sanguinaria is a remedy for all throat affections. The indications are distinct; a sense of constriction, difficult deglutition in bronchitis, pneumonia, either acute or chronic, with cough or aphonia following measles.

In all cases aconite and gelsemium may be given for the fever, with hot mustard baths to the feet; and if there is any malarial influence, quinine. To correct the plasticity of the blood use this: ℞ Tr. fer. chlor. ℥j chlor. potass. ℥ss, sod. sulph. ʒij, syr. ℥j. M1. Sig. Thirty drops every four hours in water.

GELSEMIUM IN SEASICKNESS. By Henry Reny, M.D., Biddeford, Me. (*Materia Medica Reports*, April, 1905.) I will report a special case in which gelsemium proved its good effects in the prevention of seasickness.

Mrs. U. J. L., a niece of mine, had been subject to severe attacks of nausea and vomiting on going from here to Portland, Me., by steamer, which is only sixteen miles distant. Her husband had been appointed U. S. Consul to Prague, Austria, and asked me to prescribe a prophylactic for seasickness, as he thought his wife could not stand the voyage with two daughters, three and six years old. I prescribed gelsemium ʒj, water ℥iv; a teaspoonful every fifteen to thirty minutes when needed, the children to take the solution in fifteen-drop doses. The mother and younger daughter had severe nausea on the first night after leaving New York, but controlled it with a few doses of the prescription, and the four-ounce mixture was not half used up during the entire voyage. I gave them a supply of the specific medicine to dilute as needed, but they are keeping it for future use.

Fucus VESICULOSIS IN GOITER. By R. N. Foster, M.D., Chicago, Ill. (*Medical Brief. Medical Dial*, January, 1900, p. 32.) Abstracted. The only remedy known to me that will cure goiter is fucus vesiculosus. In a series of twenty-seven cases, under thirty years of age, all were cured.

CORRESPONDENCE.

R. B. Taylor, M.D., writes, March 2, 1910:

"In the last twenty-five to forty years the certainty of our prescribing has become more marked. I am glad to be in communication with some of the older men, because of their wonderful knowledge of botany and the indigenous remedies."

J. E. G. Waddington, M.D., Detroit, Mich., writes, March 23, 1910:

"As to cimicifuga for suppressed menstruation, amenorrhea, etc., I cannot say that I have seen any good results from it. I have given it in small doses, and in five-drop doses every three or four hours, without exciting headache and also without exciting the menstrual flow; and it was Lloyd's specific medicine I gave, too. Personally, I do not believe it will act as emmenagogue. I have had several fat patients, aged twenty-one to thirty, weight 175 to 260 pounds, with amenorrhea for two or three months to a year, and got no results from cimicifuga, electricity being the only remedy that brought on the menses.

"Gelsemium certainly will act when indicated, and all depends on the dose. In these excitable wild conditions usually thought of as indications for gelsemium, conditions often found in grippe, it will always act. In eclampsia doses of fifteen minims will always relax if indicated by the exalted condition of the nervous system. Some people very soon show the physiological effect from even small doses, and others are not easily affected even by large doses. Dose to effect is the only proper therapeutic rule.

"Leptandra I have never used." [I note that nearly all our contributors write to this effect. I believe, however, that it is a valuable remedy and its use ought to be revived.

"Of podophyllin, specific medicine, I usually add gttss. xxx to ℥iv water, and give one drachm every hour or two. It will quickly clean a dirty, furred tongue when constipation exists at the same time, as is usually the case. I find it a good aid to sodium hyposulphite, and believe from experience that the two together work more expeditiously than either alone. These remedies are specifically indicated when the tongue is covered with a pasty-white coat inclining to yellow."

J. D. McCann, M.D., Monticello, Ind., writes, March 18, 1910:

"The excellent presentation of the subject of macrotys is indeed interesting. I find the remedy most useful where there is tardy, painful menstruation in girls approaching puberty, in muscular rheumatism and muscular soreness, in la grippe and St. Vitus' dance."

A. J. Crance, M.D., Pasadena, Cal., writes, March 30, 1910:

"Since an invitation is extended to readers of the reports for comments, I wish to remark on the account in the March issue on eclampsia of albuminuria, by Dr. Waddington, of Detroit, Mich., as meeting my approval in the matter of venesection. Every ounce thus removed lessens the toxemia proportionately, and its replacement by normal salt solution intravenously, or otherwise, as per rectum by slow method or by hypodermoclysis, repletes the vessel with a non-toxic fluid of same density as the blood. Elimination through every channel is the slogan in the treatment of eclampsia; by the bowels, active and speedy catharsis with oleum tiglii, combined with oleum ricini; by the skin, hot sheet packs and baths; by the kidneys, water freely to drink and diuretics, of which I am partial to diuretin, and also the slow method of administering salt solution by the rectum as one of the best aids to renal stimulation; veratrum for its vaso-dilating effect and slowing of the circulation; gelsemium, chloral hydrate, the bromides as needful aids to sedate the nervous system, not forgetting chloroform inhalations during the eclamptic seizures. It is notable that eclampsia cases occurring before delivery are, as a rule, less favorable to recovery than those following the birth of the child, being due, as we reason, to the normal loss of blood which ensues during labor, therefore, less intoxication.

"In the correspondence of Dr. Taylor, of Columbus, O., in March report, he frankly admits that medical preparation' of anticipating maternity cases may be 'imagination.' I believe the doctor is right in this surmise. I do not mean to infer that all cases are not in need of advice and treatment, as it not infrequently happens that timely attention may ward off some serious complication, but my idea is that the routine of giving every pregnant woman a favorite remedy under the impression of a 'medical preparation,' and flattering oneself that an easy and safe time will attain at the crucial stage is not warranted by the facts. I cannot conceive how or in what way a physiological process, with every organ functioning properly, is in need in the least of drug medication. We do not in normal cases notice the difference at delivery; besides, the equilibrium of nature may be disturbed."

Eli G. Jones, MD., Burlington, N. J., writes, April 25, 1910:

"I have read the reports for January and March, and especially your remarks with interest. The tone of your writings tells me that we have much in common.

"I would like if our writers on materia medica would tell us what each remedy will do, what conditions each will cure, in clear language. I want to know why I give a remedy and what I may expect it to do. I loved the Eclectic practice of fifty years ago, and would have chosen to build on that foundation. Our study of ole! school medicine and Homeopathy has been of some advantage, but I would observe a limit. I would not go to the extreme of the specific medicine of Homeopathy, or turnover every doubtful case to the surgeon because Regular medicine does so. Diseases were cured in the olden time with remedies from the vegetable materia medica, and I favor that method now. To claim that specifics for pathological conditions is the only true Eclectic practice is claiming too much. I did not like the term 'specific' when It was first applied to our practice, and I do not like it now. I do not want to ape the Homeopath, on the one hand, or the Allopath on the other. I do not believe in a surgical operation for the cure of appendicitis, and my experience warrants me in claiming that it is rarely necessary.

I do not believe that antitoxin is ever necessary in the treatment of diphtheria, or that fever and pain should ever be treated with coal-tar products. I look upon surgery as worse than useless in the treatment of cancer.

"As it is well known that the Regulars introduced medical laws to drive the new school of physicians out of practice, this would warrant us in condemning them, and in counting those among us who favor them as wolves in the fold.

In every way progress in medicine would gain if these laws were swept from the statute books. The Eclectic school had a glorious record before these laws were enacted, and the most illustrious of the Reformers opposed them.

"It is a disgrace to admit that we cannot cure diphtheria without antitoxin. Both the Eclectic and Homeopathic materia medicas are rich in remedies for the cure of the disease. Marcy and Hunt claimed to have treated 200 cases with a death-rate' of only 1 per cent. I can claim a similar experience. In 1866I had diphtheria during the epidemic which swept over New England, and was treated by a Homeopath. He had a large practice and rarely lost a case, while the Regulars who employed nitrate of silver to the throat rarely saved one.

"My conscience will not allow me to endorse medical laws making it a crime to heal the sick; vaccination that does not protect against smallpox; antitoxin that poisons and cripples our children; the operation for appendicitis, the most arrant quackery ever invented, the creation of the Regular school; and that other kind of useless surgery that mutilates, unsexes and degrades our women.

"I believe as the Fathers of Eclectic medicine believed that cancer is a blood disease, and that it can be cured by medicine. I look upon the physicians of the Physiomedical school as men who have done more than all others to develop our vegetable remedies and *point* out their real medicinal properties.

"Dr. Edwin M. Hale was the deepest student and the most conservative writer on materia medica our age has produced. When he tells you that a remedy will do a certain thing you can depend upon his word. He paid the highest compliment to the Eclectic school ever uttered when he said: I have found in Eclectic literature diamonds and precious jewels.

"I will publish a series of articles in the *Journal of Therapeutics and Dietetics*, of Boston, on Definite Medication, in which I will give my experience. It will be a new departure in materia medica, and will show what I believe to be the true way to study therapeutics. These articles will give my experience in the use of remedies in hundreds of cases covering a period of forty years."

G. W. Holmes, M.D., Sharpes, Fla., writes, April 16, 1910: "Dr. McCann 's article on asclepias tuberosa is none too rosy for me. It is a slow remedy in action, not a feeble one, as good Dr. Scudder taught. Because you cannot do any harm with it does not prove that it is not pure gold. No other diaphoretic equals it in my estimation. It relieves pulmonary troubles by establishing normal activity in the skin. Dr. Leming voices my idea.

"Old white root is what Mrs. Holmes fed the babies when they had colic. It is a sheet-anchor where the skin is dry, whatever the disorder may be.

"I think that asclepias cornuti is a much-neglected remedy. Dr. Herman Sampson, of Alexandria, O., esteemed it his great vegetable trocar, much as we do apocynum, and he was no theorist.

"I think with Dr. Taylor, of Columbus, O., and others of his mind, that the doctor ought to do all that a careful, conscientious man can do to relieve the pangs of maternity, from sympathetic sickness to the conclusion of the confinement. Mitchella, blue cohosh and macrotys have long been known. I remember well when listening to the lectures of Prof. L. E. Jones, on these and kindred remedies, how earnest he was in proclaiming them as remedies for sterility and the various ailments peculiar to women.

"Possibly we do not always live up to the line that we have marked out for ourselves, yet the line upon line in these reports leads me to resolve to do better in the future than I ever have done before, ifnot for the money in it, then for poor old humanity's sake. I am called to one dear to me by the ties of consanguinity. I am stirred to make all preparations for the event as well as soothe the present and future ills by preparatory treatment. When the crisis comes I give chloral in the early stage and chloroform in the second stage, hoping thereby to relieve the pains of childbirth somewhat."

LEPTANDRA VIRGINICA.-By A. J. Crance, M.D., Pasadena, Cal.

This drug is an old standby in Eclectic medicine though not used with a deserving frequency. Most of the cathartic compound pills elaborated by Eclectics contain leptandrin as one of their constituents. It seems to have a modifying influence for the better when combined with other agents of similar trend therapeutically; and, to my mind, the incorporating of several drugs that are not incompatible frequently lends efficacy to one another, and are capable of accomplishing when combined what either will not do singly. It is well known that in spasmodic states opium with the cathartic induces better results; likewise the use of hyoscyamus or camphor. Therefore we find in case of leptandrin that in connection with podophyllin the drastic feature of the latter is modified and the virtue of leptandrin enhanced. Individually leptandra, be it used in form of an extract, resin or reliable tincture, such as our specific medicines, has a pronounced influence on the glandular structures of the body in promoting the discharge of secretions, especially of the upper intestinal tract and biliary apparatus. It seems to excite an added flow of bile and to stimulate to action the absorbents in all parts of the body. It therefore assumes a curative role in those cachectic conditions wherein the retention of oxidized products or waste within the body induce a state of auto-intoxication, subjectively evidenced by the languid, depressed and despondent attitude of the patient; and objectively by the sallow, expressionless and indifferent aspect of nature so foreign to the index of health. Leptandra is a remedy for a condition rather than the name of any disease, and the condition for which it is most frequently in demand is incidental to that depending upon a sluggish state of the biliary functions. This is observed in chronic malaria to the most perfect degree. Our antimalarial remedies, of which quinine is the most efficient, are without good results; in fact, harmful by increasing the already congested state of the abdominal viscera unless precaution is taken to induce primarily a free action from the intestinal and biliary tracts. In this condition leptandra best serves the purpose if given at first to full cathartic effect, and subsequently in doses sufficient to get a mild continued action from the bowels daily. In cholecystitis not due to obstruction, but where the bile ducts are catarrhal, either primarily or more often as an extension of the same process from the gastro-duodenal surfaces, we find this agent, in doses of ten to fifteen drops twice daily, to be effective in overcoming the functional trouble. In chronic enteric affections with atonicity and ulceration of the lining mucosa, the secretory glands being inactive, Leptandra not only of itself is curative, but it also paves the way for auxiliary treatment, if given in doses short of purgation once daily for its laxative and stimulant effect. I have found leptandra good in various forms of skin troubles that persist in recurring and partake of the squamous or exfoliative variety as psoriasis; not, however, to the exclusion of local treatment or the assistance of other remedies internally, but as a main factor in enhancing the special virtue leptandra exerts over the secretory functions of the glands, not alone of the skin but the body in its entirety. Speaking generally of this drug, we believe it to be frequently indicated, and serves a better purpose than mercurials or drastic vegetable cholagogues which are so often employed. Its action is mild in legitimate doses, leaving no unpleasant after-effects, and opens the avenues of elimination not characteristic of other drugs intended for similar conditions; besides, the glandular activity which it induces allows of synergistic medication, a possibility of therapeutic action not attained while the absorbents are sluggish and congested. A convenient way to exhibit leptandra is by pill, in form of extract or resin, singly or in combination with nux vomica, hydrastis, or other agents best suited to the case. This latter method I prefer in prescribing for chronic dyspeptics as an after-dinner pill for those given to the habit of overindulgence at the table, and who suffer gastric distress and hepatic torpor.

SOLIDAGO VIRGAUREA.-By Eli G. Jones, M.D., Burlington, N. J.

I have used golden rod in the first decimal dilution and in the tincture for many years in the treatment of fibroid tumors of the uterus and in uterine enlargement where the organ pressed down upon the bladder and caused mechanical obstruction to the flow of the urine.

In these cases I have given ten drops of the first decimal dilution once in three hours and it has never failed to relieve that condition. It is indicated in disease of the kidneys where we have pain upon pressure over the region of the kidneys, dysuria, urine scanty, with a reddish brown, thick sediment, with albumin and triple phosphates, as is often found in Bright's disease. I have found that it will be received more kindly by the stomach if given either in the 1x or 3x dilution instead of the tincture. I have used oil of solidago \mathfrak{J} to alcohol \mathfrak{V} vij to promote expectoration in bronchitis and in bronchial asthma when the attacks are in the daytime in old people. Dose, fifteen drops as often as needed. This essence of solidago mixed with equal parts of spirit, nit. dulc., will relieve suppression of urine and inflammation of the kidneys and bladder when given in teaspoonful doses once in two hours.

MACROTIN.-By M. G. Price, M.D., Mosheim, Tenn. (*Wisconsin Medical Recorder*, April, 1900, p. 101). Abstracted.

It must have been observed by many that most women at the menopause have power to generate an extra amount of heat. They often want less clothing and in winter will leave their windows and doors open when other people are uncomfortably cold; sometimes this heat is not regularly distributed and bursts forth in "flushes." Women describe it as something starting at the epigastrium, spreading over the chest, then over the face, which latter becomes suffused and hot. This is extremely disagreeable to our lady friends and a remedy is warmly welcomed. We have this in macrotin. We are treating a case of change of life at the present time in which the "flushes" and persistent insomnia were marked symptoms. The poor woman told us she hadn't had a night's refreshing sleep in five years. We gave her ten granules of macrotin, one-sixth grain a day, with a result that she slept soundly the second night and continued to do so. Ovarian neuralgia, puerperal mania and convulsions due to menstrual irregularities are cured by this drug. The pains of dysmenorrhea, when caused by congestion, are relieved by it. Pains in the head, back and limbs, quick pulse and nervousness, when due to monthly flow, are remarkably controlled by this drug. But chorea, which arises about the age of puberty, has been the sphere in which macrotin has most signally triumphed. M., aged eight, family history excellent, previous health good, had tonsillitis, recovered from it, and a week later developed chorea with these symptoms: Pain in the vertex, tenderness of the spine and irregular circulation, the involvement of both arms and legs; at times could not walk or feed himself; very anemic. One granule of macrotin was prescribed every two hours; at the expiration of a month he was well. To get its curative effect it must be given in sufficient doses to produce physiological effects. It succeeds in a wonderful manner in acute and chronic rheumatism, swelling of joints, lumbago and myalgia. John S., came to us suffering with lumbago; when laying down he scarcely could arise, but after he had been about some he would experience relief. We gave one-sixth grain of macrotin every two hours and in three days he came into the office reporting himself cured.

As an expectorant it acts well; in fact, its salutary effects upon the mucous membrane of the lungs has had the effect to bring it forward as a cure for consumption. A well-known physician reports that in a case of tuberculosis where he used this remedy very great improvement was manifested. The number of bacilli greatly decreased, the cough diminished wonderfully, the respiratory murmur became free and clearer after only twenty-six days' treatment.

OPIUM AND HOMEOPATHY.-By Alexander Wilder, MD., Newark, N. J. (*Materia Medica Reports*, February, 1905).

I doubt very much what is written about the causes of action of remedies. Most of the learned matter written upon it is mere lumber. I think, however, that Trousseau was right that opium not only relieves the pain of inflammation, but the inflammation likewise. I have proved this in my own person more than once. Doubtless the relieving of irritation is an important factor. The whole system is in commotion while we are suffering pain, and when it is prolonged sufficiently it will kill.

I had an attack of neuralgia in 1847, then again in 1853 and 1856. The first time I wore it out. The next time morphia was administered. It diminished the sharp pain, but did not cure. The facial nerves continued sore, till, for experiment, I went to Dr. H. H. Catar, a Homeopathist, of "the most straightests ect," in that he believed in Homeopathy, as so few of the school seem to. He gave me first sulphur, afterwards kalmia. It did the work thoroughly. I some time afterward had an apparent relapse and took the kalmia in my own behalf with similar results. The last attack I treated myself, swallowing two grains of opium, thirty drops of chloroform, and then breathing enough to produce sleep. Whenever I awoke I drank brandy and water to quench my thirst. I began this at 4: 30 P.M., and arose next morning at 9: 30, with the neuralgia gone. I have told this to others, who responded that I abused myself, but two facts remain to assure me. The fierce, boring pain was abusing me tremendously, and since that forty nine years have passed without any recurrence of neuralgia. I am thus compelled to favor opium, and also to respect a Homeopathist who is a sincere believer in Homeopathy, not professing one thing and practicing another.

POISONING BY GELSEMIUM. Warton Sinkler, M.D. (ECLECTIC MEDICAL JOURNAL, 1876, p. 228.) Abstracted.

A woman, aged forty-nine, took for neuralgia five drops of gelsemium three times a day for two weeks. When seen she lay upon a sofa unable to move at all, extremities cold, pulse small and feeble, respirations sighing and jerky, pupils dilated and eyes suffused, paralysis of the bladder, dribbling of urine, and general muscular enfeeblement, most marked on the right side in the arm and leg. Pot. bromo gr. xv, and morphine sulph. gr. 1-12, every two hours, revived hero. Neuralgia not modified.

THE ART OF PRESCRIBING.-By the Editor. (*Materia Medica Reports*, February, 1905.)

My experience does not warrant me in saying that I cannot prescribe successfully for a disease by name alone; or that I must always prescribe for pathological conditions as indicated by symptoms. According to the case in hand, I have found one way as successful as the other. The Homeopathist may claim that there is a specific for every pathological condition, and I am not able to prove that this is not true, as my failures may be ascribed to my ignorance. If I base my selection of the small dose on the dual action of the drug and select gelsemium for dribbling of urine, as recommended by Dr. Doom, I may refer to a case in a former report of poisoning by the drug, and explain that gelsemium weakens the sphincter muscles of the bladder if too long administered in physiological doses and favors normal nerve action in these cases by acting as a stimulant where we encounter this condition as a disease; but I object to a theory being saddled on me as an "Old Man of the Sea," that I cannot shake off.

In this case of poisoning we see the weakening of the lungs in the "sighing respiration," and of the heart in the "jerky pulse," and we may, with this guide, prescribe the remedy in a small dose as a stimulant of these functions when they appear in the course of disease. If, however, this plan is to prevail with me, it must not fail in any case ordinarily speaking. Whether I prescribe for a pathological condition indicated by symptoms, or for a disease by name, the indication for the remedy must be so plain that the "wayfaring man though a fool" can not mistake it, and the curative effect (in acute cases) must follow so promptly as to leave no doubt of the cure being the effect of the remedy. If we can verify this by many cures we may safely recommend our remedy as a specific for this pathological condition; but I fear we have few such specifics; at any rate, as I have often failed where I have felt most certain, I am obliged to confess that with me the difficulty in finding the *exact* condition of disease, and the *right* remedy to cure it, has been so great that I do not depend on specifics for pathological conditions more than on other methods. As an Eclectic, I must be free to choose. I must know the disease according to the established nosology, as tuberculosis, typhoid fever, measles, etc.

I must know the remedies which have been reported curative of the pathological conditions incident to these diseases; having this knowledge the method by "specifics for pathological conditions" is some help, but is not indispensable to success. In the case of acute otitis reported, I did not prescribe a specific for a pathological condition, as indicated by the symptoms. The most I could claim as to the diagnosis was that I had an inflammation likely to destroy or impair the hearing, and possibly result in an inflammation of the brain. As to the reason for selecting the remedy, gelsemium is reported to be curative of acute inflammation, in the early stage, if given for its adenagic effect, and the dose must be as large as the patient will bear. The patient recovered completely, and it might be pertinent to ask: Would he have recovered had I given him a placebo?

HYDRASTIS IN GOITRE.-By Wm. Cuthbertson, M. D., Chicago, Ill. (*Materia Medica Reports*, July, 1907. *Medical Times*, January, 1903, p. 28.) Abstracted.

Goitre is a non-inflammatory enlargement of the thyroid body, either general or partial. Goitre is divided clinically into (1) vascular; (2) hypertrophic or parenchymatous-(a) simple, (b) miasmatic, (c) exophthalmic; (3) adenomatous cystic; (4) pneumatic; (5) malignant. The goitre of puberty and pregnancy belongs to the vascular and simple hypertrophic types and is our principal subject for consideration. The different forms of treatment for the various tumors of the thyroid gland are about as numerous as the writers on the subject. With the exception of the surgical cases, the treatment of goitre seems to have been purely empirical. In each of the twenty-five cases which came under the care of the author, a cure was effected in from six weeks to three months by the administration of hydrastis canadensis, three times daily, after eating. Some of these cases might have got well without treatment, but no selection of them was made but they were taken as they presented themselves. One of the cases which was cured by this means had been treated with iodine and the iodides and with thyroid extract, becoming much worse under both forms of treatment. Immediately on instituting the hydrastis treatment the patient began to improve and was cured in six weeks. Hydrastis canadensis is a new and successful remedy in the goitre of pregnancy and puberty.

[In my own case I gave the dose large enough to contract the uterine vessels.-ED.]

LEPTANDRIN IN DYSENTERY.-Editorial ECLECTIC MEDICAL JOURNAL, 1849, p. 394.(*Bulletin of the Lloyd Library*, No. 12, p. 25.)

We think the value of leptandrin in dysentery has been thoroughly proved by the experience of the profession in Cincinnati. As a cholagogue remedy of very little purgative power, well calculated to change the morbid diathesis, it is entitled to high rank.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Eli G. Jones, M.D., Burlington, N. J., writes, April 29, 1910, in review of January, 1910, report:

"Cimicifuga is one of our best remedies for rheumatism when the muscles are sore and tender, the belly of the muscle being most affected.

"Veratrum viride is the remedy in purperal convulsions when the patient is full-blooded, plethoric, with cerebral congestion, great vascular excitement, pulse full and strong, with a hardness and tension about it. The latter is the true indication for the use of veratrum in any case.

"Many cases of convulsions at childbirth can be staved off with glonoin. It is indicated when the face is red, pulse full and hard, urine albuminous, rush of blood to the head; it feels heavy and throbs. In these cases give glonoin 6x, gtt. xx in a glass of water, a teaspoonful every fifteen minutes. If the woman complains of this kind of headache, and has this kind of a pulse at confinement, look out for convulsions and go for the condition with glonoin.

. "In chronic Bright's disease I like: Helonin, gr. 1/4 ; chelonin, gr. 1/2 ; iron by hydrogen, gr. j. M.Sig.-Give this powder once in three hours.

"As to mitchella, allow me to say that it is an old standard remedy of the Eclectic school of medicine. Physicians of that school of practice know how to prepare a pregnant woman for her hour of trial, and they don't have to give H. M. C. or any other kind of *dope*. I have used mitchella, ʒij; cimicifuga, ʒij; syr. sarsaparilla q.s. ad ʒviiij. M. Sig.-Give a teaspoonful after each meal and at bedtime. Give this for three months before the expected confinement. It prevents cramps in the legs, convulsions and post-partum hemorrhage. In forty years' practice I have not used forceps or chloroform or any kind of *dope*, and I have not lost a case in confinement. Two of my instructors, professors of obstetrics, practiced thirty years, and they never used forceps in confinement."

[Forty years ago Professor King advised against the forceps, and I believe chloroform was not in vogue either, but latterly I have used both. I count them blessings, but they are not without danger.-ED.]

A. J. Crance, M.D., Pasadena, Cal., writes, May 23, 1910:

"It is but natural that a diversity of opinion should prevail in the use of remedies for various and similar conditions as apparently presented. There are quite a few reasons for this, among which may be mentioned individual susceptibility, quality of the drug, and in those which contain two or more of the alkaloids, such as hyoscyamus. We cannot tell in a specimen of the tincture whether a preponderance of the alkaloid hyoscyamine with its soothing influence is in excess, or the deliriant, hyoscyamine. Thus we have the one remedy in a galenic form, but with an effect wholly different. Again, in prescribing any drug, who can tell what the chemistry of the human laboratory is at the time of its employment? These thoughts come to mind in the correspondence article of Dr. Hamlin, who objects to the use of macrotysin preparations of one or two drachms of the tincture to a four ounce solution given in teaspoonful doses."

G. W. Holmes, MD., Sharpes, Fla., writes, April 30, 1910:

"I note the work the February report represents at your hands. Dr. Baker visited the school at Cincinnati when I was a student there. He was exhibiting an instrument to produce counter-irritation by means of medicated needles. He is full of knowledge of the bedside kind, and your labor will transmit it to posterity and your good name will go with it.

"In this report Dr. Taylor shows the proper attitude towards the surgeon in appendicitis. As soon as pus forms in any locality it must be evacuated. If the case calls for a specialist take the patient to him, yet as far as possible stick to your own case. I think that I prevent the formation of pus in most cases, and in the others take them to the hospital at St. Augustine. I have not lost a case by either route. 'Born lucky' you will say. As to lobelia in such cases I have seen it fully tested. I recall a case in the practice of Dr. Stimson, my preceptor, when he was assisted by Dr. Taylor's grandfather, and other members of the family, doctors of the Botanic or Physiomedical school, where with all their great range of knowledge and experience the lobelia treatment failed. Inflammation of the bowels was the diagnosis. In such a case now an operation would be in order to evacuate the pus, all other remedial agents having failed. To combat inflammation is the idea, and if pus forms evacuate it. That is all there is to it. The old trinity-steam, lobelia and capsicum-have had their day, and did the world a lot of good.

"I was one of those students whose hands earned the money that paid his way through the Eclectic Medical Institute. Dr. Smith is right. Most of us, however, could not have qualified under the present standard, but I believe a doctor should be well educated as regards the healing art."

[There is need of a radical change in the system of medical education. Of what use is Greek or algebra to a doctor? How much of present-day teaching is ever of any practical use to a doctor?' As it is, the student is imposed upon-he asks for bread and receives a stone.

American Eclecticism is from the people. It says that it is better that the small man make a living than that the big man grow rich out of the labors of the small man. It demands that the doctor be able to treat the case in hand with success, to do the best possible. He does not need a classical education to do this. but he does need honest clinical instruction. Open the great hospitals to the student and give him practical training there, and when he is qualified to treat the sick give him a diploma and not before. The examination of the medical graduate at the present time by the State Boards of Health is a farce, and the Allopaths who have foisted this plan upon us know it.-ED.1

E. G. Waddington, A.M., MD., Detroit, Mich., writes, June 6, 1910:

"Lobelia I invariably give in angina. 3j hypodermically of the hypodermic medicine, and then I give small doses *per os* to keep up relaxation. Cimicifuga I give often in two-drop doses, and in chorea in five-drop doses, and rarely, if ever, have I subsequent cephalalgia."

G. W. Billig, M.D., Chicago, Ill., writes, June 5, 1910:

"I have given specific gelsemium in twenty-minim doses hypodermically at half-hour intervals for three doses in puerperal convulsions and puerperal mania with marked advantage, especially in the latter. I always give the contents of the hypodermic syringe deep into the muscular tissue."

G. W. Holmes, M.D., Sharpes, Fla., writes, June 10, 1910:"I am greatly pleased with the reports submitted. They read well and do you much credit.

"I note the claim that specific medication is now sufficiently developed to meet all the varied demands of practice, but I do not hold that view much as I admire the specific method. I am obliged to go back to the older way, by ascertaining the disordered function and restoring it to the normal by increasing elimination, promoting sleep and improving digestion."

LEPTANDRA VIRGINICA. By D. H. Rosenberg, M.D., Mascotte Fla.

In former years I employed leptandra largely in bilious and malarial fevers, but on account of the poor quality of the fluid and soli extracts of the remedy available to me from 1860 to 1875 I discarded it and used instead preparations of podophyllum, which I could prepare myself in the form of tea and tinctures, the remedy growing plentifully in the country where I lived.

Prof. John M. Scudder saved Eclecticism by his giant fight against the manufacture of fraudulent preparations from native plants, an bringing about the production of specific and normal tinctures as reliable remedies.

I prefer to give leptandra in small doses, and increase as the case seems to demand. It is indicated in liver troubles. It may be combined with taraxicum in torpid liver, when the combination will certainly give satisfaction.

The acetate of potassa is also a valuable addition to the treatment in these cases, which generally belong to the uric acid diathesis. I especially urge the importance of the small dose, as there is marked difference in the susceptibility of patients to the action of remedies, and this must be learned before we increase the dose.

THE SINGLE REMEDY. By the Editor. (*Materia Medica Reports*, March, 1905.)

As regards the practice of combining several remedies in one prescription on the pretext that there are as many pathological conditions in the case, I think it is to be deprecated'. It puts an impediment in the way of obtaining an accurate knowledge of the action of the single remedy, which is requisite to the acquisition of a true knowledge of drug action, and the curative power of drugs. As we cannot tell which drug cures in a given case where we have several in one prescription. we are no wiser at the end of a given period of our practice, even after a lifetime of experience than we were at the start. Like the traveler lost in a forest we wander about blindly always coming back to the place from which we started.

GELSEMIUM. By P. F. Bullington, M.D., Chico, Cal. (*Materia Medica Reports*, March, 1905.)

Facial Neuralgia.-On January 2, 1905, H. S. T., aged forty-five, user of tobacco and a drinker, came to me for treatment. He said to me that he had been having very severe pain in the left side of his head and face, and could not sleep at night on account of the severe pain. One physician ordered the teeth on the upper jaw on the affected side extracted, which was done, but the pain continued. He then went to a "tablet" Eclectic, who gave him some anti-pain tablets, which would ease the pain for a time, and at the same time cause heart trouble, which the patient described as "nightmare." After suffering almost three months, he decided to try another doctor and called on me. I prescribed specific gelsemium, 3j, specific rhus tox. gtt. x, chloroform water to make ℥iv. A teaspoonful every two hours. A letter from the patient, January 13, 1905, says that after taking the medicine for a day he had a good night's rest, and had no more pain.

Acute Cerebritis.-In 1895, Harry T., a lad of fourteen, was working in a hayfield loading hay. The field was located in a small valley surrounded by low mountains, and it was a very hot day. While at work he was suddenly taken with a chill, about 11 o'clock A.M., which was followed by fever. About 3 o'clock P.M., I was called, and on examination found the following symptoms: Rapid, small, feeble pulse; face very red; eyes bright, pupils contracted; very severe pain in the head; patient quite restless; temperature 103°. Diagnosis-acute cerebritis. I directed specific gelsemium M. xx, specific aconite Mv, water ℥iv; a teaspoonful every hour, until pain in the head is relieved and temperature lowered, then every two hours. I called again in twenty-four hours and found the patient very much improved. He was able to sit up the following day.

HYPODERMATIC LOBELIA IN DIPHTHERIA. By Ernst Jentsch, M.D., Chicago, Ill. (*National Eclectic Quarterly*, March, 1910, p. 169.)

A year ago I reported success in the treatment of diphtheria with hypodermatic injections of lobelia; and now, after the lapse of another year, I am able to report a like success, and this, too, in the emalignant form of the disease.

The serum treatment is not reliable. This is demonstrated by statistics, especially those of the Chicago Health Department, twenty one deaths out of eighty-nine cases being reported in one week, mostly serum cases.

As an illustration of the serum treatment under the direction of the health department, I cite the following experience. I was called one night to a patient under serum treatment who was dying when I arrived. There were six children in this family and, being poor, thought they needed the care of a physician from the health office.

I told the parents that I would report their condition and a physician from the health department would care for them. There were no diphtheria symptoms in any of the other children. The health officer gave them all antitoxin for preventive purposes. Three more of the children were taken sick with the disease, making four cases. Out of the four, three died. That was the percentage of deaths under serum treatment in that one instance. A like mortality is reported where the serum has been employed. I am not speaking from the standpoint of the physician who has never used the serum antitoxin, and knows nothing about it. I was at one time an enthusiastic advocate of the serum treatment, but I found that it did not give the results promised. I lost ten cases of diphtheria under serum treatment during one winter. In the spring my own son came down with the disease. I gave him antitoxin with a liberal hand still he sank lower and lower, like the others had done, and I knew positively that he was doomed to die under that treatment. I was at my wit's end, when I thought of Scudder's advice to give lobelia as a stimulant in desperate cases. I administered a hypodermic of this remedy and the results were marvelous. In a few minutes the patient went into a deep sleep, and improved from that hour. This was the beginning of my experiments in the treatment of diphtheria with hypodermic injections of lobelia. I did not believe at the time that lobelia would be successful in every case, consequently I continued to use the antitoxin serum in a dozen or fifteen cases, but I soon found that the lobelia treatment was much more reliable than the serum and I came to depend upon it entirely.

In the last year I have treated some thirty-five cases, and of these fully one-half were of the malignant type, and not a single patient died. I employ Lloyd's non-alcoholic lobelia, as it is practically nonirritating and painless. Of this the dose should be sufficient to produce a favorable effect and repeated so as to keep up this effect.

MEDICAL EDUCATION. By Prof. J. U. Lloyd.

I heartily agree with what you say concerning the fallacy of the university idea of what tends to make a qualified practitioner of medicine. Among the best practitioners of medicine that I know are those who qualified for entrance to the medical college by reason of a teacher's certificate, in which profession they had earned money to put themselves into, and then through, a college of medicine. Such men have usually the highest ideals in their hearts, they appreciate life's opportunities, they go out into the world with their eyes open concerning those things which best serve to enhance the practice of medicine, they study their patients and they watch the action of their remedies. They balance things up, and succeed because they *think* for themselves. The university man is, unless very watchful, a fragment of much diversified, largely theoretical training, concerning outside lines that too often serve but to divert his interest from the one subject that should be his central thought and life work. He is blessed with an abundance of mathematics, perhaps of Latin and Greek, and of other lines of education that enable him to read and study in directions that only too often tend to distract him from his work. To such men the practice of medicine may naturally become a side issue, however much they may theoretically try to make it their life work, and some have even gone so far as to consider the object of their life work not established medicine, but idealistic and perhaps very one-sided theory. Perhaps but a few of the university specialists succeed in the general practice of medicine, and fewer still serve any useful part in rural communities.

I believe I have balanced these things up correctly, and I believe that the record in such institutions of learning that make such men as I have mentioned, will bear me out in the story that could be told concerning the success or failure of the ultra-scientific or theoretical graduate, when comes the real test in the actual practice of medicine.

There is still another thought that concerns the people in the near future. The man who thinks in these lines will perceive, I take it, that if the present trend to the extreme in academic medical education is continued, there will be in the not distant future over this great country of ours no doctors for the people in general, especially in the rural districts. The university-bred man, with his expensively gained education, one-sided and theoretic-cal though it be, cannot afford to locate in sparsely settled communities, and these will, increasingly, lack physicians to care for the people. These sections, where there be no physicians left to care for them, will then be turned over to the patent medicine man, who will medicate the people through the newspapers, circulars and other advertisements. Then will be brought about condition of affairs exactly the opposite of what is intended by the idealist, higher educational theorists. It behooves those most concerned in caring for the wants of the people to think ahead in this direction. Do not infer that I oppose *education*. I have my opinion as to what is proper education, and what is erroneous application of the word *education*.

SANGUINARIA IN TRUE CROUP. Tully's "Materia Medica," edition 18. p. 1491.

About a hundred years ago (more or less) there were several old physicians in Connecticut who were very remarkable for their success in t treatment of true croup. All testimony was unanimous in their favor, and was agreed that they cured nearly all their cases, while others succeeded curing only a very few, and sometimes none at all. While I was young as a physician, when there was a considerabl enumber of medical gentlemen living who had witnessed their practice, I undertook to ascertain what actually was; and I have no reason to doubt that I succeeded perfectly.

It appeared to be, first, vomiting thoroughly with sanguinaria at the outset of the disease, and subsequently this same article in as large doses and quantities as the stomach will tolerate without vomiting, the effects which it produced when given in this latter way being modified by a comparatively free use of papaver, given in uniform doses at short and regular intervals, cannot doubt the testimony as to the success of this treatment, because I have repeatedly known full as large a proportion of cases cured by several different individuals who relied mainly upon the same remedies, but still employed several others in connection with them, and sometimes as substitutes for them. As the practice in question was agreed to be so much more successful than any other in use at that period of time, I endeavored to ascertain why it was not imitated by other physicians. The reason assigned was that other physicians did not consider themselves allowed to deviate from the received authorities of the time. As the disease was a phlogosis they thought it must be right to treat it with depletions of blood, antiphlogosis, saline cathartics, urinea scilla and antimonials as expectorants, etc. This position was thought to be right as a matter of principle, and if it failed it was thought to be due to some accidental circumstances which had escaped their notice, etc.

CORRESPONDENCE.

J. E. G. Waddington, A.M., M.D., Detroit, Mich., writes, June 21, 1911 "Let us not indiscriminately condemn anything—surgery, homeopathy, etc.—as all have their indications. Let us see to it that we are well enough trained to recognize the true indications.

"Antitoxin I never use now for diphtheria. Lloyd's hypodermic lobelia, 5 c.c., is what I invariably use. I saw a case of a woman, thirty-eight years old, on Saturday. There were patches of membrane on both tonsils, but more on the left. I gave 5 C.c. lobelia, and repeated it next morning, when she said she felt better, and she looked so, while the patches had all disappeared, and she felt good. To-day, Tuesday, she is practically well. A mixture of sulphur and sulphurous acid was all the internal medication given."

Eli G. Jones, MD., Burlington, N. J., writes, June 18, 1910:

"In regard to what one, in your reports, has to say about the preparation of the pregnant woman for an easy labor being purely imaginary, allow me to say that, in my opinion, the contrary is true. I believe that the founders of American Eclecticism gained their reputation as physicians largely by their success in this direction. Out of 300 cases of labor in my own practice I have never lost a patient, nor have I ever been obliged to use instruments or give chloroform. This I attribute to the fact that I have always given preparatory treatment, beginning about two months before the end of gestation, using cimicifuga, mitchella or other indicated remedies. Eclectics have used mitchella repens for seventy-five years in such cases, and it has given splendid success in their obstetric practice."

"*Asclepias tuberosa* is one of the finest diaphoretics we have where there is dryness of the skin. As a remedy for intercostal neuralgia, in doses of twenty drops every two hours, it stands without a rival. In pleurisy, with dry hacking cough and scanty expectoration, it is the remedy indicated.

"Eclectics should not forget *apocynum cannabinum* in the treatment of alcoholism. It will 'sober off a drunk' the quickest of anything. Give him a teaspoonful of the decoction of *apocynum*, and have him drink that down; then put three teaspoonfuls of the decoction into a glass of water, and have him take two teaspoonfuls every half hour. This treatment may be kept up from six to twelve hours. It stops the physical craving for liquor. To follow up the treatment, give one teaspoonful of the decoction in a glass of water four times a day, until no desire for liquor remains. The decoction of *apocynum* is prepared ready for use by Boericke & Tafel, homeopathic pharmacists, Philadelphia, Pa."

William Phillips, M.D., Jackson, O., writes June 2, 1910:

"It seems to me that now is the most critical period for Eclecticism in the history of the school. The so-called Regulars are determined to wipe us off the map, if possible. I see in to-day's paper (the Cincinnati *Times-Star*) that the august committee of the A. M. A. has placed the Eclectic College of Cincinnati in class "B," the Pulte (Homeopathic) Medical College in class "C," while the cut-and-dried Ohio-Miami-Cincinnati-University Combination is placed in class "A." The old Eclectic College had more students last year than the entire combine. I spent a week in attendance at the clinics early in May, and was greatly pleased with the new college, which is up to date in every way. The surgical clinics were up to anything the Regulars can show anywhere. I am disgusted with some of our men who have deserted to the enemy, and it begins to look like the 'survival of the fittest,' and that these only will remain to do battle, unless we go to work and endow our loyal institutions with sufficient money to insure the carrying out of the work of our ablest men.

"I was more than pleased to learn that so many of our younger men of Cincinnati are coming to the front as surgeons.

"The Eclectic practice recommends itself to every sane individual, while our nihilistic friends, the Allopaths, are using our remedies as great discoveries, entitled 'new remedies, but known to Eclectics for nearly three-fourths of a century.

"In conclusion will say: *"To surrender is to die, and I prefer dying all the battle line, fighting to the end."*

G. W. Billig, Chicago, Ill., writes of our January, 1910, report:

" In reviewing what is said in this report, I have profited greatly. I am especially pleased with the remarks on macrotys, and agree that it is the best remedy for St. Vitus' dance, for which I have used it successfully for years."

G. W. Holmes, M.D., Sharpes, Fla., writes of the July, 1910, report:

"As regards what Dr. Eli G. Jones says of old leptandrin, will say that it meets my approbation fully. The emeto-cathartic dose of early days, where one grain of podophyllin was employed in association with leptandrin, has also had its day with yours truly. The laity has always associated efficient action on the liver with rapid movements of the bowels. I have always had respect for popular views and feelings, while I endeavor to enlighten the people in medical matters. To meet this opinion, leptandrin was not active enough to reach the popular ideal of a hepatic remedy, so I have, from the commencement of my practice, combined it with podophyllin about as follows: \mathcal{R}_x Podophyllin, gr. 1/4; leptandrin, gr. j; capsicum, gr. 1/4. M. Sig. To be taken at once, and repeated in from six to twelve hours, until the desired results are obtained. I have carefully avoided the emeto-cathartic action of this compound for years, until last winter. A winter resident here came south with a complication of diseases, in addition to two attacks of suffocating catarrh of the lungs, or more properly expressed as capillary bronchitis, each attack following the inhalation of ether' during a surgical operation. The subacute inflammatory condition of the lungs was accompanied by consolidation of the inferior portion of the left lobe. Defective action of the liver was accompanied by much flatulence, temperature 99° to 102°, gradual emaciation, cough with profuse expectoration, a deep-red tongue, pulse generally 90 to 100. I had employed about all the means I knew when I decided to prescribe the old podophyllin and leptandrin combination, so as to get the emeto-cathartic action. It was grievous for a short time, but for the following week there was no fever, while there was a gradual improvement in all the symptoms. A few days since I received an invitation to call upon him, saying that he had gained nine pounds in weight.

"I much prefer the nice way of administering these remedies that Dr. Jones now follows, but every now and then the old way is the good way, and 'ye shall find rest for your souls,' as well as rest for your bodies.

"The toxemia from general glandular torpor, calling for leptandrin, as described by Dr. Leming, of New Mexico, was nicely presented in the symptoms of my patient, and while the small dose failed, the drastic dose won out.

"The results that Dr. Smith obtained from *asclepias tuberosa* in the cases cited-pleuritic in character-adds to the testimony following all investigations of this drug, that it has no equal as an agent to restore the functions of the skin, and thus relieve inflammation of serous membranes. It is not so slow, either, as one often finds out when he seeks by other agents to secure curative results in similar cases."

W. H. Haifley, M.D., Amboy, Ind., writes, July 14, 1910:

"In reviewing your March, 1910, report, I would be pleased to give my experience with the remedies named, and hope to do so soon. I offer a brief comment on *asclepias tuberosa*. My experience has led me to regard it as more especially a child remedy in inflammatory conditions of the respiratory organs. In adults it has seemed to me safe, but rather slow and feeble in its action. Perhaps I did not give enough as a dose. In the adult I have come to prefer *jaborandi*, or its alkaloid, if the heart is strong. I desire to say, too, that I am sufficiently optimistic regarding the action and use of drugs in the relief and cure of disease"

HYPODERMIC LOBELIA. By J. E. G. Waddington. A.M., M.D., Detroit. Mich. (*National Eclectic Quarterly*, March, 1910, p. 167.)

Sp. med. lobelia. hypodermically, fifteen minims, repeated frequently in infantile eclampsia, has not caused emesis, though the point of puncture was somewhat irritated; no abscess. Double dose to adults with like effect.

Lloyd's hypodermic lobelia (four times the strength of sp. med.) caused abscess at point of puncture. but no emesis. Others claim that it causes emesis, and so of other forms of lobelia. Lloyd's hypodermic lobelia, free from alcohol and oil is the *one plus ultra* of a lobelia preparation for hypodermic use. It barely discolors the skin when injected, is rapidly absorbed, and causes no more irritation or local reaction than does the usual hypodermic of *strychnia et al.* No emesis results, and the day following the injection one would be at a loss to determine the seat of the same, were it not for the puncture mark.

The question now properly arises, Why should we wish to administer lobelia hypodermically? In infantile eclampsia, where one often finds strong indications for lobelia, it is either next to impossible to get an appreciable dose of lobelia down the child's throat, or, if accomplished, it is extremely problematical as to how much, if any, is then absorbed, under such unpropitious circumstances as present during a severe attack of eclampsia. On the other hand, the cellular tissue presents itself as a never-ready and exceedingly absorptive medium. In asthmatic dyspnea, difficult respiration during anesthesia, spasm of the glottis, croup, etc.. the hypodermic route will ever take precedence over the alimentary. While my experience has been limited to five cases of diphtheria treated with lobelia hypodermically, I can only state that all five cases got well in a remarkably short time.

Dr. Jentzsch has stated that he believes lobelia to be a vegetable antitoxin. I have used it recently in several cases of auto-intoxication, bronchitis and tonsillitis, and, though I can give no very precise explanation for such procedure, found these cases apparently clear up quicker than similar cases did where the lobelia was not used. The drug was given hypodermically in fifteen to thirty minim doses, repeated daily, for a period of from two to five days. I believe there is here much room for experiment and valuable experience, and if we only try lobelia hypodermically in some of our cases, we certainly can do no harm, and I firmly believe we will do much unexpected good, and will then soon be able to determine the specific indications for lobelia hypodermically.

GELSEMIUM By A. F. Stephens, M.D., St. Louis, Mo. (*Materia Medica Reports*, May, 1905.)

Of gelsemium I will say that I get the best results when I use the physiological dose, and I have never had, in twenty years' use of the remedy, any adverse results.

I frequently take it myself in twenty to twenty-five drop doses, for the purpose of aborting a cold, and nearly always with success. In children, where there is great excitation of the nervous system with high temperature, I have no better remedy.

Croup.-A short time ago, I had a case of croup, wherein the child was almost suffocated, and, if an attempt was made to administer medicine by mouth, it would cry, and in the act of crying it seemed that it would surely die. It looked like a case of death. I concluded to try gelsemium hypodermically. The child was three years old. I gave it ten drops of Lloyd's specific medicine, with the result that in fifteen minutes relaxation was fairly good, and the child breathed much easier, but not enough to satisfy me. In thirty minutes after the first dose I gave another, five drops. The child from that time was safe.

In the early stage of pneumonia, I always find a place for gelsemium.

OENOTHERA BIENNIS IN ASTHMA. By N. S. Davis, M.D., Chicago, Ill,
American Practitioner, January, 1877.

About eighteen months since, in the latter part of summer, a lady a little past the middle period of life came from the southern part of Illinois to Chicago, partly for medical advice and partly with the hope that the change of air would do her good. On examination, I learned that she had been affected many years with indigestion and bronchial asthma. She was much emaciated, her chest contracted, her breathing all the time difficult, but much worse during the night, and accompanied by all shades of dry rales, yet natural resonance on percussion, and only scanty mucous expectoration. The extremities were cool and bluish. lips livid, and pulse small, soft and frequent. Her tongue was clean, redder than natural, and stomach so irritable that it would retain but little food or medicine. Her appetite was poor, and every kind of food, even in small quantities, caused more or less epigastric distress, with an increase of the dyspnea and sometimes palpitation of the heart. There was hardly a remedy, either for the dyspnea or the gastric irritation that I could suggest, which she had not already tried and found unavailing.

Not long after her arrival in the city, her husband met a friend who urged him earnestly to try the fluid extract of *oenothera biennis*. He accordingly purchased a small vial of the remedy, and commenced giving her twenty-five drops every three hours.

On visiting her two days after, I found her decidedly more comfortable in all respects. The medicine, instead of troubling the stomach, had actually allayed its irritability, so that she was taking more nourishment and her breathing was less difficult. The improvement thus begun continued under a continuance of the remedy, and in a few weeks she returned home, and I have never heard from her since. Since that time, however, I have prescribed the same remedy in more than twenty cases of asthma, associated with chronic indigestion or gastric irritation, and in all of them with more or less benefit.

Recently, Mr. M, aged fifty-five, engaged in intellectual pursuits, was attacked with pain in the right side of the chest, a hard cough, scanty expectoration, slight acceleration of pulse, and considerable feeling of oppression in breathing. He had suffered from gastric irritation and indigestion for several years, and had been so generally sickened by medicines when prescribed for him that he became decidedly skeptical in regard to the beneficial effect of any remedy in his own case. And, although feeling so much inconvenience from the pain in his side and other effects of what he regarded as a recent cold that he called on me for advice, yet he protested in advance against taking any anodyne or expectorants, as sure to "upset his stomach." I prescribed for him simply the fluid extract of the *oenothera biennis*, in doses of twenty-five drops before each meal, and thirty drops before bedtime, to be taken in half a tablespoonful of water. The symptoms of bronchial irritation and the pain in the side soon began to abate, and in eight or ten days disappeared; the remedy produced not only no unpleasant effect on the stomach, but apparently induced a decided improvement in both appetite and digestion. So marked was the latter effect that he continued to take the twenty-five drops before each meal for nearly four

weeks; at the end of which time he informed me that he could "sit down at the table and eat a dinner of good, hearty food, without any inconvenience whatever," an act that he had not been able to perform with similar impunity for several years. From my own clinical observation I am inclined to regard oenothera as a mild but efficient sedative to nervous sensibility, acting more especially on the pneumogastric nerve. Hence its adaptation to the treatment of such cases of respiratory or gastric trouble as involve a morbid sensitiveness when in the laryngeal, pulmonary, or gastric branches of that nerve, whether of an acute or chronic character. It is certainly worthy of further trial in the treatment of such affections as whooping cough, spasmodic asthma, and certain morbidly sensitive conditions of the stomach interfering with healthy digestion.

PODOPHYLLIN IN HEMORRHOIDS. *London Medical Record*, April 15, 1877.

Dr. Riviere, in the *Gazette des Hopitaux*, December 16, states that he has had fifteen cases which were most conclusive as to the value of podophyllin in hemorrhoids. Amongst the constipated patients for whom he prescribed podophyllin, many suffered from hemorrhoids, which he attributed to permanent constipation, that is to say, to congestion which was its natural consequence. Subject himself to hemorrhoids, though not habitually constipated, Dr. Riviere tried the podophyllin on himself, and found immediate relief. The hemorrhoids again made their appearance, but were removed by the same means. He has since frequently employed the same method of treatment, and again with equal success, giving one or two podophyllin pills of one-fifth grain each, so as merely to soften the fecal mass. Encouraged by this success, Dr. Riviere tried podophyllin for chronic hemorrhoids likely to necessitate operation. In these cases also he obtained immediate relief, and a cessation of all the usual distressing symptoms of this affection. The only drawback was the necessity for the daily administration of the podophyllin. In some instances, however, the patients were able to leave off the use of the medicine for a long time; some even were entirely cured.

HYPODERMIC GERANIUM IN HEMORRHAGE. By H. Markee, M.D., Blandenville, Ill. *National Eclectic Quarterly*, March, 1910, p. 203.

I have found geranium the most powerful hemostatic at my command when given hypodermically. It has given results when other well-known hemostatics failed. I have given the medicine in this way for two years with no disappointment to record. Because it is a valuable hemostatic when given otherwise, it occurred to me to give it hypodermically at a time when I had given up hope of saving a patient by other means.

Case 1.-In August, 1907, Mrs. S. had ante- and post-partum hemorrhage, due to complete placenta previa. The ante-partum bleeding was controlled, I believe, just before proving fatal. I was the third doctor in attendance. The post-partum hemorrhage was of a kind that could better be called a profuse oozing. All methods, mechanical and therapeutic, failed, such as compression, astringent douches, therapeutic exhibition of adrenalin and other hemostatics, including large doses of geranium by mouth. In this case a one-drachm dose of geranium hypodermically successfully stopped the hemorrhage in a few minutes.

Case 2.-C. D., boy, aged four years, purpura hemorrhagica. No marked impression obtained from other treatment, but the disease, a severe type, yielded rapidly to gtt. xv of geranium hypodermically three times a day.

Case 3.-Mother of this boy, with similar history, complicated with dangerous menorrhagia, likewise successfully treated with this remedy.

Case 4.-Mrs. H., aged forty-four years. Severe hemoptysis. After other unsuccessful attempts to stop the hemorrhage, she received one-half drachm doses with success and complete recovery.

Case 5.-Mr. G. Epistaxis. Treated unsuccessfully for two days with other methods, including a generous exhibition of adrenalin, was successfully cured on the third day with one-half drachm injections of specific geranium.

These are notable cases, but my experience covers a much wider field and extends over a period of two years. The only unpleasant feature is the local irritation from the alcohol in the tincture.

I administer the medicine by deep injections into the cellular tissue.

The hypodermic injection of our specific remedies opens up a new field and demands more extensive experimentation. I am also inclined to think that the hypodermic use of the specific Galenic medicine will successfully displace the objectionable animal serums, because it is more rational and in no way repugnant to human sentiments.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Ralph B. Taylor, M.D., writes, August 31, 1910:

"The September report is very interesting to me. I have not employed leptandra until recently, and will not discuss its merits now. As to apocynum in 'drunks,' that is a new one on me. I have always used generous doses of capsicum in these cases, and, as one patient said, 'It's hell, but it does the work. For a patient who has been on a spree and feels altogether knocked out, whose stomach has gone back on him, and who needs a booster, a half-drachm to a drachm of capsicum in a coffee-cup of hot water, taken at one dose, will do the work."

[I have observed that where a large dose of a drug causes vomiting a small dose will stop vomiting when that is the pathological condition. I have given lobelia and ipecac in the small dose to stop vomiting, and with success. D. Jones calls our attention to this property of apocynum can. This principle being true, according to my experience, I employ both the small dose and the large one of certain drugs which have this dual action, according to the pathological condition of the patient.]

Prof. J.U. Lloyd writes, September 27, 1910:

"I have read with much interest your letter concerning the material that you enclose, and have been particularly interested in the letters that have been written you by physicians from over the country, as well as by the 'Single Remedy' article by the editor. I cannot take time to refer to each of these, but I will take time to say how much I have been pleased with what Dr. Thompson writes concerning cimicifuga and the other remedies he mentions, and in which the combinations made are not to be considered shotgun mixtures, each remedy being a something used for a special purpose in connection with the central remedy."

Eli G. Jones, MD., Burlington, N. J., writes of our October report:

"Very few of our Eclectic physicians know that gelsemium derives its antispasmodic properties from the magnesia phos. it contains. Molecules of magnesia phos. are found chiefly in the white fibers of the nerve and muscles; when there is a deficiency of this salt, these white fibers contract and produce spasms. It is nature's demand for more magnesia phos. This salt is also found in viburnum and belladonna. Thus we see how intimately connected the biochemical remedies, are with the Eclectic. To understand the true remedial action of our vegetable remedies, we must understand something of biochemical materia medica.

"Gelsemium is a giant in itself. You can actually do more with that remedy than with any other in the materia medica. To get a clear idea of its properties, I took enough of the drug to make me drunk from the effects of it, so that I could not walk across the room without holding on to chairs. I took careful notes of my symptoms, pulse, eyes, temperature, mental symptoms, etc. This has been my guide in the use of the remedy all my professional life as to what a remedy will do in health and disease. Other remedies I have tested in the same way. I don't take any man's 'say-so' about what a remedy will do. I must test it myself in my own way, and form my own conclusions about it. Many of our doctors write learnedly on materia medica. Yet how many of them could tell the plants if they saw them growing? The proper way to teach a student materia medica is to take him out into the fields and woods and show him the plants growing.

Tell him all about their properties. We should remember the words Of Paracelsus: 'A physician should overlook nothing; he should look down before him like a maiden, and he will find at his feet a more valuable treasure for all diseases than India, Egypt, Greece or Barbary can furnish.'

"For a time this fall I felt out of sorts, had no appetite, was much constipated, weak, languid, and just tired out. I went out into the fields to nature's laboratory; found some balmony, *chelone glabra*, called in New Jersey 'thistle bloom.' I put one ounce of the leaves into a pint of port wine with an ounce of sugar. Dose: A tablespoonful before each meal. It is a pleasant bitter, produces a gentle movement of the bowels, and makes one want to eat three square meals a day. In a short time Richard was himself again. Try it when you want a good bitter tonic."

VERATRUM VIRIDE IN PUERPERAL FEVER. By A.B. Whitney, M.D., New York City. (Trans. Nat. Ec. Med. Ass'n, 1884, p. 265, abstracted)

During the second quarter of the present century, Dr. H.E. Frith discovered the utility of this drug in the cure of puerperal fever in all its phases, and subsequently presented the same to the profession as a new and efficient mode of practice which was, in his opinion, far superior to any then known. For more than twenty years his plan of treatment, which consists in the administration of the fluid extract of *veratrum viride* in sufficient doses, repeated at short intervals, so as to subdue and control, has

been pursued by many and thoroughly tested under almost every variety of circumstances, and has proved a sovereign remedy in antidoting the septic blood-poisoning, arresting the fever and promptly curing the patient. Many have been treated successfully on his plan, and not a single case is known to have been lost. It appears to be a specific in this disease in all its phases. Its best results are obtained by combining it with a small portion of tincture of gelsemium.

In the case of puerperal fever now under discussion, drachm doses of the fluid extract made from the green root, were given and repeated at short intervals, then two drachms. In a few instances four drachms at a dose were administered with decided advantage; for while the disease was progressing there was a consciousness of sinking and the approach of dissolution. but on taking the *veratrum* the depression disappeared, and the patient revived and became conscious of improvement. She said she felt better and stronger. All the vital powers seemed to be at once invigorated, thus exhibiting very conclusively the salutary action of the remedy.

Since adopting *veratrum* as a specific remedy in puerperal fever in all its phases, I have treated, or assisted in treating, many cases, some very severe, without the loss of a single patient. And I do unhesitatingly affirm it to be the best, the safest, and in such cases most effectual mode of treatment known, and on this principle 95 per cent of such cases can be cured and saved.

Take, for instance, the seventeen severe cases recently reported in *The Medical Tribune* (vol. vi, p.145), which I treated upon this principle without loss. In this enumeration ordinary cases of puerperal fever are omitted. Only the more acute, severe and hopeless are referred to, whose recovery is indeed marvelous, as in the present case, like the restoration of the moribund to life. Some of these were so severe. and the vital forces so completely overcome by the septic blood-poisoning, as to require very large doses of the medicine, constant attention and very close watching in order to administer the antidote successfully and save life. Others being less severe, yielded more readily and required less time and attention, in addition to the services of a good nurse.

These seventeen severe cases may be classified in the following manner: three of them occurred after craniotomy. They were extraordinary cases, exhibiting the most malignant character and destructive powers which usually attend the worst cases of this disease. They require much time, care and labor to meet the varied rapid changes which were ever occurring from hour to hour, and to obtain and keep control until the fever was subdued and the cure perfected.

Nine of the seventeen were cases of eclampsia which occurred prior to delivery or at the time of delivery, and were also severe, exhibiting their peculiar septic character and destructive power. Four of these had living and five still-born children, and all of them were so acute and extraordinary: that they may be properly classed among the dangerous and fatal. The remaining five of the seventeen were cases in which the fever developed in its accustomed virulence from four to ten days after delivery. These were all instrumental cases, and were attended as is often the case, with considerable difficulty.

Thus it will appear that I have treated seventeen cases of the worst type of this disease successfully on the principle exhibited in this report, all of which required large doses of the medicine to be administered and repeated at short intervals till the power of the remedy becomes equal or superior to the power of the disease. When this point was reached, the rigidity of the system was overcome, relaxation was obtained, the high temperature of the body and the excessively high, febrile pulse were reduced, and the force of the disease soon became thoroughly subdued. Being now controllable, it was soon deprived of its malignant character, the patient began to improve and soon became convalescent.

These seventeen cases were of such a nature that under ordinary treatment none of them could reasonably have hoped for recovery, but being treated on the principle exhibited in the above report they were relieved and cured perfectly without any sequelae or an ache or a pain to remind them of the peril through which they had passed.

DYSENTERY.. By D. P. Borden, M.D., Paterson. N, J. (Trans. Nat. Ed. Med. Ass'n, 1884, p. 228.)Abstract.

There are at least four morbid conditions present in dysentery that indicate the proper mode of treatment: (1) Inflammation of the mucous lining of the intestinal canal; (2) a general irritation of the vascular system; (3) great torpor of the cutaneous exhalants; (4) a disordered state of the large glands.

In estimating the importance of these indications, we should observe that the torpor of the cutaneous exhalants and derangement of the glands are invariably antecedent to the intestinal and, febrile reaction and excitement as well. It will be seen, therefore, that in these forming stages of this disease the restoration of these functions is the primary object in the treatment of this complaint. This is confirmed by the observation and testimony of every intelligent Eclectic in the land; for just in proportion as this purpose is accomplished the circulation is equalized, the determination of the blood to the bowels is lessened, and the febrile excitement is at once subdued. The trouble in the intestine is also thereby lessened. In all cases, therefore, where the febrile state exists, the pulse firm and quick, or tense, or frequent, our rule of practice is plain.

I have invariably used "broken doses" of the tincture of green lobelia. I have found this drug to be most efficient and satisfactory in its prompt action, more so than any agent in the materia medica, for the reduction of the febrile excitement in this form of disease. At the same time the inflammatory action of the mucous surface of the intestine is diminished and the deranged condition of the large glands abated.

The proximate or immediate cause of dysentery being an acid, which is secreted by the liver and corrodes and irritates the mucous membrane of the intestines, the primary object in treating it should be, if possible, to neutralize that acid; for the disease will remain unchecked without removal of the cause. Except this condition of success is strictly complied with, all medical skill will be baffled and the hopes of the practitioner blasted. For this purpose a remedy of an antacid character is required, and should be used. There is no compound more effective upon the bowels than the following: ℞ Leptandra pulv. gr. iij; myrica cer. pulv., soda bicarb., aa. gr. ij. M. It is to be administered in one dose, and repeated every two hours, or till relief is obtained. During the progress of convalescence a gentle tonic should be given, composed of extract of eucalyptus and Peruvian bark, equal parts. A half-drachm of this mixture two or three times a day before meals, according to circumstances, is the proper dose.

Warm sponge-baths, and other detergents and applications which will suggest themselves to any intelligent physician, may be used at discretion. As the intestinal irritation is not primary, but idiopathic, enemas are at best only palliative, and I have long since abandoned them.

GRINDELIA SQUARROSA. By D. E. Smith, M.D., Brooklyn, N. Y. (Trans. Nat. Ecl. Med. Ass'n, 1884, p. 300.) I have used this remedy quite extensively, and am pleased with its action in chronic malaria, enlarged spleen, masked ague, pain in the left side, etc. I report one of many cases:

Miss M., aged twenty, had been troubled for about eighteen months with pain in the left side, great languor, general prostration and a disposition to do nothing but be left alone. She had formerly been treated for malarial fever, and had taken large doses of quinine. I found the spleen enlarged, the respiration hurried on the least exertion, constant coldness of the extremities, pain in the left side, some fever, with all the symptoms aggravated every second day. I prescribed a general restorative treatment, with a view to build up the system, and then gave almost every variety of antiperiodics.

After treating the patient for several weeks with no perceptible result, I prescribed: \mathcal{R} Grindelia squarrosa (P., D. & Co.) fl. ext. \mathfrak{z} j; glycerinae \mathfrak{z} j; syr. \mathfrak{z} j; spts. rect. q. s. ad \mathfrak{z} vj. M. Sig. Teaspoonful once in four hours. This prescription cured the patient.

STAPHYSAGRIA.-A Brooklyn physician once consulted me for chronic irritation of the bladder, a disposition to micturate frequently, the act often attended with much pain, more or less mucus being passed daily. I prescribed: \mathcal{R} Delphini staphysagriae 3j; aquae q. s. ad \mathfrak{z} vi. M Sig. One teaspoonful three or four times a day. He afterwards informed me that the prescription had done him more good than anything he had previously taken. I have used the above medicine for many years and find it has a specific action in controlling irritation of the urino-genital organs.

Boils.-For a succession of boils I have found better results from the green root of arctium lappa. say a handful cut up into small bits and infused in a pint of cider, than any other remedy I have ever used. One tablespoonful may be taken morning, noon, night and at bedtime.

[Dr. Smith studied medicine with Dr. Wooster Beach, and graduated in 1846. We note the indigenous remedies in his prescriptions.-Ed.]

PHYTOLACCA. By W'. F. Ball. Columbiana. O. (Trans. Nat. Ecl. Med. Ass'n, 1884, p. 333.) Abstracted.

Phytolacca is a specific in disorders of glandular structures.

Indications. Sore throat. with white or grayish-white membrane in patches; diphtheritic deposits; inflammation of the breasts; epithelial disorders, etc. \mathcal{R} Phytolaccae *gtt.* x to 3j; aq. \mathfrak{z} iv; Sig. A teaspoonful every two to four hours.

Combined with baptisia and aconite, phytolacca is a specific for diphtheria. \mathcal{R} Phytolaccae 3ss; baptisiae 3j; aconite *gtt.* iij ad x; aquae ad \mathfrak{z} ij. Sig. A teaspoonful every two to four hours.

As a remedy for syphilis: \mathcal{R} Phytolaccae \mathfrak{z} j; stillingiae syr. O. ss.; potas. iodidii 3j. M. Sig. A teaspoonful every three or four hours. The formula is serviceable in man}' forms of rheumatism. likewise in poisoning by mercury.

[In a case of orchitis-metastatic mumps-of several days' standing, in an adult aged thirty-five, phytolacca and pulsatilla, in drop doses of the specific medicine every hour. afforded prompt and permanent relief.-Ed.)

MENINGITIS. E. R. Waterhouse, M.D., St. Louis, Mo. (ECLECTIC MEDICAL JOURNAL, August, 1897, p. 442.)

CASE-Boy, aged twenty-one, athlete, weight 120 pounds, after vigorous exercise, cooled off in a damp, cold cave. Returning home, he had severe headache, and in the evening became unconscious. At 2 o'clock A.M. had severe spasm, increasing in severity till not more than fifteen minutes apart. Called in the morning. Diagnosis, meningitis. Pulse 140; high temperature; unable to swallow. Gave sixty-minim doses of fl. ext. gelsemium hypodermically every half-hour till two and one-half ounces had been given, when the spasms ceased and the boy was able to speak. During treatment added five to ten drops sp. veratrum to the injection, which reduced the volume of the pulse as well as its rapidity. After two or three days the boy was well. Some will say that this was a medication with a vengeance, and I will acknowledge that it was, but it was a desperate case.

I do not believe that poisoning by gelsemium will take place if the action of the medicine is watched as it should be, and, as soon as relaxation is noticed, the dose reduced or the medicine stopped altogether; and so long as there is no relaxation there can be no toxic effect. Show me another remedy that would do as much as gelsemium in the early stage of this disease and I will try it in the next case that I get hold of.

CORRESPONDENCE. Joseph E. G. Waddington, A.M., M.D., Detroit, Mich., writes, in review of our December, 1910, report:

"Specific geranium I find an excellent local astringent in circumcision. In these little operations much time is lost in checking the hemorrhage at the time of operation, said hemorrhage consisting of a general oozing, not amenable to stitches or pressure from artery forceps; in fact, these latter procedures almost invariably induce worse oozing. Here, after tying a strip of cordine or gauze in with the stitches around the cut edges, a little specific geranium poured all around will check and prevent further or later hemorrhage. It is also good applied with a swab, full strength, after tonsillotomy. I use it internally in colliquative diarrhea-the more chronic the condition the better the results, as a rule. Give ten to fifteen minims every three hours in chronic cases.

"I am using leptandra with chionanthus m. x every three hours in a case of cirrhosis of the liver. While not curative, it is holding the symptoms in check, and the combination certainly acts better than either alone."

J. D. McCann, Monticello, Ind., writes, December 1, 1910: "Hypodermic medication would be a great form of treatment if we knew more about it. I think I saved a little fellow's life by an injection of atropine in hemorrhage of the stomach in typhoid fever. In the case of an elderly lady who had been in convulsions for some time, I was called in consultation. I alternated lobelia and veratrum (Lloyd), hypodermically, every twenty minutes until two doses of each were given, when the convulsions ceased. I gave ten drops of veratrum and fifteen drops of lobelia. "In the case of insane persons, where they cannot be controlled, the hypodermic use of hyoscine is admissible."

CONVULSIONS FROM A BURN. By M1. S. Aisbitt, MD., Los Angeles, Cal. (*Materia Medica Reports*, June, 1905.)

I was called to see Mrs. S. at 12 o'clock one night. She had been taking a bath and using an oil lamp for light. The lamp was upset in some way, igniting her clothing and burning her limbs most horribly. When I arrived I found her in bed. She was very lean, weighing only ninety pounds. Her legs and feet were dropsical. She was addicted to the use of morphia, cigarettes and liquor. Convulsions followed and continued at intervals for three days, while mental aberration continued for three weeks. When I examined the patient I thought it a hopeless case. After dressing the wound antiseptically, I put her on the following prescription: ℞ Gelsemium sp. med. ʒj, aquae ℥iij. M1. Sig. One teaspoonful every two hours. This modified the symptoms, and on the third day the convulsions ceased. I continued the gelsemium on account of irritation of the bladder.

She continued to crave morphia, but I refused to let her have it, and continued the gelsemium. As her mind began to clear she asked for the morphia less frequently, her urine became normal, the edema of the legs and feet disappeared, Her wounds healed rapidly without any grafting, and at the end of three months she weighed 120 pounds, and is now enjoying the best of health.

CAULOPIHYLLUM THALICTROIDES,-By D. H. Rosenberg, M.D., Mmas, Florida

The medicinal action of this very valuable plant is superb, As a parturient it is equal to any other remedy I have yet tried. It will shorten tedious labor and strengthen weak pains, To illustrate: In 1870 Mrs. G. was confined with her first child. They called Dr. B., who was so dazed with liquor that he was unfit to act in such a case. There was delayed uterine action and finally no pains at all, He then applied the forceps, broke them, lacerated the perineum. I was called in haste to go a distance of seven miles to attend this case. I had with me some fresh roots of blue Cohosh, and of these I made a tea, and gave it to the woman in doses of about, two fluid ounces, Ten minutes after taking this medicine the pains came and she was delivered of a healthy girl baby, She had no pains for an hour or more previous to my arrival. I used no instruments, but only manual aid.

In delayed menstruation in young girls, as where the woman has taken cold or menstruation stops from other cause than pregnancy, tuberculosis or anemia, an infusion of the fresh root of caulophyllum, Lloyd's specific medicine, or Merrell's normal tincture, will restore it promptly. In its action on the female reproductive organs it is a powerful remedy and as certain a specific as quinine in ague or Aitken's tonic in malarial fever, It may be combined with other remedies in neurasthenia and depressed conditions and where there are blood defects.

In threatened miscarriage it may be combined with viburnum, and will surely carry the woman to full term.

I have not used blue cohosh for other conditions than those named, as I have been accustomed to limit a remedy to a certain range where I know it to be a specific, just as I depend on quinine, gelsemium and Aitken's tonic in malarial fever. In like manner I employ echinacea where there are pustular eruptions in the surface of the body, and aconite and bryonia in inflammatory conditions of the chest. In like manner I employ Passiflora for nervous, restless and sleepless conditions; hyoscyamus in painful menstruation, neutralizing cordial in bowel disorders of children, etc. It is thus easy to heal the sick, and that in a short time. I do not believe in a medicine being good for a dozen or more diseases.

LEPTANDRIN AS AN ANTIPERIODIC.-By James L. Reat, M.D, *Review*, 1869), Abstracted.

I recommend leptandrin in those anomalous cases where sulphate of quinia, from some idiosyncrasy of the patient is contraindicated, or where it has been given without satisfactory results: for example, in masked ague where rheumatic or neuralgic affections present themselves in some one or more of their protean forms: in dumb ague, which has few characteristic symptoms in its erratic course, but which, nevertheless, often results in dropsical effusion; in chronic splenitis (ague cake), where the spleen becomes indurated and so enlarged as to occupy nearly the whole cavity of the abdomen, with derangements of the hepatic and renal functions; in cases which present an icteric hue of the skin, sallow countenance, muscular weakness, furred tongue, bitter taste, sense of weight in the right hypochondrium, torpid liver and visceral disorders, all having a periodicity, however slight their apyrexia or vaguely defined the interval may be.

Finding that quinine failed in these cases I combined it with leptandrin in varying proportions, and finding improvement, came finally to give leptandrin alone.

I have given leptandrin alone in a great variety of cases, where I desired to get the effect of an antiperiodic remedy with such success that I have no disposition to change it for any other remedial agent.

Besides being an antiperiodic, leptandrin-not merely the resin, but the four principles combined-possesses depurative, corroborant and tonic properties.

LYCOPUS VIRGINICUS.-By Charles Lee, M.D. (*Journal of Materia Medica*, 1860). Abstracted,

Lycopus is especially adapted to cases of hemorrhage attended with frequent pulse and great nervous irritability. In such cases it often seems to prove specific, acting promptly and with great certainty in allaying irritability, while it controls the hemorrhage, It evidently strikes at the pathological cause, removing or correcting that morbid condition of the vascular and nervous systems on which the hemorrhage depends, We have used it or many years in hemoptysis, hematemesis, menorrhagia, etc., sometimes alone, and at others in conjunction with other remedies; and we have come to regard it, in certain cases, almost in the light of a specific. As it allays irritability and quiets the circulation, it is adapted to meet cases of excessive flux with these symptoms. In like manner it is well adapted to many cases of diabetes, senile cough, humoral asthma and chronic diarrhea.

The infusion is the preferable mode of administration. Of this, in hemoptysis, a wineglassful should be given as often, at first, as every half hour or hour, according to the urgency of the symptoms. A reliable fluid extract may be given in doses of one or two drachms every two hours.

GELSEMIUM IN INTERMITTENT FEVER.-By J.F. Griffin, M.D., Shreveport, La. (*American Therapeutist*, April, 1893, p. 246.) Abstracted.

I regard the medicinal properties of gelsemium as being as much a specific against malarial complaints as those of cinchona; having the advantage over quinine and its congeners, that its antiperiodic effect is more permanent. My observation is that malarial troubles, when overcome by gelsemium are not so likely to recur as when treated with the cinchona salts.

When the cinchona salts are given to arrest ague, unless given with other remedies designed to prevent relapse, it is well known that it becomes necessary to keep up the medication on certain days, notably the seventh, the fourteenth and twenty-first, while such is not the case with gelsemium.

There are some who deny the antiperiodic propriety of gelsemium, but I apprehend they do not know its proper administration, as they have used an indifferent quality of the drug. Remittent and intermittent fevers yield readily to proper doses of the medicine, associated, of course, with such other remedies as the case may call for such as may bring about the elimination of the biliary secretion and act on the other secretory organs besides the liver.

It is asserted by some that the antiperiodic effect of gelsemium depends on a poisonous influence exerted against the protoplasm of the microbic organisms which are said to cause the disease. However this may be, it is strictly an arterial sedative, diminishing the vascularity of the nervous centers, and in this way it is an antiperiodic and nervine. If disease is due to the arrest or suspension of the activity of the tissue cells, it may be that the remedy acts so as to bring about a reconstructive process, but I fear that we understand this so slightly that we must depend on clinical facts, and not dwell on its *modus operandi*.

In intermittents, while I may vary my methods of giving gelsemium, ordinarily prescribe as follows: Say that I have a case of an adult who has had one or more chills, followed by fever, in which there is a distinct remittance between each exacerbation. Here I give my patient such remedies as may bring about an elimination of the secretory fluids, as is ordinarily done in such cases where quinine is given.

I generally ignore quinine and write as follows: ℞-Fl. ext. gelsemium, ʒj; distilled water, ℥iv. Mix. Give daily one teaspoonful every hour till eight doses are given, or less, as directed. This is for an adult. being fifteen drops of the gelsemium for each twenty-four hours, and is given *after the chill*, regardless of fever. Two scruples of sulphate of quinine may be added, and I find the gelsemium modifies the head symptoms. I refer to tinnitus aurium. If the gelsemium is given at the outset of the fever, I generally direct it to be administered every two hours. The effect is to quiet the patient and produce a gentle perspiration; in fact, to act as an antipyretic, and, to my mind, is vastly superior to coal-tar antipyretics, and while I know that remedies do not cure disease, there is brought about a metabolic process of reconstruction that the coal-tar products can never accomplish.

If the patient is asthenic. or if the action of the heart is slow. or the pulse feeble, with dilated pupils, then gelsemium should be withheld. It is safely given where there is an active cerebration. where the pulse is full, strong and tense and pupils contracted. The patient and the nurse should always be informed of the probable or rather possible contingency of double vision, and instructed to cease giving the remedy when this occurs, assuring that no harm will result from it. I rarely give an adult in a period of twenty-four hours more than fifteen or sixteen drops of the fluid extract, always preferring what is known as normal fluid. It is not necessary to add that the dose must be reduced for children.

The foregoing formula, with or without quinine, is appropriate in remittent fever, and should be given during the pyrexia. If there is such a thing as a specific for supra orbital neuralgia, or for ovarian neuralgia, where these are intermittent, it is gelsemium; but, believing it is better to use a combination of antiperiodic sedatives in such cases, I prescribe the following: ℞ Fl. ext. gelsemii, gttss. lxiv; quinae sulphatis, ℥ij; ammonii picras., grs xvi. Mix powders and divide into sixteen parts, putting each part into a capsule and dropping four drops of fluid extract of gelsemium into each capsule. until sixteen are filled. Signa: Commence six hours before the neuralgic attack. and take daily one capsule every two hours until four capsules are taken, as directed. The following combination is perhaps better if the patient does not mind the bitterness: ℞ Fl. ext. gelsemii, gttss. lxvi; quinae sulphatis, ℥ij; aquae dest., ℥viiij. M. lisc. Signa: Commence six hours before the neuralgic attack, and, shaking the bottle, take daily one tablespoonful every two hours until four doses are taken, each dose being followed by an acid drink, preferably lemonade, or a solution of citric or tartaric acid sweetened. In these cases it is understood that the compound cathartic pill, or some appropriate purgative. maybe added, or any other remedy that the state of the system may call for, my design not being to tell how to treat these neuralgias, but only my method of giving gelsemium in them. Here, as in all other cases, the patient's physiological condition will be inquired into, and gelsemium withheld if the therapeutic diagnosis does not indicate it. .

CORRESPONDENCE. Eli G. Jones. M.D.. Burlington, N. J.. writes. July 19, 1910:

"I have read your remarks on medical education with interest. The fact is that we are not turning out as good doctors now as in the olden times when the student was trained by his preceptor at the bedside of the patient.

A college course is taken, mostly football; then the medical course .of four years, devoted to vivisection and bacteriology mostly, when the student is turned loose upon the public. We certainly do not want to raise the standard if this is all we get. Give us rather a kindergarten school where the student can learn the A, B, C's of medicine. Sixteen years of observation of post-graduate work has brought me to this conclusion."

G. W. Thompson, MD., New York, writes, July 20. 1910:"I have just received your July. 1910, report, and in going over it find some difference of opinion in relation to the effects of cimicifuga on the uterine organs. I find that it acts well when there are muscular pains associated with the menstrual flow.

I must admit, however, that it is exceptionally hard to confine my medication to single remedies. as past experience has taught me that where remedies have a similar action this effect is increased when they are combined. There is no drug that I use more than cimicifuga where there is soreness and stiffness of the muscles and muscular pains brought on by sudden cooling of the surface of the body, but in the former condition I combine it with asclepias tuberosa. This latter drug, is one of the best remedies we have in every disease where we desire to get elimination by way of the skin, and these conditions are so common that one with little experience in diagnosis will hardly make a mistake if he adds asclepias to most of his mixtures. Perspiration may be kept up longer with asclepias, and the amount of elimination from the skin held to a more uniform standard without exhaustion, heart flagging or intense capillary contraction and dryness of the skin following than any drug yet found. It is given in much larger doses than there is any need for, which is undoubtedly due to its reputed harmlessness. This I consider an error, as bread and meat may be looked upon as harmless, though both have caused harm when taken too freely. Asclepias, administered in half-drachm doses. of the fluid extract, is to my mind uncalled for, while half a drachm to three ounces of water, a teaspoonful of the mixture every twenty minutes in two , tablespoonfuls of hot water. is sufficient to cause free perspiration. Given in this way sweating may be kept up indefinitely without exhausting the gland cells or causing spasmodic capillary contraction and acute cardiac dilatation that is likely to follow when jaborandi or its alkaloid, pilocarpin, is employed. Asclepias combined with aconite is one of our best diaphoretics, and fulfills many indications. In rheumatism. even when sweating is marked, asclepias will hasten a cure; and in tuberculosis and other pulmonary troubles the greatest benefit may be expected from it. As harmless as the drug appears, not infrequently nausea, vomiting and purging may follow its administration.

"Leptandrin is one of the best remedies we have in the treatment of the liver following an acute enlargement, and, in combination with nux vomica, will cause a uniform contraction of the connective tissue. It also acts upon the muscular tissue of the intestines so that a more uniform peristalsis is produced, and therefore is one of our most reliable remedies in intestinal dilatation and colic. It also has alterative properties that are of great importance in tertiary syphilis, where cellular tissue is increasing."

J. E. G. Waddington, A.M., M.D., in review of our August, 1910, report, writes:

"I have always contended that prescribing for specific indications alone was not true prescribing. One must, or should, understand pathology the pathology underlying the symptom indicated. 'One may quite often prescribe just the right thing upon purely superficial evidence, not realizing in the slightest what the true pathology of the case may have been; but if I understand the interrelation between pathology and symptoms I will then be able to prescribe intelligently and accurately where before I but guessed.

"In obstetric cases I say, give chloroform to slight anesthesia. By saving the patient the shock of those awful last pains, and by easing her judiciously by slight whiffs of chloroform during the last hour or two. she will revive from her labor quicker than her neighbor who has a full experience of nature unaided. An extra hour or two of uneased pain will cause more danger than will a drachm or two of chloroform intelligently, administered at such time."

G. W. Billig, Chicago, ILL, writes, August 22, 1910, in review of February and March reports: "My experience with the blue cohosh has. been limited, but I will investigate it further. Asclepias is used in my practice almost wholly among children for its diaphoretic action.

"I agree with Dr. Bloyer as to the use of gelsemium, and have witnessed similar conditions as he described.

"Your correspondence with Lloyd and Merrell is very interesting to me. My idea of a live Eclectic is that he ought to be ready to accept the truth from any source, and give his patient the best treatment accordingly."

Dr. G. W. Holmes writes from Delaware, O., August 24, 1910:

"Last Sunday J passed along the road over which I went thirty-five to forty years ago. I found that memory had not always kept the power of recollection accurate as to the location of each house which I must have known at one time. So in medicine, I need to review again and again.

"I have expressed my views upon the never-ending discussion of appendicitis, and the relative value of drugs in its treatment in the inflammatory stages. Long distance from a hospital compels a reliance upon drug action that J would shrink from if it were otherwise. Yet this fact helps to develop their value; and as all my cases have recovered by drug or surgical treatment, I thank God and take courage.

"Last week Mrs. Holmes and I had the good fortune to be present at the annual picnic of the Central Ohio Eclectic Medical Society, held on its twenty-third anniversary, at Worthington, where the first Eclectic college was located. The memory of the old professors came back to me on this conspicuous occasion; and the hearty greetings which we witnessed impressed me with the blessedness of the 'tie that binds,' past and present, these richly endowed men and women together for this long term of years, without a jar or hint of discord.

"If Professor Morrow and his never-to-be-forgotten associates could have seen their descendants on this occasion as I did, they would have known that their labors had borne much fruit."

SPECIFIC USE OF DRUGS. By George M. Aylsworth, M.D.. Collingwood, Can. (*Alkaloida lClinic*, January, 1898. p. 26.) Abstracted. Nearly all diseases find their first inception within the body, in disturbed innervation: and the specific remedy is directed to restore to normal this disturbed innervation. Section of sympathetic nerves in the neck is followed by vascular congestion of the parts above the section on the corresponding side, attended by an increase of temperature.

Injury of the vagus will cause pneumonia, while the view that the disease is also caused by disturbance of the functions of the medulla oblongata and the nervous supply of the lungs, may also be accepted as the cause in other cases.

As a cause of this disturbed innervation we may count cold, exhaustion and debility as most prominent. There is but little evidence that pneumonia is produced by the diplococcus pneumoniae, which is present in the buccal secretions of at least 20 per cent. of healthy persons, and is found also in pericarditis, pleurisy and meningitis. As to epidemics proving the microbial origin of pneumonia, the report by W. B. Rodman of an epidemic of the disease in a Frankfort, Ky., prison, shows that exposure to the same unsanitary environment will produce the disease in many persons. Here there were 118 cases and twenty-four deaths in a population of 735.

Skene and Johnson ascribe the chief cause of carcinoma to failure of the trophic nerves, which preside over all tissue changes, and this should have a certain bearing on the treatment. Be this as it may, no one who has seen or felt recent congestion of the ovary or testicle melt away under pulsatilla, varicose veins regain their tonicity under hamamelis, the uterus contract or epistaxis cease under ergot, or mastitis cured by phytolacca, can deny that there are drugs that act directly and specifically upon the ganglionic nervous centers, producing cures. I believe that there is a specific for every diseased condition, which we may hope eventually to discover. There are drugs that will bring the heart pulsations to normal, tone up the capillaries of the engorged lung in pneumonia, by righting the wrong of those portions of the ganglionic nervous system controlling these functions, and thus cure the disease by the specific use of drugs.

Using pneumonia as an illustration, we must not count the same remedy as a specific in all cases. One patient is living where the air is pure and bracing, and his vessels are filled with the richest blood, but from long exposure to wet and cold contracts pneumonia. From ruddy health there is an almost instant engorgement and consolidation of lung tissue, the symptoms being a full, strong, bounding and rapid pulse; temperature from 104° to 106° F.;

violent, sharp, lancinating pain, with great difficulty of breathing; frequent, painful cough, with expectoration of frothy mucus; patient much excited. Here *Veratrum viride*, by depressing the highly stimulated cardio-accelerator center, dilating the vessels and reducing the vascular tension, lessens the frequency of the pulse, lowers the temperature and quiets the breathing.

Patients under the influence of gelsemium look dull and heavy, with drooping eyelids, often feel sleepy, and deny that they are conscious of mental depression, and is indicated also, while *Bryonia alba* removes the sharp pains about the chest.

In the other case, where the patient is exposed to unsanitary conditions, as the foul air of a prison, he suffers from mental despondency, and by the continuous absorption of depressing poisons presents a picture of the gradual withdrawal of nerve force. He feels unwell for days before giving up, and when seen the condition is found to be engorgement and consolidation of lung tissue; pulse small, weak and rapid; temperature 101 ° to 103°; little or no pain; slight cough; prune-juice expectoration; patient dull and inclined to sleep a good deal. Here *Aconite*, by stimulating the inhibitory center of the pneumogastric, according to Achscharumow, in the small dose, is indicated. It undoubtedly will slow the pulse in this instance, when all the vital forces are depressed. *Belladonna*, from its bracing effect upon the capillaries, is a specific in capillary congestion; and as it also affects the mind in a peculiar manner—the ideas being at first rapid and connected is also indicated. *Asclepias tuberosa* tends to bring the pulmonary circulation to the normal in both conditions, through its influence over the centers controlling the circulation of the blood in the bronchial arteries, and is the third specific in this case.

In the former case we expect rapid amelioration of the symptoms, while in the latter, the system being poisoned, we must take more time. These drugs are given in doses too small to produce any perceptible effect in a normal condition of the system. There is an infinite variety of types of pneumonia between the above cases, and the skill of the therapist is shown in meeting the specific indications in each case.

While there is a parturition center in the lumbar spinal cord, which is excited in normal labor, it is also granted that *Viburnum prunifolium* will prevent the premature expulsion of the ovum without other perceptible effect on the organism. This being true, why should we deny the possibility of a remedy existing which will prove curative of pneumonia by its direct and exclusive effect upon the center controlling the circulation in the lungs?

[The author does not claim originality in his use of *Asclepias*, but refers to "Dr. Webster, of California," who writes: "*Asclepias tuberosa* is quite active in controlling excitement in the area of distribution of the bronchial arteries. It is therefore very useful in pneumonia and bronchitis. I have employed this remedy in these conditions for years with the best results, and regard it as the most positive agent of its class we possess. This remedy is applicable to disturbances of the circulation in parts supplied by the distribution from the thoracic aorta, especially the area supplied by the bronchial arteries. And if we reserve it for this place we shall not confuse it with more opportune remedies, and will hardly fail to derive satisfaction from it in acute diseases in this part."]

CAULOPHYLLUM THALICTROIDES.—By Vincent A. Baker, M.D., Adrian, Mich.

Aside from its value as a specially useful remedy in diseases peculiar to the female, it is a valuable systemic remedy for adult or child of either sex, which I have proven by long experience. While it has many uses in common with its congener, black cohosh, it has many differentiating points. Formerly I prepared my own remedies, but latterly have employed normal tinctures and specific medicines.

King, in his "American Dispensatory," ~ cd. 1870, gives the properties of *Actaea spicata*, the European variety, as poisonous, causing hallucinations, gastric irritation, and even death. The white and red cohosh are poisonous also in overdoses, but in medicinal doses they have a decided influence on the brain and spinal cord, and are of special value in diseases of meningeal origin.

GELSEMIUM-By Sarah J. Hogan, M. D., Chicago, Ill. (*Materia Medica Reports*, April, 1905.) Abstracted.

My first practice of medicine was botanic or Thomsonian, and poisonous herbs were passed by. Gelsemium was counted one of these, and I heard very little concerning it till in 1887, when I used it for the first time.

I was called to a case of hysteria in a woman thirty-four years old that two doctors had failed to cure. I gave her drop doses of gelsemium (Merrell's) every fifteen minutes. When she had four doses she fell asleep. It was the first sleep for nearly a week. The medicine was continued every hour, when she was awake, and the next day I found that menstruation had set in with general improvement. I have given it in cases apparently similar without effecting cures, but have succeeded with lobelia.

Another case where I employed gelsemium with good effect was that of a woman who was very nervous, and had not slept at all for three weeks. I gave her five-drop doses for a while without effect. I then increased the dose to ten and then to fifteen drops, when she passed into dreamland and slept eighteen hours. When she awoke the nervous symptoms had passed away and she remained well.

GELSEMIUM.-By J. R. Duncan, M. D. (*Annual of Eclectic Medicine and Surgery*.) Abstracted.

Convulsions-Scarlet Fever-Case.-Boy six years old, pulse 144, temperature 106°, tongue brown, urine suppressed, vomiting, but little eruption, throat swollen and painful, eyes bright, face flushed.

Treatment.-The patient was put on aconite, gelsemium, baptisia and apis for ten days, carbolized lard being applied to the body. On the thirteenth day he had convulsions, was unconscious, temperature 106°. Gave five drops of specific gelsemium every fifteen minutes for four hours, when he called for water, soon fell asleep, and in a few days had recovered.

GELSEMIUM-By John T. Pogue, M.D. (*Southwest Progressive Medical Journal*, June, 1899.)

The Flushed Face.-In cases with the contracted pupils, bright eyes, marked vigilance, but without the flushed face, gelsemium will fail, but belladonna will relieve the condition.

EPILEPSY.-By A. F. Veal, M.D. (*California Medical Journal*, January, 1898, p. 18.) Abstracted. .

Case.-Girl, aged sixteen, had epileptic fits for sometime. When I was called to the patient she had two of these convulsions a day. Found her in deep sleep, unconscious, face twitching, tonic contractions of upper and lower extremities, pulse very strong, skin cold to the touch. Stimulants indicated. Gave atropine and morphine hypodermically. This improved the heart's action and brought a gentle glow of heat to the skin, but did not stop the muscular contractions. After an hour gave gts. x sp. gelsemium hypodermically. In ten minutes relaxation commenced, she was soon conscious, and all spasms of the muscles ceased. After treatment was with sp. passiflora, ignatia and oenanthe crocata. One month afterward she had no more attacks.

RHUS TOXICODENDRON.-By John M. Scudder, M.D., (*Eclectic Medical Journal*, January, 1898, p. 18.) Abstracted.

There are three indications for rhus that can hardly be mistaken. The peculiar appearance of the papillae of the tip of the tongue (upper surface for three-fourths of an inch back), looking like rose-colored bubbles. Frontal headache, pain sharp, burning, and especially located above or in the left orbit. And, lastly, a peculiar, sharp stroke of the pulse, the interwave current being vibratile. Either of these indications will answer, and we may expect the specific influence of the remedy in proportion as they are pronounced.

I believe I have stated the fact sufficiently often, "that when the indications for the remedy are pronounced it will cure any curable disease," no matter what its location or its character. Experiments with this remedy will prove the truth of this proposition. It does not matter whether it is a case of erysipelas, an inflammation of the lungs, a laryngitis, a diarrhea, an ague or a puerperal form, if we have the distinct indications for rhus, it will cure. Rhus is a remedy for nervous excitation, and when the above named indications for its use are found, there will always be found the evidences of nervous and vascular excitation. We frequently administer it with a sedative, and so far as my experience goes, aconite is the remedy if the pulse is uniformly small. It cannot be associated with podophyllin or the usual cathartic treatment of the routinist, for the structures supplied from the solar plexus are inclined to be irritable when the indications for rhus are pronounced; indeed, the entire sympathetic nervous system is unduly excited. It cannot be associated with or replaced by quinine, for similar reasons, though when relief is had from the use of the remedy, quinine may follow it.

I will give a couple of late cases, showing its action. Master M., aged fifteen, has caught a severe cold going in the water, and has suffered from sore throat and fever. It is now the eighth day from the commencement, and his larynx shows quite serious disease. He can hardly speak, has an irritable cough, and raises an unpleasant muco-pus with some blood. He has had good treatment up to the present time: Prescribed: \mathcal{R} -Tincture of rhus, gtt. v; water, \mathfrak{z} iv, a teaspoonful every two hours. The larynx was markedly relieved the first day, wholly relieved by the fourth, though the sore nose, of rhus poisoning, was an unpleasant feature of the treatment for a week afterward.

George R. had "caught cold," and now, after nearly two weeks' suffering, comes to me with an irritative cough, attended by some stitching pains through the left lung to the shoulder. The pulse is 100, the strokes sharp, and he has frontal headache, and a peculiar appearance of the tongue. He is on his feet, and feels very badly, and thinks that now the dread of his *li ie*-consumption-has attacked him. Prescribed: Tincture rhus gtt. v; tincture aconite, gtt. v; water, \mathfrak{z} iv; a teaspoonful every hour. There was speedy relief, and a complete cure within a week.

PRACTICE OF THE EARLY ECLECTICS.-By Alexander Wilder, M.D., Newark. N. J. (*Materia Medica Reports*, April, 1905.

In our March, 1905, report I remarked that the practice of the Reformers appeared to be as drastic as that of the Allopaths of that day, and wrote to Dr. Wilder as follows: "I hint at the drastic treatment of Morrow, and inquire as to what Beach did. I would like to have you dwell a

little in your comments on this report on the practice of the fathers, so as to show wherein it was a real improvement over the antiphlogistic treatment of the Allopath, and the principles underlying it. As I suspect that the one was as drastic as the other, and that the real reform was due to Samuel Thomson and Samuel Hahnemann. The former tried to do away with remedies which endanger life, and did more to destroy public faith in calomel and the lancet than any other of the reformers, while Hahnemann showed the danger from drugging, and influenced doctors to study the action of single remedies, so that more has been accomplished in this direction in fifty years since his day than was done in a thousand years of Allopathy."

I may say, in addition to this letter, that in assisting to organize this society, I had in mind the view that the reformers rejected calomel, the lancet, antimony, etc., the antiphlogistic treatment, and introduced the indigenous remedies; not that they were not used before, but that they braved the scorn of the Allopaths of that "iron time" in using them; were martyrs to a cause, and hence we, as their descendants, are in duty bound to continue the work of developing this part of the materia medica.

Prof. Wilder wrote in reply: "I hardly think that the procedures of Morrow were so barbarous as those of old-school practitioners. If they had been, the new practice could not have obtained a foothold. I am not, however, a very good witness. I learned my Eclecticism before I knew that there was such a man.

I then knew only Dr. Wooster Beach and those who stood with him, and if you read his 'Family Physician' you will find a sensible mitigation of the severity of medical procedures. He was always learning and eager for the better way. '

"Perhaps it was necessary and providential that Dr. Morrow should be what he was. He was selected to organize the college at Worthington, and was required before beginning to sustain an examination before certain old school men. If he had cavilled too much he would have been rejected, and there would have been no Reformed College in Ohio.

"In those days postage was costly, travel slow, and communication not frequent. The text-books in medicine were not usually developed from experience, and Beach, Morrow and others naturally attempted to direct attention to procedure. They had to "make haste slowly." They were reformers and not revolutionists but I cannot acquiesce in the statement that their procedures were barbarous. The results show differently. "One trouble in those days was incident to all new sects and parties jealousy and eagerness to lead. Dr. Samuel Thomson was a dictator and Dr. Calvin Newton for years opposed Thomson and Beach alike. I suspect that there was much cavilling over the segments of a hair.

"We must bear in mind that twilight and not meridian sunshine succeeds the darkness of night. It would be asking too much to require that Wooster Beach or Thomas V. Morrow came at a jump to the complete knowledge of today. Generally 1 man has his own work to do, and the next one follows with something more. Only Baurbans never learn and never forget.

"I learned what I know of Eclectic medicine in Western New York. The idea prevalent was: If you could do a patient no good, be sure and do him no hurt.

"We then were largely impregnated with botanic notions outside the Thomson circle. We all rejected the lancet, calomel, antimony and arsenic; and I do now. A calomel-giving Eclectic is one that I would not be treated by unless I could know what he would do.

"In regard to Tully, though, he made much research. I never supposed for a moment that he ever used podophyllin resin. He only learned that there was such a thing." [Tully began to investigate the indigenous remedies as early as 1810, and podophyllum pel. was then used by the regulars as a cathartic. Barton says (Barton's "Cullen's Materia Medica," ~ Vol. II, page 375. edition 1812): An extract also prepared from the Oat is sometimes employed, and has been found highly useful as a cathartic in calica pictanum." King says of podophyllin: "This valuable agent I had the honor of introducing to the profession twenty-six years since 1844). In 1835 I was first led to an examination of the resinous principle of this plant, as well as the iris, cimicifuga, aletris and several other plants in consequence of some information given me by Prof. Tully, of Yale College, New Haven, Conn., relative to the resinous constituent of the cimicifuga racemosa." *American Dispensatory*, p. 1168, Ed. 1870.-ED.]

"In the fifties the Homeopaths had overmuch favor by their small dosage. The Eclectics could now give little doses, seemingly like others, and so gain prestige.

"I think our early practitioners had a disposition to give over-large doses. I have seen three grains of podophyllin recommended even for an infant. I protested, but was told that the drug was not at normal strength.

"I have never exceeded a grain myself, and always gave it with soda. The neutralizing of acid in the stomach enables a medicine to go to work at once.

"But Eclectics where I first lived did not run into the large dosage. They followed the course which has since been recommended by Dr. Samuel Dickson to give a small dose first so as to ascertain its compatibility with the idiosyncrasy of the patient.

"I am partial to prescriptions of several ingredients. but so they should be compatible and reasonably certain to influence one another. Even if one wanted to get drunk he would better assure the result by mixed drinks than by, any liquor 'straight.' [Reference is had here to Prof. A. J. Hawe's comment on the practice of mixing aconite with veratrum in treating fevers, comparing it to mixing brandy and whisky as a stimulant.

The progress in treatment in our time is marked by the use of the single remedy.] Nature is a campaunder, and we cannot beat her, but I do not regard the stomach as a distributing post office to make a special delivery of every drug in a complex mixture to its separate destination ; indeed, I have aversion to drugging much, anyway.

SAW PALMETTO.-By I. L. Van Zandt, M.D., Ft. Worth, Texas. (*Medical Record*, June 17, 1905, p. 37.)

Some years ago, the subject of this paper was brought to my attention through reading an article by an old physician who had long been under the necessity of using a catheter on account of prostatic troubles. This had been relieved by the use of saw palmetto.. A recurrence of his trouble from "taking cold" had also been relieved. This particularly attracted my attention because of being so entirely contrary to the general teaching,

Sir Henry Thompson, for example, saying that we have no medicinal remedy for this, and all we can do is to teach such patients to use the catheter.

Nowadays surgery seems to be about all that is recommended. I began soon after prescribing it as occasion offered, for old men whose sleep was disturbed by the necessity of rising to empty the bladder. I do not think any of them failed to receive benefit. The fluid extract was used alone. On case, severe and with marked results from treatment, is here reported:

Mr. B. was brought to me from Denton County, April 29, 1896. I saw him late in the afternoon. His physician, being unable to introduce a catheter, had aspirated his bladder once daily for four days, the last time probably in the morning of that day. Procuring a Mercier's elbow catheter (one with elbow near the point), I had but little difficulty in introducing it and drawing off the urine with a lot of disintegrated blood clot. I then cleansed the bladder with a boric acid solution by repeated small washings, after the manner of Sir Henry Thompson. This was repeated morning and evening for the next two days, when the man was able to pass his urine during the day. It was necessary to catheterize him in the morning for five days more, after which he was able to pass his urine as necessary.

He took a drachm of the fluid extract four times a day at the beginning; later three times a day. He was at the beginning pale and emaciated. He remained about town for a month or more, by the end of which time his complexion was ruddy and he appeared to have gained much flesh. He told me he was in better condition than he had been for eight years, and wrote me two or three months later that his improvement had continued to that time.

Knowing that saw palmetto had been used in respiratory troubles, and considering the similarity between the prostate and the tonsils, I determined to test the remedy in chronic inflammation involving the latter. My experiments (two patients) were made during the winter of 1892-3. One patient with tonsils very much enlarged, breathing through the mouth entirely, was greatly benefited by a short treatment. He moved away in a short time and I lost sight of him.

The other patient, aged four or five years, was under medical care for his throat every two weeks during the winter. I treated him in one acute attack, and then put him on saw palmetto, and though I have continued to do the family practice, I have seen him only once since with a sore throat.

Since that time I have given the treatment to many cases. Some of the patients received marked benefit to throat and general health; others failed, some probably from lack of persistence in taking the medicine.

I will conclude with a short report of cases. Girl, aged about ten. Has chronic trouble with the throat; has had much local treatment; is subject to frequent attacks of spasmodic or catarrhal croup. I saw her in one of these attacks in August, 1903. She was given apomorphine muriate and potassium iodide for immediate relief, and then half-drachm doses of fluid extract of saw palmetto three times a day. I saw her about a year later.

She had not had another attack of croup. I was consulted as to the propriety of her taking another "course" of the medicine to strengthen her against attacks the coming winter, and advised her doing so, I learned that she passed that winter without an attack of croup, and her general appearance had very much improved.

"In the case of a patient, recently seen in consultation, dioscorea produced an agreeable sleep as the result of tranquility restored to the gastrointestinal nerves.

"In both these cases the remedy produced tranquility where the reverse condition prevailed, and so assisted nature in effecting a cure.

"In the treatment of dysmenorrhea. we give macrotys in the intervals between the menstrual periods, as we aim to remove the cause of the dysmenorrhea.

"Dr. Eli G. Jones gives 'flushed face, full, hard pulse. albuminous urine and throbbing headache' as specific indications for glonoin in the 6x attenuation in impending uremic convulsions. Such keynotes are of the utmost value

"I have employed glonoin in the treatment of headaches caused by exposure to strong sunlight and heat with good effect. I presume that, like belladonna, it equalizes the circulation by imparting force to the heart.

"I value all suggestions that enable me to anticipate and control unfavorable conditions.

"I use forceps as an auxiliary force when the natural powers prove inadequate, but always under chloroform to the point of comfort.

"All that Dr. Jones says as to preparing the patient for her hour of trial is golden.

"I have had but two cases of puerperal mania, and gelsemium was employed with good results. My first article written for publication reported the first of these cases.

"Your article on the 'Art of Prescribing' expressed my views to the letter.

J. E. G. Waddington, A.M., M.D., Detroit, Mich., writes, August 27.

"As an Eclectic I am certainly in favor of maintaining our Eclectic societies and colleges. If the dominant school were not so arrogant and determined to wipe all other sects (medical) out of existence, one might feel like throwing one's lot with them, for, after all, the science of medicine is the science of healing, and all physicians should primarily be interested in the best and most expeditious means of curing disease.

APOCYNUM. By W. H. Haifley, M.D., Amboy, Ind.

Apocynum cannabinum is described in the dispensatories, and I pass to its therapeutic action and uses. Chiefly employed as a remedy for dropsy, it has more recently been recommended in neuralgia. Only a tincture of the fresh plant is effective.

I find two conditions where apocynum has not disappointed me: Edema, general or local, apparently due to renal congestion or an atonic condition of the heart; and neuralgia of the sciatic type, whether of the sciatic or other nerve. The dose is one to two drops of specific apocynum in a teaspoonful of hot water every fifteen minutes, until four to six doses are taken. Relief is usually obtained in neuralgia in from a half to two hours. I have used apocynum for the last ten years, but the cases reported occurred lately.

CASE I.-H. S., aged forty-three, farmer, weight 245 pounds. When called to the case, September 1, 1910, he was in bed and presented the following symptoms: A very offensive tibial ulcer on the right leg, 3x7 inches, covered by a gray, ropy exudate, which had existed over twenty years; no venereal or tubercular history; bone scraped eight years ago without benefit; temperature 106.5°; extremely edematous from head to toes; marked yellowness of the skin; urine almost suppressed: bowels constipated and stools chalky in color; asthmatic and comatose; intense headache and backache, tenderness over the loin and kidneys had preceded. Treatment: Apocynum, sp. med., gtt. iij and sp. chionanthus gtt. x, alternating every two hours. Ordered a warm bath and applied a woollen bandage from the toes to the knee with a liberal dusting of calomel to the ulcer.

At the end of four days the temperature was normal; yellowness of skin and sclerotic had passed off; appetite good, so that he insisted on going to work, but this was not permitted. At the present time (December 9, 1910) he is still taking the remedies. He looks well and feels fine. The ulcer is only 1x1/2 inch, with no odor nor pain. He works hard fourteen hours a day.

CASE II.-C. Y., aged eighteen, farmer; family and personal history good. I was called to this case September 10, 1910. He was lying on the floor in a house to which he had been carried from a cornfield where he had been husking corn about two hours. He had complained of a dull, heavy headache on the left side before starting to the field in the morning. The headache soon became violent, with shooting and boring pain like toothache, as he later described it to me. He was unconscious when I reached him, and jerked violently all over at frequent intervals. Treatment: I ordered heat to the head and feet, and gave six drops apocynum every half hour to four doses, and at the end of two hours all pain had left him, and at the end of the third hour he insisted on going to work, which I with difficulty persuaded him not to do. Apocynum was continued in two-drop doses. every two hours. He was determined on going to work, and had two light attacks during the following three days while at the same work. On my third visit I ordered him to stay out of the corn field and avoid all work that required stooping. He is still under treatment (December 9), but has had no further attacks.

CASE III.-Miss P., aged eighteen, came to my office December 3, 1910. About one month before she had lifted a large can of milk, and felt some thing burst in the region of the right ovary, the pain extending to the toes. When seen, there was some soreness and edema the entire length of the leg. Treatment: Rest in bed and sp. apocynum in drop doses hourly for twenty-four hours, when awake, then every two hours, reducing the dose gradually after the bowels. had moved freely. Pain and edema all gone in five days. Rest and remedies continued.

I have noted that in most cases apocynum is laxative or cathartic in large doses, *i.e.*, two to six drops, when given at intervals of one or two hours and continued for twenty-four hours or longer.

Bitter? Yes; but it hits the mark rifle-like.

VERATRUM VIRIDE. By M. M. Hamlin, M.D., St. Louis, Mo. (*American Medical Journal*, December 10, 1910, p. 505.) Abstracted.

[The author reports an epidemic of typhoid fever in Franklin County, Mo., where he at one time lived. He treated twenty-seven cases, and all recovered. His main remedy was veratrum, which was indicated by the full and bounding pulse. He had not employed this remedy in typhoid fever since that time, as his patients did not have the full and bounding pulse.

Dr. Hamlin reports other cases with the full and bounding pulse cured by veratrum. Other observers have noted that veratrum is a dangerous remedy in typhoid fever in the hands of the routinist.-Ed.]

CASE I.-Typhoid, fever. The subject was a little girl. Her pulse was slow but full and bounding, non-compressible, and I thought of veratrum, which was given in alternation with eucalyptus. She made a splendid recovery.

Veratrum was given in all the cases according to Norwood's suggestion one part veratrum to two parts syrup squills, three to fifteen drops of the mixture every three or four hours.

CASE II.-An old man had a tibial ulcer, not ulcerated with a clear-cut margin like most old sores, but the center of the inflamed area had the appearance of bulging. It was in a high state of inflammation, and the swelling extended from the garter-line to the sale of the foot. He had some fever; his pulse was plainly a veratrum pulse. So I gave him this remedy internally and bound up the leg, using a solution containing veratrum, hydrastis and a few drops of carbolic acid to keep the dressing wet. This treatment was continued and he recovered. My chief dependence was on veratrum to overcome congestion and the inflammatory condition.

CASE IIL-Malarial fever. In the initial stage the fever is almost always of the sthenic type, and veratrum is indicated. There is no other remedy that will control the fever as well and prepare the patient for quinine next day.

It is also a most effective remedy for enlarged spleen, the result of long-standing malarial poisoning. Here I give veratrum and phytolacca, five to eight drops of each, three times a day, and persist in the treatment for weeks; then change to chelidonium, chelone glabra and chionanthus for a time, and again return to the veratrum and phytolacca. This treatment will not cure every case, but will, give good results in most cases.

A young man came to me with a history of "chills and fever" of two years' standing. He had taken quinine and other remedies freely; would be better for a time, when the fever would return and the same treatment was repeated, so that he felt that he could not stand another attack. His tongue was covered with a brown fur; between two and six o'clock every third morning his bowels would move three to five times; stools thin, watery and very offensive; his cheeks would flush and he would have a slight fever, 99° to 100°; pulse rather full and hard or wiry. He had also a very distressing cough. I gave him five capsules, into each of which I put one grain of leptandrin and one-fourth grain of podophyllin, one capsule to be taken at bedtime for three nights, the other two to be taken, every other night. He also had specific veratrum KSS, syrup squills Kiss. M1. S. Take fifteen drops three times a day. Improvement was marked from the end of the first week. His skin, which had been dry and pinched, became moist and pliable; his tongue cleaned off; cough better, and he had a good appetite. He had an antimalarial tonic to complete the cure, and after six months he reported himself well.

CASE IV.-Syphilis. Take one ounce of iodide of lime, and add one pint of boiling water in a pitcher, and let it stand one hour; then strain into a bottle, using only the liquid. Put ʒiij .sp. veratrumi into a four-ounce vial and fill with the lime solution. A teaspoonful to be taken three times daily.

This treatment will cure in a year. This prescription is also effective in enlargement of the cervical glands and enlarged glands generally. *Chionanthus* is a splendid agent to increase waste and stimulate a better nutrition in the parts affected. Indications are yellowness of the skin, urine highly colored, stools deficient in coloring matter, as in jaundice. But there is an icteroid condition, not exactly jaundice, in many chronic diseases. where it will give good results. In malarial affections, with atonicity of the stomach and intestines, with this yellowish skin, chionanthus is indicated. It is best combined with podophyllum in minute doses, and if there is general dropsy add apocynum.

PASSIFLORA. By Joseph Adolphus, M.D. Atlanta, Ga. (*S. P. M. Journal*, 1899). Abstracted.

I have given passiflora to a large, strong man suffering from sleeplessness, with a low, muttering delirium, who was beginning to pick the bedclothes, and was passing his hand forwards to catch imaginary objects. His heart was very weak, respiration shallow and frequent. and there was much nervous prostration. I had failed with chloralamid and paraldehyde. I then gave him teaspoonful doses of Daniel's concentrated tincture of passiflora. and after the third dose he went to sleep for two and a half hours. I repeated the passiflora as soon as I saw that he had not slept enough, and two more doses put him to sleep nearly four hours. Before the last dose I made him drink a tumbler nearly full of warm, sweet cow's milk to which I added a teaspoonful of strong chicken broth. This sleep, I believe, saved his life. by resting his over-depressed nervous system and enabling him to recuperate his depressed energies, which the poison of the fever had nearly exhausted.

In these cases one or even two teaspoonfuls may be given and repeated in an hour.

SAMBUCUS CANADENSIS. By G. W. Harvey, M.D., Salt Lake City, Utah, (*California Medical Journal*, August, 1878, p. 218.) Abstracted.

CASE:-A young woman with general dropsy, supposed to be caused by suppression of the menses. There was scant urine, extreme dyspnea, very rapid pulse (140), labored heart action, nausea and vomiting, accompanied by loss of sleep and a general appearance of approaching dissolution. She had been in that condition about three months, gradually growing worse.

Treatment: A strong tea was made from the inner bark of the common elder, and of this she had a teacupful three times a day. Cured.

RHAMNUS CALIFORNICA. By H. T. Webster, MD., Oakland, Cal. (*California Medical Journal*, January, 1896, p. 23). Abstracted.

Rhamnus Californica seems to me to be the most positive remedy for rheumatism and muscular pain of rheumatic character that I have ever employed. A saturated tincture of the fresh bark made in alcohol may be administered in fifteen to twenty drop doses every three or four hours, in ordinary cases of acute rheumatism. Three or four doses a day will answer in chronic cases.

[Prof. Webster introduced this article as a remedy for rheumatism in a paper published in the July, 1895, number of the ECLECTIC MEDICAL JOURNAL.-ED.]

EPILEPSY. By Lyman Watkins, M.D., Cincinnati, O. (ECLECTIC MEDICAL JOURNAL, July, 1898). Abstracted.

It has been found that vegetable remedies improve the power of the bromides in the treatment of epilepsy, though ultimate cure is doubtful, as the disease returns, but some cases are apparently cured

Case I.-Boy, aged eight, dull, apathetic, erratic, impulsive, well nourished but with a ravenous, perverted appetite; facies epilepticus well marked. Had six to eight epileptic seizures daily, varying in intensity. Treatment: Sp. oenanthe crocata, sp. solanum carolinense, sp. jacaranda aa. ʒij; bromide of potas. ʒiv; aq. menth. pip., simple syr., aa. ʒviiij. M. Dose, teaspoonful every four hours.

After thirty days no fits, considerable improvement, though nervous; bowels habitually constipated. Prescribed cascara for constipation, cyproedium for nervousness, and continued oenanthe, etc. After sixty days no relapse. Continued treatment. After twenty months seemed bright, intelligent, keeping up with his classes in school.

Case II.-Boy, aged twenty, strong, well nourished, fairly intelligent, nervous, erratic, very religious, appetite good, digestion poor, constipated. Epileptic seizures at night. He has been treated by many doctors, has bromide eruption, has two or three seizures every twenty-four hours. Prescribed sp. oenanthe croc., sp. solanum car., aa. ʒss.; bromide potas. ʒss.; aquae ʒvi. M. Dose, teaspoonful every four hours, with cascara for constipation. Continued treatment. No return of fits after more than a year.

Case III-Girl, aged ten, well nourished. morbid appetite, stupid, sluggish, mind feeble, ten to twenty fits daily. Treatment: Sp. oenanthe croc., sp. solanum car., sp. pulsatilla, sp. cyproedium, aa. ʒij; aquae q. s. ad ʒiv, M. Dose, teaspoonful every four hours. Also liquor lactopepsin, cascara cordial, aa. ʒij. M. Dose, teaspoonful after meals. She has had no attacks for eighteen months. In several other cases the cure seemed doubtful.

CORRESPONDENCE. CONCERNING THE WORD "ECLECTIC." By Prof. J. U. Lloyd, Cincinnati, O.[I submitted our correspondence with members of our society to Prof. Lloyd, to determine certain historic facts as to our name "Eclectic." He replied as follows.-ED.]

"As concerns the word 'Eclectic' and its application by the fathers of our school in medicine, I will say that in my opinion it is a short term, suggesting in a word one of the conspicuous features of the crusade of the fathers. Only one feature, however, because the dictionary definition of the term 'eclectic' does not apply to some of the most conspicuous of the works of the Eclectic school, and in this sense, I take it, it has always been employed by thinking Eclectic authorities.

They have reserved and have often mentioned the fact that the Eclectic school is not simply a *selector* from what others have done, but a mighty contributor to what others have wished to accomplish, both by resisting wrong in medication and therapeutic problems, and in original investigations that add more to the armamentarium of the world than the Eclectic has really taken from it. Along about the time the word 'eclectic' came into use it was a very popular word. You will remember that an 'Eclectic' series of readers in the middle of the last century made the word renowned. This fact, however, was an aid to the Eclectic cause, but did not, so far as I know, influence the selection of the name.

"In my library studies I have met with many references to the term 'Eclectic' as applied to the fathers, but have not attempted in any wise to do anything in the way of a systematic research that would make an historical record. I have summed it all up in that the term 'Eclectic,' adopted by the fathers, was designed to indicate that the school utilized that word as an apt mark distinguishing the school from the Allopathic school; but, the dictionary definition gives only a part of the features connected with the Eclectic crusade, in which kindness to the sick, kindly medication, the establishing of innocuous remedial agents to take the place of those energetic and harmful, such as bleeding, excessive vomiting, blistering, etc., then so popular elsewhere. The word, 'eclectic,' therefore, embraces all that I have indicated, that in this manner the crusaders devoted care and time in returning as much or more to the physician's armamentarium in the direction indicated as it did to selections from the outside-those things which most appealed to the investigating fathers.

"What I have written is on the spur of the moment, and yet if the subject should be gone into historically, step by step, I feel assured that the result could 'be condensed into something similar to the import of what I have written." .

Eli G. Jones, Burlington, N. J., writes, October 29, 1910:

"In studying the remedial action of a remedy, we want to find out all about it. We want to be able to get all the virtue there is out of a plant. To give an illustration: Our Eclectic works tell us that hydrastis is good for cancer, but they do not tell us what form of cancer or the indications for it; so we turn to the Homeopathic materia medica, and there we get a clear-cut indication for its use in cancer of the breast. In the case of other remedies you will find a clearer indication for the particular remedy in the Eclectic materia medica. I want it impressed upon your readers that the earnest, diligent student of materia medica should seek the truth, no matter where the search may lead him. He should know no party lines, no pathies, but prove all things, hold fast that which is good.' We want the best for our patients there is in medicine, no matter where it comes from. That is true Eclecticism, and that is the reason I am an Eclectic."

[Dr. Jones has published an excellent book, "Definite Medication," in which his plan of selecting over a wide range is well carried out. The old methods and remedies of Thomson and Beach appear with the attenuated remedies of Hahnemann and Schuessler, all based on the doctrine of specifics for pathological conditions.-ED.]

J. E. G. Waddington, Detroit, Mich., writes, December 8, 1910:

"I am using considerable hypodermic lobelia for impeded respiration and collapse under anesthesia, with elegant results. A former house surgeon, acting on my recommendation, has used lobelia hypodermically in over 100 cases as above, with nothing but good results. I am using echinacea, twenty drops every two hours, in a case of gunshot wound of the forearm, several inches of the ulna shattered and destroyed and the soft parts much torn and powder-stained. If tetanus should supervene, I shall try the treatment spoken of at the Illinois meeting-2 per cent. solution of carbolic acid, gelsemium, echinacea, aa.; drops twenty every two hours.

"I have had two bad cases of diphtheria, and am using hypodermic lobelia and a mixture of sulphur and sulphurous acid by mouth. They are still in the critical stage, but so far doing as well as can be expected."

PHORADENDRON FLAVESCEND.-By O. S. Laws, M.D., Los Angeles, Cal. (*California Medical Journal*, January, 1902, p. 13.) Abstracted. I have observed that viscum album, or foreign mistletoe, is a specific for chorea, but not being able to obtain this, I substituted American mistletoe, and found it fully equal to the foreign article.

Case I.-Boy, aged ten. Chorea, very severe, violent every day, and with little rest at night. Gave five drops fluid extract of phoradendron (P.D. & Co.), and after a time ten drops every two hours, beginning in the morning, and at night till he fell asleep, which he did early, and slept sweetly till nine o'clock the next day. He began to toss about when he awoke, but could control himself and speak some words so as to be understood. Again he slept well at night, and did from that on.

Case II.-Child, forty-eight hours after birth, in spasms. Gelsemium and lobelia in a mild infusion of ipecac was given, which made the attacks less frequent for twenty-four hours when they returned as bad as ever. I prepared the phoradendron so that ten drops would contain one-tenth drop of the medicine and gave this in ten-drop doses every thirty minutes at first, then every hour, until all spasms of hands, eyes and eyebrows ceased. This took but a few hours, and only once afterwards were anymore twitchings noticed, which were soon silenced by the drops. This is surely the best antispasmodic. It should be given in small doses, one-tenth of a drop to five drops.

THUJA OCCIDENTALIS.-By J. P. Dice, M.D., Xenia, O. (*Gleaner*, September, 1897, p. 287.) Abstracted.

Seminal Emissions.-In the treatment the patient should have eight hours sleep out of twenty-four; should eat good, wholesome food, well prepared and not too much of it, especially for supper; should take a saltwater bath each morning and rub, after drying, until the skin is in a glow; should take plenty of manual exercise at stated times, keep the mind pure, and take ten drops sp. thuja in water before eating and before retiring.

Thuja will not cure all cases but it will cure many.

Neuralgia of the Clitoris.-Specific thuja in five to ten drop doses every' two hours cured a woman who complained of very severe pain deep in the clitoris during copulation after other means and remedies had been tried for three months and failed. This patient had a lacerated cervix repaired and all around orificial work done, and pain came on during convalescence.

Enlarged Prostate.-Specific thuja, in drop doses every half hour, relieved an old man with enlarged prostate, urgent calls to urinate with severe scalding pain. He had the catheter used, was purged with salts and had hot sitz baths, but without relief, and seemed doomed to have the unruly knobs excised, but he has appeared to enjoy life for the last two years by using thuja. He says the "green truck" beats the knife.

Leucorrhoea.-Specific thuja, five to ten drops in a two-drachm vial filled with No. 30 pellets; dose, ten every two hours, will cure many cases of leucorrhoea in young girls.

GALL-STONES.-By O. S. Laws, M.D., Los Angeles, Cal. (*National Eclectic Medical Journal*, May, 1903, p. 13.) Abstracted.

Mrs. G., aged thirty, large and fleshy, had been afflicted about three years with periodical attacks of gall-stone colic, three or four weeks apart. Many doctors had tried their skill without affording relief or preventing a return till all treatment had been abandoned, except the injection of morphine to benumb the nerves.

After a consultation of many doctors she was informed that surgery was the only thing they could offer in her case. She refused their kind offer in that line. Several months later I was requested to see her, and with much difficulty induced her to try a course of medical treatment to prevent the formation of gall-stones. The result was that she had only one more attack, about three weeks after beginning treatment, and that much less severe than usual.

My first prescription was: ℞ Sp. dioscorea, 3i; sp. macrotys, 3ss: water, ℥iv. M. S. Give a teaspoonful every three hours. Also ℞ potassium acetate, 3ij; sp. euonymus, 3i; water, 3iv. M. S. A teaspoonful after meals. Ten days later gave ℞ sp. dioscorea, 3j; sp. chionanthus, 3ss; sp. pulsatilla, 3ss; water, ad ℥iv. M. S. A teaspoonful every three hours.

I also gave some capsules containing podophyllin and hydrastis at bedtime for several days. Under this treatment she got to feeling so well that I could not induce her to keep up the treatment but little over a month. But that ended the gall-stone formation, and she still lives after a period of seven years.

INFLAMMATION OF THE BLADDER.-By the Editor.

Case I.-Mr. S., house painter, had painful irritation of the bladder with frequent calls to urinate. The cause was attributed to turpentine inhalation incident to his occupation. I gave him tincture of elaterium (King's) gtts. x, tr. belladonna gtts. xxx, water ℥iv. M. S. A teaspoonful every hour. The medicine relieved him promptly. In fact, he said that the condition was common with him, occurring once a year or oftener, and that he had never taken any medicine for the affection that afforded such prompt relief.

Case II.-J. M., aged twenty-eight, was exposed in a snow storm and obliged to wear wet clothing. As a result he had an attack of cystitis. I did not see him for several days, but his statement that he had frequent calls to urinate and the urine was ropy, loaded with mucus, suggested inflammation of the bladder. I began treatment with gelsemium, but as it did not afford relief I changed to other remedies, but without benefit. He had cramp-like pains, which he said felt as though "a fold of the bladder was being twisted with a pair of pincers into a knot." I gave at the beginning five drops of a saturated tincture made by dissolving Clutterbuck's elaterium in alcohol, gradually increasing the dose. The relief was so prompt as to be remarked by the patient. I have never treated a case which was so severe and so obstinate as this one where the relief was so prompt and satisfactory.

Case III.-Irritation of the bladder following a forceps delivery. Elaterium relieved in about six hours.

Case IV.-Girl, aged seven, has "to pass water every little while," as her mother explained, otherwise she is well and engages in play. Treatment: ℞ Tr. belladonna gtts. x, water ℥iv. M. S. A teaspoonful every three hours. Well in a few days. I have not always found the cure permanent in these cases.

Case V.-Miss C., aged twenty-three, almost constant urging to urinate; pain in the back; no uterine disease. Treatment, tr. belladonna, one drop three times a day. Relief prompt and permanent.

Case VI.-Mrs. G. Uterine disease, chronic inflammation of the cervical canal with enlargement of the cervix; urine passed with great distress; a slight discharge of blood from the urethra; spasmodic pain in the bladder. Belladonna relieved.

Irritation of the bladder during early pregnancy is relieved by belladonna.

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Irritation of the bladder during early pregnancy is relieved by belladonna.

GELSEMIUM-By Joseph Adolphus, M.D., Atlanta, Ga. (*Materia Medica Reports*, May, 1905.)

Catarrhal Fever.-J. S., had a severe pain in the head and back; sore throat; aching eyes; hard, quick pulse; complete loss of appetite; constipation; pain in the side and abdomen; scanty, high-colored urine; very hot, dry and parched skin; quick breathing; nose and face hot and dry, together with symptoms showing disturbance of the breathing apparatus.

Treatment indications: The skin must be made active to restore perspiration to the normal state. The severe strain on the nervous system caused by the sudden change from taking cold, with aggravated congestion of mucous membranes, must be quickly removed and the labor suddenly put on the nervous and sanguineous systems must be quickly sedated without causing any depression of the rejuvenating powers of the organism.

My first move was to bathe the feet and legs in water as hot as he could bear for twenty minutes. The next thing was to give him copious draughts of hot composition tea. After perspiration was well established, I ordered ten drops of gelsemium, repeated every hour, until the general system was brought under its sedative influence.

After perspiration is established in these cases, and before the gelsemium is administered, the headache and hard pulse usually continue. At this important juncture the grand sedative influence of gelsemium is seen. This remedy brings about sedation of the highly excited nervous centers in such cases as this and affords relief to the congestion of the mucous system. Gelsemium sedates the heart, that is it reduces the frequency of the heart beats without positively affecting the force and rhythm of the ventricular systoles. Thus gelsemium slows the heart beats through its influence on the vasomotor system, augmenting the activity of the capillary circulation. This simple treatment restores the balance of the circulation and sends the blood through the whole capillary system freely and actively and removes engorgements of mucous membranes, and promotes the general nutrition of the whole system, thus restoring these patients to health in a short, time.

The value of heat and of hot mildly stimulating teas, and the remarkably fine sedative influence on the ganglionic nervous system of gelsemium, are subjects well worth the attentive consideration of the younger members of our progressive profession.

Pneumonia.-I treated a severely acute case of croupous pneumonia in a young man, twenty-two years old, last February, with hot packs and gelsemium, All the symptoms were intensely acute. Pulse 115; temperature, taken in the axilla, 104.70 F.; sharp pain in the side, cough; rust-colored, prune-juice sputa; fever very acute; skin harsh and dry; great restlessness, showing much disturbance of the cerebro-spinal system, caused, I think, by the extreme congestion of the thoracic organs and the capillaries of the nerve centers.

I applied a thorough hot pack to the entire body. I studied and practiced the hydropathic system of treatment thirty-five years and believe I understand it fairly well. The hot pack properly and systematically applied is, in my opinion and experience, *the* remedy and proper treatment for nearly all thoracic and acute inflammatory diseases. I found the symptoms ameliorated in an hour after the hot pack was applied, especially was the labor of the heart much reduced, but the strength of the systole was good, so much so that the beat was reduced ten strokes per minute, the skin moist, and the pleuritic pain very much abated.

The pack was continued three hours. This was rather long, but the initial chill was pronounced and long continued, at the same time the pulmonary congestion was very considerable, for decided dullness on percussion over the whole right lung was quite manifest.

The hot pack in the treatment of pneumonia in aged people should be resorted to more frequently. The vigor of age is often dilated upon by speakers and writers, but, in my opinion, fewer people reach sixty than is popularly believed, and after a working man reaches fifty years of age, in the majority of instances, such persons, in both sexes, are old people and the infirmities of age are upon them.

Pneumonia in people advanced to forty-five or sixty years of age must be treated very largely on the supporting plan, and the hot pack is not to be passed over lightly, though it costs more labor and is fatiguing to physician and nurses. It saves more lives by tending strongly to remove thoracic engorgements, invites the blood to the skin, abdomen and extremities. Proper feeding in these cases is of the highest importance. There should be a careful blending of properly selected and prepared carbohydrates and proteids, with just enough fats to nourish the tissues.

Proper feeding and carefully discriminating nursing, especially during the night, with some stimulant, are requisites of the highest order. The careful and discriminate use of stimulants in these diseases of old people must be closely studied and wisely practiced to make the treatment of these cases as successful as they of right should be. I am not out of the way when I affirm that the disease is far too much treated, while the patient is not sufficiently attended to.

[Dr. Wilder, in commenting on the above article, said: "Dr. Adolphus is, as usual, right up to the mark. He was rough-hewn, but full of sense. What he said of pneumonia is true as gospel."-ED.]

GELSEMIUM.-By E. G. Trowbridge, M.D., Chicago, Ill. (*Materia Medica Reports*, May, 1905.)

In my use of gelsemium I have given both the large and the small dose, as experience demands. I think we can accomplish with the larger dose what we could not with the small one.

In my own case, when worn out and nervous from overwork, I find ten drops of specific gelsemium, taken at one dose, is little enough to afford relief, while with those patients, especially women, who are more susceptible to the action of the remedy, five drops will prove a sufficient dose in a like case. In fact, it appears to me that the pathological condition offers a resistance to the physiological action of the remedy, and governs the dose necessary in any case. In other words, the dose must be sufficient to afford relief in any given case. In acute coryza, or cold in the head, there will be a sensation of itching of the nasal mucous membrane, the throat will feel sore, there will be a tendency to perspire when the body is covered, but when the hands are put out from under the bed covering, or the body is exposed, there will be a very unpleasant sensation of chilliness and general discomfort. Here, ten drops of specific gelsemium, given at one dose, will relieve the condition in a very short time. I have found that the small dose will not do it but that one dose of ten drops must be given.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.-By Prof. John King, M.D., North Bend, O. (Trans. Nat. Ec. Med. Ass'n, 1888, p. 209.)

In the treatment of a number of cases of this malady, I have of late years entirely dispensed with the application of nitrate of silver solution. My chief reliance has been upon the following mixture: ℞ Pulv. Hydrastis can., ℥j; pulv. geranium mac., ℥ss. M. Of this mixture the nurse is requested to place about fifteen grains in a warmed cup and then pour upon it a tablespoonful of boiling soft water. Cover this, and when cold strain to obtain a clear fluid. In warm weather this will require to be made every day, as it soon spoils; in cold weather every two or three days. The affected eyes are to be cleansed with this decoction every two or three hours. Care being taken that some of it passes beneath the lids upon the surface of each eye. A thin compress moistened with the decoction may be kept upon the lids when the lashes are obstinately adherent or glued together, changing it every hour or two.

[In ophthalmia of infants, gonorrhoeal or simple, Prof. E. G. Trowbridge, of Chicago, eye specialist, advises that the eye be thoroughly cleansed, the pus not being allowed to accumulate, and that this cleansing process is more important than any local medication.-ED.]

TAG ALDER IN CATARRH OF THE BLADDER.-By Alonzo D. Ayer, M.D., Madison, Conn. (Trans. Nat. Ec. Med. Ass'n, 1888, p. 215.) Abstracted. Catarrh of the bladder is more especially a disease of old age, and so difficult to cure that success in the treatment tends to establish the doctor's reputation as a skillful physician.

Case.-Mr. B., aged seventy-five, weight 250 pounds, after a long ride on horseback the preceding day, retired, but was awakened about three o'clock in the morning by a desire to urinate. He had trouble heretofore in starting the flow of urine quickly, and now found it especially difficult. A catarrh of the bladder had troubled him for six years past, with a whitish, stringy discharge at times. He returned to bed, but could not rest; had a steady bearing-down pain all the time. This continued to increase until eight o'clock, when he sent for a doctor. The physician was a man with an established reputation for skill, but he failed to relieve the patient. He failed to pass the catheter, and by the next evening gave the case up as hopeless. He used hard rubber and silver catheters. The patient being partially unconscious, the relatives were called to his bedside expecting a speedy dissolution. In this emergency I was called to the case. I found him delirious, hardly able to recognize anyone, and then only for a moment.

I gave him belladonna, gttss. x to ℥iv, water, a teaspoonful every fifteen minutes. His face was pallid, pupils dilated, with a dusky appearance about the size of half a dollar on each cheek.

It was about 11 o'clock at night when I arrived. I succeeded in passing a No. 10 soft rubber catheter into the bladder and drew off *four* quarts and one gill of decomposed, dark-colored urine. I expected to see him faint, but instead he soon fell into a sound sleep. I continued to draw the urine daily with the same catheter until all of a sudden it would not enter the bladder. I procured a new one, which entered readily.

I made a daily examination *per rectum*, but found no enlargement of the prostate until at this time a hard tumor was detected in the region of the prostate the size of a hen's egg. This proved to be an abscess of the prostate gland, and I looked for a fatal termination, but it suppurated and discharged, improvement following. At no time did I fail to draw the urine.

Treatment.-I rinsed out the bladder freely with the extract of tag alder. daily. The catarrh disappeared and the recovery was complete. I occasionally gave podophyllum, ten to fifteen drops for constipation and kept compresses wet with the extract of tax alder applied to the abscess.

In my hands tag alder cures catarrh of the bladder when injected to cleanse it. I have treated twenty cases successfully in this way.

In these cases, where there has been an unsuccessful attempt to pass a hard catheter, wounding the urethra and prostate, an abscess is apt to follow.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Eli G. Jones, MD., Burlington, N.J. writes, December 28, 1910:

"The paper on veratrum vir, by A. B. Whitney, is practical and instructive. He was one of the old-time Eclectics, one of the grand old men of New York, and in his specialty, gynecology, he had no superior. I was proud to call him my friend. He has passed to his eternal reward. Anything from the pen of Dr. D. E. Smith, of Brooklyn, is always practical and helpful to the busy doctor. He was one of the fathers of the Eclectic school in New York. We honor and revere his memory. I can freely endorse the report on phytolacca. It is one of my old friends in syphilis and diphtheria. With phytolacca, baptisia, gelsemium and eucalyptus, so valuable in diphtheria, I am surprised that some of our modern Eclectics ever think of using the filthy horse serum antitoxin. In Marcy and Hunt's "Homeopathic Practice," published in 1865, the authors report two hundred cases of diphtheria treated with a mortality of less than 1 per cent. How is that, associated with the claim of some modern Homeopaths that there is no cure without antitoxin? The materia medica of both schools is rich in remedies for the cure of diphtheria. God help the people if all doctors had to depend on a filthy serum to cure their patients. We urge a restudy of our materia medica in order that the truth may not be lost. The old school doctors have lost faith in their own remedies and now resort to serum to cure their patients. It now remains to be seen whether the Eclectics will follow in the footsteps of their ancient enemy: to pick up the crumbs that fall from their master's table. Shame on them!!! Have they no pride nor decency?"

Ralph B. Taylor, M.D., Columbus, O., writes, January 5, 1911:

"As to antitoxin, I have never lost a patient during the active stages of diphtheria, but lost one from general paralysis, following the acute stage. This child died about a month after the quarantine had been raised,

"He had antitoxin as all my cases do, but the membranes had involved the entire nasal tract before recovery began, so, of course, the field of absorption was large.

"My experience has been limited to a small number of cases, usually very mild, but I am not ready to throw over antitoxin until it serves me more poorly or something else serves me better.

G. W. Billig, M.D., Chicago, Ill, writes, January 17, 1911:

"I was called out this evening to see a young woman, twenty years old, that was in an active state of hysteria, tearing her hair and almost maniacal. I simply gave her a hypodermic injection of M, xv. sp, gelsemium, and in twenty minutes she was perfectly calm. There is little or no soreness after an injection if the needle is inserted deep into the muscles.

"I was greatly interested in the report of Dr. Waterhouse on the hypodermic use of gelsemium in his case of meningitis. I have used it likewise, but did not find it necessary to exhibit such large doses. I have used gelsemium hypodermically over a period of about twelve years, and am pleased with the results.

G. W. Holmes, M.D., Sharpes, Fla., writes, January 23, 1911:

"The article on apocynum can., by Dr. Haifley, is brim-full of interest to me. Its employment in all forms of dropsy by the Eclectic school is well attested, and is so well known that he wisely gives us its value in other conditions, and his paper is a distinct contribution to our knowledge of its' virtues.

'Dr. J. M. Scudder always emphasized the white, glistening skin as a peculiar indication for its use in dropsy, It has been called by some a vegetable trocar.

"Neuritis of the sciatic nerve, no matter whether of rheumatic or other origin, is often difficult to cure; and the addition of apocynum to the list of remedies of value in the complaint is most welcome. Tincture of gelsemium has been one of my chief remedies in this form of nerve trouble.

"To dispense with the nuisance of the bitter taste of apocynum, I direct it to be dropped into a gelatin capsule just before its administration. *Liatris spicata* is a remedy that may be associated with apocynum, and may succeed when the latter fails.

"The cases cited by Dr. Haifley with apocynum are wonderful for the promptness in recovery and are well portrayed by his pen. "I need such promptings as this paper affords to keep me, in touch with the best methods of treatment, and it deserves to be made public and have a permanent place in Eclectic literature. "The other subjects in the report deserve credit for the work that has been done on them."

GELSEMIUM.-By H. Elmore Fry, M.D" Orofino, Idaho. (*Materia Medica Reports*, July, 1905.)

Convulsions.-Miss T., aged seventeen, had convulsions; pulse 110, Prescribed gelsemium m. vi, and repeated the dose in thirty minutes. In three quarters of an hour the convulsions ceased, and she fell asleep. When she awoke I gave her *macrotys mij*, sp. gelsemium m.x every hour. There was some fever, which passed away. She made a quick recovery.

To get the best effect from gelsemium the dose must be large, and if there is depression I add *macrotys*, *cactus* or *crataegus*. In fever I regard it as superior to *aconite*.

Delirium.-I was called to see a boy, aged seven, sick with a fever and delirium. I could not administer gelsemium by mouth, but I bathed his head freely with the tincture. He was in a stupor. When he became conscious I gave him sp. *passiflora* m. xx every three hours, with a laxative. He made a quick recovery.

Facial Neuralgia.-J. K. had been under the care of two doctors, who gave him morphia. The quantity supplied was intended to last for three days, but he took it all within a few hours, and when I saw him he had been in bed three days, had not eaten anything and was not able to hold up his head. He was in great agony from facial neuralgia. He begged me to give him chloroform or anything to relieve his pain. I could see the red flushes running up the right side of his face. His friends had come to see him die.

Treatment: I poured about an ounce of specific gelsemium over the side of his face, and in fifteen minutes he got up, ate his supper and said he felt fine.

If I had a severe headache I would take fifteen drops of sp. gelsemium, and if this did not afford relief I would repeat the dose. I have never felt any sense of depression after taking gelsemium.

Erysipelas and Pneumonia.-H. N. aged forty-seven, had been delirious for twenty-four hours, and the family was very much alarmed when I was called to the case. Though urged to the contrary, they sent for another doctor who lived at some distance.

I gave the patient *m. v. sp. veratrum* every hour until he had taken three doses, when he stopped throwing his hands and pulling the bedclothes. I then gave him fifteen drops *sp. gelsemium*. In fifteen minutes he turned over on his right side and fell into a natural sleep. His breathing was regular, and nineteen per minute. This was nine o'clock at night, and he slept until nine o'clock next morning. When he awoke he wanted something to eat. He recovered rapidly.

The second doctor, a regular, arrived next morning. He expressed astonishment at the result. It seemed to him incredible.

Dr. Fry wrote, April, 24, 1905, of the history of *gelsemium* as a remedy as follows: "I have in my possession a diary, which I have been trying with difficulty to copy, written on botany by Richard Taylor, of Virginia, giving the uses of *gelsemium*, with a good pen picture of yellow jasmine. The writer says: 'A tea or infusion was given in a case of fever in my family, in the year of our Lord 1786. Still earlier, in 1773, the writer says that a Mrs. White called his attention to jasmine as an excellent remedy for fever, and also that he had used it for headache and sleeplessness. He says further that Mrs. White used jasmine and rattle root (*cimicifuga*) in the form of a tea, in childbirth, both before and after.'"

[It would seem from this record that *gelsemium* was first used as a remedy for fever in domestic practice.-ED.]

APLOPAPPUS.-By H. T. Webster, M.D., Oakland, Cal. (*California Medical Journal*, October, 1897, p. 296.)

Asthma. *Aplopappus* is one of the most prompt agents we possess for the relief of asthma. Whether the condition be cardiac or bronchial asthma, it acts well in affording temporary relief, and often the relief is continued for a much longer time than that which follows ordinary remedies. A lady who visited a friend at the hospital recently, asked for something to temporarily relieve her, as she had left her bottle of asthma medicine at home, quite a distance in the country, and was suffering from dyspnea. I gave her a few drops of *aplopappus*, and the relief was prompt and satisfactory, so much so that she afterwards sent for a prescription for the same drug. Its best place, however, is in cardiac asthma.

NEGUNDIUM AMERICANA.-By O. S. Laws, M.D., Los Angeles, Cal. (*California Medical Journal*, December, 1897, p. 334.) Abstracted.

Commonly known as box-elder, this is a new remedy. It is a native of the United States. From the short experience I have had with it, I conclude it to be the best internal remedy we have for hemorrhoids. I have used *collinsonia* and *aesculus* without ever being impressed with their prompt action; but *negundium* goes at it as *colocynthis* does in its specialty, so that the victim who has been writhing with an engorged rectum "will arise and call you blessed." The bark of the root of the yearling plants is what I prefer. Just pull them up in the spring as the frost goes out of the ground and beat them into a pulp at once. It can thus be dried and bottled for use. Give ten or fifteen grain doses of the powder every three hours, or a drachm in a teacupful of boiling water, and drink the infusion within a day. Recent cases of hemorrhoids can be completely cured in this way, and the old hard cases temporarily relieved.

ANTITOXIN IN DIPHTHERIA.-By George W. Billig, M.D., Chicago, Ill.

I am slow to give up antitoxin, that I know has absolutely decreased our diphtheria mortality about 45 per cent., but I want to test the method of treatment by hypodermic *lobelia*. Before antitoxin about half the cases died; since the use of it only about 5 per cent of all cases die. When antitoxin is used the first day the death rate is low; I am of the opinion that it is less than 1 per cent. If used on the second day, it is my impression the death rate does not exceed 2 per cent. Antitoxin does not counteract the diphtheria toxin. but it does stop the growth of the bacilli, if given in sufficient quantity.

My experience, covering over 300 cases. proves to me that antitoxin is harmless. I give it until the growth of the membrane stops. This may require as high as 20,000 to 50,000 antitoxin units, 5,000 units being sufficient for the average mild case.

Why reserve your antitoxin when you know its only action is that it stops the growth of the membrane, until you have an extensive growth and consequent absorption of the virulent diphtheritic toxin that kills rapidly by producing paralysis of the cardiac centers? The antitoxin advocate states that we have an abnormally large number of cases where antitoxin has been used, that present paralysis following its administration.

Remembering that formerly 45 per cent of the cases died, which is self-evident must be virulent types; but when antitoxin is given, these cases live; they then represent the severe cases that have been subject to the severe diphtheria toxins, which we know produce a non-inflammatory degeneration of the nerve centers and subsequent paralysis of the parts supplied by these centers. Knowing this to be true. then we are obliged to admit that this condition was not the fault of the antitoxin, but only the late manifestation of the diphtheritic toxin, whereas before antitoxin days the diphtheritic toxin was so severe that in 45 per cent of the cases the cardiac paralysis was so great that the patients lived only a few days. but not long enough to allow the number of cases of paralysis which exists to-day, which are commonly known as post-diphtheritic.

My rule in administering antitoxin is, the younger the child the earlier I give the maximum dose to stop the membranous growth, for the reason that a small body fills quicker than a large body or older child, and necessarily the younger child would be poisoned much quicker with a like amount of diphtheria. Then. too, the growth of the bacilli is very rapid in the young child on account of the more delicate mucous membrane and less vital resistance. To illustrate. a quart cup is filled from a flowing faucet in one fourth the time it takes to fill a gallon vessel. I consider antitoxin harmless provided it is properly obtained.

THE SINGLE REMEDY.-By G. P. Bissell. MD., Woods, Oregon. (*California Medical Journal*, January, 1898, p. 17.) Abstracted.

Among the benefits which are not the least that Homeopathy and Eclecticism has conferred, has been the definite knowledge that has been gained in regard to the power of single remedies to remove disease, coupled with the selective power of these remedies for certain portions of the body. Let Us take the two remedies, bryonia and rhus tox., and experience demonstrates that the former has an elective affinity for the right side of the body, while rhus tox. selects the left side. So also does cactus select the heart and gelsemium the second branch of the fifth nerve.

Staphisagria.-With this drug I have cured many cases of nocturnal emissions, and the action has been so prompt and decisive that the patient would often take pains to send me others with like trouble.

Picrotoxin.-This remedy cures night sweats and excessive perspiration of the feet.

Drosera.-We have in this drug a remedy that relieves the cough of pertussis and cuts short its duration.

Sulphite of Soda.-A merchant applied to me on account of whizzing in his ears, synchronous with the beats of the heart. The only guiding symptoms were a thick, white fur on the tongue and a slightly increased action of the heart. Sulphite of soda being prescribed, he commenced to improve at once, and was well in three or four days.

Collinsonia.-A lady had repeated attacks of nose-bleed, coming on at irregular intervals for two or three months. I reasoned that the veins and capillaries were weak, and prescribed collinsonia to strengthen the venous system. The cure was prompt and complete.

Acetanilid.-Being subject to muscular rheumatism, with intense pain, I always find prompt relief from a dose or two of acetanilid, which cures as nearly as I ever expect to be cured for that special occasion, while the relief often lasts a month or so.

Sticta.-A woman was troubled with pain in the region of the shoulder blades. I prescribed a drop of sticta night and morning. This relieved her in a short time, and after two months the cure seemed permanent.

We all recognize the influence of aconite on the pulse, ipecac on the bowels, macrotys in muscular rheumatism, while bryonia is curative in lumbago and intercostal neuralgia.

SALIX NIGRA AMENTS.-By W. A. Smith, M.D., St. Louis, Mo. (*National Eclectic Medical Journal*, May, 1903.) Abstracted.

In treating both men and women, regardless of temperament, for nervous disorders arising from satyriasis, especially nymphomania in girls twenty-years old and younger, addicted to masturbation, salix nigra aments is unexcelled as a remedy.

Used in small or large doses in the male, according to the severity of the case, it acts as a sedative, those of the mental temperament requiring more than those of the vital or motive temperament. In treating women, the same rule applies as to temperaments. Small doses sedate. Care should be taken in giving large doses, as the menses are apt to appear before the regular time, sometimes three days or even a week earlier.

The treatment of dysmenorrhea should begin about five days previous to the expected period, and it will relieve the pain.

In disorders of the puberal state in boys and girls it will give excellent results. CASE I.- Boy aged sixteen, tall, raw-boned, with red hair, mixed temperament and sedentary habits, and, being blind, left to himself. Always constipated, the condition caused an uneasy condition in the prostate gland, which led to masturbation. The practice was indulged in frequently until the effect on the brain was such that the insane asylum was seriously contemplated. Physically he was a wreck. He had sp. salix nigra ℥j, syr. ℥ij.

Mix. Give one teaspoonful four times a day. A remarkable change took place. The boy quit his bad habits, the uneasy sensations ceased, he became brighter, took on flesh, became robust, is now doing well and is studying hard.

CASE 11.-A widow, aged thirty-eight, suffered from dysmenorrhea, with pain three to five days before the menses. Prescribed sp. salix nigra ℥j, syr. ℥ij. Mix. A teaspoonful every two hours. In half an hour after taking the first dose the pain ceased. At first she was alarmed at this effect, but being assured of its safety as a remedy she continued the treatment and was cured.

CASE III.-Miss A, aged twenty-four, was extremely nervous, especially when approaching the menstrual period. The severity of the case demanded relief, and I gave her a drachm of sp. salix nigra as the initial dose, followed by smaller doses before and after menstruation. The treatment relieved her. Salix nigra aments is especially valuable in gonorrhoea, acting better than gelsemium. It acts as a sedative, allaying all irritation and preventing chordee. It can be used in the acute, stationary or declining stage.

When there is sensitiveness of the reproductive organs in man or woman, salix nigra aments will afford relief.

ANEMOPSIS.-By H. T. Webster, M.D., Oakland, CaI. (*Eclectic Medical Journal*, March, 1911, P. 152.) Abstracted.

This is a new remedy for nasal catarrh, and is being tested with good results. Where there is relaxation of the nasal mucous membrane-mucous nasal catarrh, it is indicated. Its action is prompt, and the effects seem to be permanent.

A gentleman residing in San Francisco, who had been troubled with nasal catarrh all his life-and he is now past sixty-retired, after using a pint of the proper dilution, asking for more, and declaring that it was the only medicine which had ever benefited him for catarrh in all his experience. We have employed it in numerous acute cases with speedy and satisfactory results.

We have not tried it in ozena, but, as it is healthily astringent and antiseptic, it ought to act well in such cases.

From one to two drachms to four ounces of water is the usual proportion. A This is used with a spray apparatus or miniature nasal douche. The latter procedure allows the solution to be held for a time in contact with a large surface.

Dr. J. A. Munk and Dr. O. S. Laws, of Los Angeles, have placed the profession under lasting obligations for the introduction of this remedy. We employ Lloyd's specific anemopsis. The watery dilutions will keep for six weeks or longer, and a pint may be prepared at a time.

VERATRUM VIRIDE.-By P. F. Bullington, M.D.

In 1893 I was called to see J. P., aged fifty-nine, by occupation an underground miner. I arrived about one o'clock p.m., and found the patient suffering from phlegmonous erysipelas, covering the face and extending well up into the hair; eyes inflamed and almost swollen shut.

Temperature 103.5°, patient semi-delirious, but rational when aroused. He said that it required twice the amount of any kind of medicine to affect him that it did for the ordinary man, and cited his experience with other doctors, which was confirmed by Mrs. P. Acting on the patient's statement regarding the amount of drugs necessary to produce an effect, I prescribed the following indicated remedies: Sp. veratrum ʒj. sp. rihus tox. gtts.xxii. water ℥iv, a teaspoonful every hour until fever went down, or until he felt weak and faint. then every two hours.

About eleven o'clock p.m., I was called in haste to see the patient who, the messenger said, was very sick, and he feared he was dying. As I had only about four blocks to go, I was soon on the scene, and found the patient in a state of collapse, perspiring freely, and the erysipelas in a state of "innocuous desuetude." The prescription was reduced to half the former strength, time between doses lengthened and I saw no more on that occasion, as he was soon able to work.

Since that time the above prescription has been my treatment for phlegmonous erysipelas, with changes in the quantity of drugs used to suit the case in hand, and in some cases I add sp. veratrum in the proportion of one drachm to an ounce of water as a local application, and my cases of erysipelas soon recover.

In puerperal eclampsia I have administered sp. veratrum hypodermically on two occasions, in twenty minim doses every half hour till three doses were given, when the convulsions ceased, then gave by mouth in smaller doses. In each of the above cases a midwife was in attendance at the time of delivery, and I was called after the convulsions came on. In the first case the convulsions occurred at the time of delivery, and, by the time I reached the patient, about an hour and a half later, she had passed through six hard convulsions, and before I had time to administer a hypodermic a seventh came on, which lasted about three minutes. As soon as the convulsion passed off I gave my first treatment as above named. repeating the dose at intervals of thirty minutes until the third dose was given. The veratrum was continued in smaller doses for several days, at intervals of one or two hours, and there was no return of the trouble, The patient said it all appeared like a dream.

In the second case the convulsions came on about twenty-four hours after delivery, when all seemed doing well. This was her third confinement. She was in bed, reclining on one elbow and taking some nourishment, when suddenly she complained of pain in the top of her head, followed by sudden blindness. I was summoned, and after my arrival a hard convulsion came on, opisthotonos being marked. I administered veratrum as in the former case, and after the third dose the pulse ran down to 68, and there were no more convulsions for thirty hours, when she had another seizure. I administered the same treatment, with like results as before, and in about thirty hours the third and last convulsion came on, when two doses did the work formerly requiring three,

In eight hours after the first convulsion the lochia stopped, and I gave her by mouth: Sp, veratrum ʒj, sp. dulcamara ʒij, water to ℥ij, a teaspoonful every two hours. In about forty-eight hours the lochia was partially established, and in about seventy-two hours from the time blindness came on sight began slowly to return, but it was several days before the patient could distinguish objects at sight. She could not remember anything that occurred from the time she took sick until the babe was about two weeks old.

Both mother and child have enjoyed good health since.

CORRESPONDENCE.

J. E. G. Waddington, Detroit, Mich., writes, January 30, 1911:

"I shall certainly try the apocynum, etc., as advised by Dr. Haifley. The gunshot wound of the arm, previously reported, is almost well, the only treatment being alphozone solution locally and echinacea internally.

"Alphozone is a germicide (stable) preparation, in powder and tablet form, put up by Stearns, of this city, and has all the good properties of H_2O_2 but does not effervesce on contact with pus, and is not so easily resolved into its elements as H_2O . It is, in my experience unexcelled as a wet dressing, either in clean or infected wounds, preserving the former condition and overcoming the latter.

"I have a case of eclampsia occurring in a woman a few hours prior to labor and continuing twelve hours after. Veratrum and gelsemium aa. q, s. and c.c. iij was given hypodermically first, and kept her quiet three hours, but she continually retched during the three hours. I then gave her gelsemium, five drops every two hours, and the attacks gradually ceased. Her pulse, after the first attack, was not a veratrum pulse. She had a convulsion a half hour after her pulse was only 68. She was baked in a Betz-hot-air oven daily for the first three days. Tr, ferri chlor. was given along with the gelsemium, and she is rapidly gaining normality."

W. H. Haifley, MD., Amboy, Ind., writes, January 30, 1911 :

"I was much interested in the last report, especially those articles referring to veratrum and oenanthe crocata, and also lobelia *a la* Jentzsch in diphtheria, also in impeded respiration from an anesthetic. I will also say that your comments on my use of apocynum were gratifying, though I fear you made them a bit strong in crediting me with the discovery of new uses for the drug,

"I have observed that when we employ veratrum the condition must be sthenic, and the patient, whether young or old, robust. An irritable stomach is a contraindication, even when nausea or vomiting is not induced. Here it acts as a cathartic or laxative, and should be stopped.

"The dose must fall short of producing nausea. I have learned also, in using this remedy, to keep tab on the pulse, and also note the action on the gastro-intestinal tract. I would say the same of jaborandi, as to its effect on the circulation, especially the heart.

"Some of my epileptic cases have recovered under oenanthe crocata, while others have benefited when not cured.

"Those cases saturated with the bromides are hardest to deal with when put upon oenanthe, passiflora or avena sativa.

"I have in mind a regular surgeon who gives every patient, regardless of conditions, one-fourth grain of morphia a half hour before operating, and in some cases dangerous narcotism has resulted. Here lobelia is to be recommended as suggested in the reports."

Dr. Waddington writes, February 14, 1911, in review of the February, 1906, and March, 1906, reports:

"I do not believe, from personal experience, that gelsemium will cure meningitis, It is possibly a help to the treatment, I remember some years ago treating a case of undoubted tubercular meningitis in a male babe eighteen months old. It was another physician's case, but he being unavailable at the time, I saw it for a couple of days, finally relinquishing it into his hands as family physician. In this case I advised sodium bromide, to which he agreed, with the advice to add potassium iodide. The bromide, I think, was given in two-grain doses, with the iodide one grain, every two hours. The child eventually recovered, though a bottle-fed baby from its birth. I forget who it was advised sodium bromide in meningeal cases, under circumstances usually calling for gelsemium, but I have found it to give good results.

In infantile eclampsia I usually combine sodium bromide with gelsemium as a prescription to be left with the nurse for the after treatment of the case, and find such combination of greater value than either alone. Gelsemium is a great relaxer, but it has not (shall I term it?) antitoxic properties. This was recognized at the Illinois State Eclectic meeting last year, in discussing the merits of gelsemium in tetanus, phenol being advised with the gelsemium, the combination securing the double purpose required, that of a relaxant and an antitoxin.

"A writer in the March, 1906, report mentions gelsemium as being good in after-pains. It certainly will relieve this condition. but from its powerfully relaxing property it is a dangerous remedy in this condition, too often leading to post-partum hemorrhage, A five-grain dose of Dover's powder, repeated *p. r. n.* is a safe and efficient remedy, and in such dose will insure nothing but good. "Dr. Holmes writes, February 18, 1911: ".I. P. Rice's article on thuja tallies with my experience in its use. It is a valuable remedy. Its use dissipated an ugly corroding ulcer on my nose that occupied the site of a wart. It was quite a question what it would do. I have found it especially useful in ulcers of various kinds as a local application.

"The treatment of gall-stone disease, or the abdominal disorders which lead to the formation of gall-stones, by appropriate remedies, does prevent the return of those most distressing attacks known as gall-stone colic. In dioscorea and chionanthus we have remedies of great value in treating this condition. One can recall their value in the treatment of lesions of the gall-bladder and the bile-ducts and a wide range of allied disorders. Gastroduodenitis of a subacute character lays the foundation of calculi, and the treatment that relieves the 'perverted function' not only prevents further formation of gall-stones but aids probably the disintegration of those already formed. I have found the tincture of boldo and succinate of soda of much value in these cases, and they are responsible for some scalp locks that hang on my belt.

"Your article brought to my mind again a remedy I had almost forgotten-elaterium in bladder irritation. I cured a man with this remedy soon after I began practice who said he would give \$500 for a cure. In spite of many good remedies, we rejoice when an old and valued agent is again brought to our notice.

"In using the hot pack in pneumonia there is difficulty in keeping it continuously hot. To accomplish this I employ a two-gallon jug filled with hot water. It is high enough to touch the ribs and keep the entire side warm, and if wrapped tightly in flannel will remain hot for a long time.

"In treating infantile ophthalmia I prefer an infusion of hydrastis, as John King advised. It wins out with me. Hydrastis and neutralizing cordial are yet favorite remedies in indigestion.

"I cured a case of sciatica recently with apocynum that had defied all treatment. Tenderness of the feet was especially distressing in this case."

G. W, Thompson, MD., New York, writes:

"I have been using apocynum in a case of neuralgia involving the sacral and sciatic nerves. There has been modification of the symptoms, which is more than preceding doctors obtained. I hope for greater improvement."

LOBELIA INFLATA.-By Sarah J. Hogan, M.D. Chicago, III, (Materia Medica Reports, December, 1901).

Lobelia is a biennial herb, indigenous to North America. It was first brought into notice as a remedy of special value by Samuel Thomson, and was a household remedy great repute when I was a child.

The first account we have of lobelia is by Linnaeus, the great Swedish botanist, who described it and named it lobelia inflata. [It was named by Plumier, in 1703, in honor of Lobelia distinguished botanist of the sixteenth century.] He did not attribute to it medicinal properties.

When it was first used by Samuel Thomson he was denounced as a charlatan, and the medicine classed as a deadly poison. Thomson claims to have discovered the medicinal properties of lobelia about 1790, and as it appears to have been unknown to the leading physicians of that time, this claim may with reason be accepted.

Thatcher describes the plant in his Dispensatory, and gives some account of it as a medicine, but does not miss the opportunity to disparage Thomson at the same time. He credits Rev. Dr. Ill. Cutler with first publishing its virtues in asthma, who in turn had his information from Dr. Drury, of Marblehead, Mass. Thomson, however, claims to have introduced it as a remedy for this disease in the fall of the year 1807, as an original discovery, and in advance of their claims by several years. Lobelia is a sedative *sui generis*, and may be compared to veratrum vir. and gelsemium. It has the power to restore the equilibrium of the body [circulation] which is lost in disease. It does not matter what has caused this loss, lobelia will restore it, as I have witnessed many times. Whatever theory in pathology or therapeutics we accept, this practical fact in regard to lobelia remains true. A sufficient quantity must be given to effect complete relaxation.

Take a case of pneumonia at the commencement, and put the patient gradually under the influence of the drug until there is complete relaxation, and the disease will vanish. This result has been accomplished with veratrum vir., gelsemium and possibly jaborandi, as speedily, that is, during the first twenty-four hours, these remedies being pushed to their full physiological effect.

I do not like the action of jaborandi in pneumonia. The action is too rapid, and it causes too profuse a perspiration. In those diseases which are caused by taking cold, and are classed as inflammatory, lobelia will effect a prompt cure, provided the treatment is instituted in time and pushed to the necessary degree of relaxation.

In that large class of diseases attended by more or less spasmodic action, the curative powers of lobelia are beyond dispute. I recall a case which I had when I was in New York. It was a woman in convulsions. I gave her a teaspoonful of lobelia. She had another convulsion, and I gave her a second teaspoonful. She had a third convulsion, and I gave her a third teaspoonful. At this stage of the case another doctor came in. He said that I had given her a dangerous dose—a poisonous dose of the drug. This patient recovered. I was never "bluffed" by a Regular before, but the result proved that he was mistaken.

Formerly I never gave less than a teaspoonful of lobelia in these cases. Now I think I get quite as good results from smaller doses.

In any case of extreme nervousness, especially in women, I give small doses of lobelia.

CASE.—Girl, aged sixteen. She lay on her left side and could not move on account of pain. She shrieked from pain. The pupils were dilated. I gave her gtt. iij lobelia every three hours, with massage of the affected muscles. In a few hours she was more comfortable, and was able to turn on her right side. The next morning she was greatly improved. I continued the medicine and the nervousness gradually abated. When the acute symptoms had passed away I gave her: ℞ Carb. iron ʒi, black cohosh ʒij. syr. rhubarb and pot. to make ℥ij. Mix. Dose, a teaspoonful after each meal. The mother of the above patient was so nervous that she would cry when you spoke to her. I gave her sp. lobelia ʒiiss, water to ℥ij, a teaspoonful every two hours, and it relieved her. I have given rhus tox. in these cases of nervousness, and in night terrors of children, but without effect, while lobelia has always given good results. In other cases, especially of little children nervous and excited, with sore throat, I prescribe lobelia. I came to use lobelia in a wider range of cases when I practiced in the Lake Superior copper mining region, where I had little else but lobelia in the way of medicine in stock.

A sluggish liver indicates lobelia in fifteen-drop doses at bedtime. It will do more good than all the other remedies combined. It is valuable in jaundice. In all chronic diseases there is no remedy that will do so much to restore the sluggish powers of life as lobelia. In these cases the remedy should be given to produce its full relaxing effect, and the dose may be safely repeated until this is accomplished.

In the early years of my practice lobelia was the remedy which I used almost exclusively in inflammatory conditions and as a relaxant in obstetric practice. It is relaxant, diaphoretic and tonic, according to the dose. In croup and all inflammatory diseases of childhood I use it more now than any other remedy, and with me it is preferable to aconite. I gave a child four years old, suffering from a condition resembling croup, with bronchial irritation, the usual doses of lobelia, and in six hours the unfavorable symptoms had passed away. I have used it in typhoid fever in former years, when lobelia was the chief remedy. It was the rule to see that the bowels were thoroughly evacuated. In cases of lead poisoning I have found it impossible to move the bowels until the patient was relaxed by lobelia. The practice was to give enemas of lobelia infusion, which would bring away a quantity of a dark tarry substance, much to the relief of the patient. This was followed by an infusion of cinchona combined with lobelia.

In sunstroke lobelia is an efficient remedy. While keeping a drug store in New York, about thirty years ago, I had many cases of sunstroke brought to me for treatment during the very hot weather; sometimes as many as ten cases came to me in a day, and not less than one hundred during the season. In treating these cases I first bathed the body with water and soap, having the water quite warm, while cold applications were made to the head; lobelia and brandy being given in small doses. In all these cases the skin was hot and dry, and the warm water and soap not only cleansed the surface, but had a favorable effect upon the nervous system by promoting perspiration. I observed in these cases, which were mostly men, that the system was enervated by dissipation, the breath in every case having an alcoholic odor. The disease was of the congestive type, and I have found that lobelia is a king among remedies for this condition.

In treating diseases of women, where bloating of the abdomen, constipation and a general atonic condition exists, I employ lobelia in conjunction with other remedies. In jaundice and all liver complaints it is a remedy that should never be forgotten. I think it is a remedy of great value and one that is much neglected at the present time.

ASCLEPIAS CORNUTI.-By Christopher J. Clebourne, M.D., Assistant Surgeon, U. S. N. (*Am. Jour. Med. Sci.*, 1861, p. 46.) Abstracted.

Asclepias cornuti is tonic, diuretic, purgative, emetic in large doses, stimulant and anthelmintic.

The following cases prove that it is possessed of valuable medicinal properties:

J. B., aged thirty, had been suffering for some years with constipation of the bowels, pains in the right side and lower extremities, loss of appetite, etc. Prescribed fluid ext. asclepias cor. ℥ss, syr. ginger ℥ijss, a teaspoonful twice a day, to be increased to three or four teaspoonfuls daily. At the end of a month he felt much relieved, his bowels became regular, his appetite improved, and the pains in his limbs were entirely removed.

H. L., a young man of somewhat irregular habits. had been suffering from constipation of the bowels for over two years. being sometimes four or five days without a passage. He had used drastic cathartics, which, he said, after their effects had been produced, made him much worse. He was also troubled with hemorrhoids. He took fluid ext. asclepias cor. gtt. xx three times a day, increasing the dose up to 3ss twice daily. He rapidly improved under this treatment; his bowels have been open every two or three days, soft, pultaceous stools being produced without any straining effort. The hemorrhoids disappeared on applying an ointment composed of ℞
Tannic acid 3ss, glycerine ointment ℥j. M

T. S., aged twenty-two; syphilis; two chancres on glans penis; on each side an indurated syphilitic bubo. Touched chancres with sulphate of copper, dressed them with lint dipped in aromatic wine. applied pressure to bubos, placed him on a low diet of bread and buttermilk, and administered fluid ext. asclepias cor. gtt. xx three times daily, combining it with syrup of ginger and tincture of opium when it produced nausea.

The patient, who had no appetite and was much debilitated, rapidly recovered under this treatment. His appetite returned, the bubos disappeared, the chancres cicatrized kindly, the bowels were regularly moved once and sometimes twice daily, his system gained strength, and in less than three weeks he had entirely recovered.

Old cases of dyspepsia of some years standing improve quickly under a diet of buttermilk and rye bread and the following: ℞ FL ext. asclepias cor. ʒiij, tr. nux vomica gtt. xxvi, syr. ginger ʒijss. M1. S. A teaspoonful three times a day. Buttermilk is very useful in many cases of dyspepsia; it has the advantage over fresh milk of not constipating the bowels.

Katy D., a child aged eight. affected for some years with ascaris vermicularis. She was much emaciated. and her system seemed completely broken down. She was placed on the rye bread and buttermilk diet and given internally fluid ext. asclepias cor. gtt. x three times a day, and ʒij of the extract in eight ounces of mucilage of flaxseed injected into the bowels. A large number of worms were discharged, and the child rapidly regained its strength.

VERATRUM VIRIDE.-By. E. G. Trowbridge, M.D., Chicago, ILL, and others. From the record of the first meeting of our society, held October 23, 1901.

Exophthalmic Goiter, by Dr. Trowbridge: Mrs. B., aged twenty, had this disease about a year, and had been treated by a physician without much benefit. When seen she had the full pulse, which calls for veratrum. Her menses were irregular and frequent. She was put on sp. veratrum ʒj, sp. gelsemium ʒij, water ʒij. Mix. Dose, a teaspoonful three or four times a day. By the time she had taken two vials of this medicine she was menstruating every day-a constant, small discharge. In addition to the former prescription she now had sp. apocynum can. ʒj, water to ʒij. M. Dose, a teaspoonful three times a day. After this medicine had been taken a few days her menstruation became normal, and after she had taken four bottles of the first prescription the exophthalmic goiter had disappeared. her health afterwards remaining good.

Sarah J. Hogan, M.D., reported a case of chronic uterine disease associated with hysterical symptoms, bloating of the abdomen, sensation of a ball in the throat which choked her, turgid face, etc. Intending to apply a tampon moistened with tincture of collinsonia to the os uteri. Merrell's fluid ext. veratrum vir. was applied instead by mistake, about ʒj being used. The mistake was discovered when it was too late to correct it, and alarming symptoms of depression were looked for, but instead of these there was a marked improvement in all the symptoms, and she remained free from hysteria. Since this experience veratrum has become a standard remedy with her as a local application in cases of uterine inflammation, using gtt. xv of a reliable fluid extract.

M. A. Dearlove, M.D., said that in all cases of tonsillitis and inflammations of the throat, even where a false membrane forms, there is no application superior to veratrum applied on a swab of surgeon's cotton.

E. J. Farnum, M.D., said that in syphilis, from the appearance of the primary sore until the beginning of the secondary stage, till the eruption has disappeared veratrum acts as a sedative, and minimizes the symptoms of the disease. It shortens the primary stage, and in some cases prevents the appearance of the secondary symptoms, and in general cuts short the whole course of the disease. Dose. gtt. v sp. veratrum four times a day.

In exophthalmic goiter sp. veratrum, given in full and increasing doses until the pulse is reduced to normal, will cure some cases of this disease.

SAMUEL THOMSON.-By the Editor.

I am not disposed to detract from Thomson. or to ignore his work, as most writers have done; on the other hand. I would like to make his clinical experience my own and profit by it; he has, however, left a record so imperfect that both dates and clinical experience are in great measure a matter of conjecture. He discovered the adenagic power of lobelia in 1802, and the stimulating power of capsicum in 1805, while he had employed steam some years before.

He speaks of employing root doctors to treat his family, and in general of acquiring knowledge of medicine from the doctors he employed, but he claims as original discoveries his knowledge of the medicinal powers of lobelia and capsicum. In 1796 one of his children was sick with what, from his description, was diphtheria. This case he cured with steam of vinegar. The case was given up by the doctor he had employed to treat her. He writes: "She was so distressed for breath that she would spring straight up on end in struggling to breathe. I sat myself in a chair, and held her in my lap, and put a blanket round us both; then my wife held a hot spider or shovel between my feet, and I poured on vinegar to raise a steam, and kept it as hot as I found she could bear, changing them as soon as they became cold and, by following this plan for about twenty minutes, she became comfortable and easy." The eyes, which were covered with a "white membrane," were shielded with a cold (water) compress. I note this case to show that he was using steam and vinegar at this time. He also used marsh rosemary in this case, one of his favorite astringents. He writes of this case: "This was the first of my finding out the plan of steaming and using cold water." He put a hot stone into hot water and on this he poured the vinegar. To this he added "hot" medicine internally. After steaming as long as she could bear it, in the above case, he bathed her with spirits, vinegar and cold water, changed her clothes and put her to bed.

At this time he gathered all the medicinal herbs and roots he was acquainted with. As he had been making a study of the medicinal properties of the indigenous plants since he was a child, he might reasonably be supposed to be well acquainted with the popular knowledge on this subject.

About this time he advanced his theory that cold is the cause of disease - stops the perspiration. The prevailing treatment by bleeding drives away the heat, and the cathartics hold the cold inside and drive the heat outside, and a settled fever is the result, with "canker" and a general catarrhal condition. By giving hot medicine internally and applying steam externally, heat is restored, perspiration is established, and the cold driven out. Before he discovered capsicum, he employed ginger, horse radish or other pungent medicine. He used steam and gave hot medicine to cause perspiration. It will be seen how completely lobelia fulfilled these indications. It would start a perspiration, and, in addition, cleanse the stomach of "canker" [mucus], reduce the temperature, and drive out the "cold." It was indeed a panacea from his point of view.

Medical theories are at best disappointing, and after the lapse of more than a hundred years we speak of our patients "taking cold," and are quite as much in the dark as to the real meaning of the condition as Thomson was. It is true, however, that exposure to cold, damp, and atmospheric changes, is the direct cause of the greater number of human maladies.

As to superior knowledge, I will not boast over the unlearned Samuel Thomson. If malignant diphtheria were to attack a member of my own family I would despair of a cure being effected.

I would as soon trust to inhalations of the vapor of vinegar, with diaphoretics and stimulants, as to any

other treatment. HYPODERMIC LOBELIA.-By the Editor. In the *Eclectic Review*, for March,

1911, Dr. Fyfe reports the failure of lobelia injections to cure a case of diphtheria. In like manner echinacea has failed with me to effect cures of septic fever and typhoid fever. To cure or fail to cure one case proves nothing. We must have many cures before we can credit a remedy with *certain* curative powers. In these reports we aim to multiply the cases cured, and bring together the testimony of a number of doctors to establish the curative powers of remedies.

CORRESPONDENCE. Ralph B. Taylor, A.B., M.D., Columbus, O., writes, February 15, 1911: "Regarding the use of apocynum, I can say that I practiced medicine almost ten years before I learned to use it properly. I now prescribe it with the utmost confidence.

I have used it in sciatic rheumatism with flattering success at times and again with no favorable results. No doubt at some future time we will learn just what is the indication for its use in this trouble.

"I am unable to ascribe to it as great value as Dr. Haifley does. It is the remedy for edema, and, unless there is very considerable organic change in the kidneys, we can carry our patient along for years on this remedy.

"In cirrhosis of the liver, I would not expect to influence even the dropsical condition of the extremities, let alone the abdominal ascites. But in heart lesions we can strengthen the heart and reduce the edema and carry the patient along for years. There is no other remedy in the materia medica which will show results in this condition with apocynum. Frequently I combine with it its close relative, strophanthus. They belong to the same family, but are certainly not identical in action.

"Dr. H. L. True says he would take apocynum as a cathartic in preference to many remedies classed as cathartic. He prepares his own tincture. "There is no more marked sedative than veratrum when indicated."

G. W. Holmes, M.D., Sharpes, Fla., writes. March 22. 1911 :

"I note with much profit what Dr. C. P. Bissen has to say on the single remedy, and the manly way he acknowledges our obligation to our 'sugar-pill brethren' for so much that is reliable and good in this our 'Art of Guessing.' The value of the remedies he refers to in particular I learned from our revered Dr. J. M. Scudder. "As we are in the midst of an 'epidemic of measles, the beneficial influence of drosera in mitigating the irritation and cough has been especially gratifying. It alleviated the symptoms and afforded rest to the patient to a degree that cannot be secured by any other remedy with which I am acquainted. Ten drops sp. drosera to four ounces of water, with belladonna, and a little essence of peppermint, as I usually prescribe it, is palatable.

"It may seem to one who never forgets anything that the repetition in the reports is objectionable. but an old fellow like me needs just such iteration and reiteration in order to be ready to do the best work at all times. I confess that I do not read as much as I should, and these reports have all the freshness of the original articles. "The generation of 'doubting Thomases' has not disappeared with that apostle, and need the evidence as Dr. Bissell puts it in his valuable article. "This report is certainly replete with choice matter. You have prepared us many a feast of good things in these reports. and none better than this one. "

G. W. Billig, MD., Chicago, writes. April 5, 1911:

"Dr. Eli G. Jones takes a radical stand on antitoxin. Is he absolutely certain that all his cases are diphtheria? There is lots of room for error in throat conditions. Many times an exudate is not diphtheritic, and the patient would recover rapidly without treatment. All I ask is a scientific investigation of a condition-not, I guess so, then fire ahead. An empiric statement without an abundance of verification cannot have a great deal of weight where we have absolute means of making a correct diagnosis; and like conditions always follow when antitoxin is administered. i. e., the membrane stops forming."

AMPHIACHYRIS DRACUNCULOIDES.-By J. A. Burnett, M.D., Auburn, Ark.
(*California Medical Journal*, October, 1907, p. 166. Abstracted.)

Broom weed is the common name of this herb. It grows from one to three feet high, and is found in Texas and Oklahoma. The tops are the parts used in medicine. It is a prompt and decided diffusive stimulant, and perfectly harmless.

Amphiachyris, in doses of fifteen drops to one drachm of the fluid extract, every two to four hours, is a specific for cramp colic, and it is also almost a specific for cholera morbus. It is an important remedy in all catarrhal conditions of mucous membranes, especially of a subacute and chronic character. It may be used locally and internally. In nasal catarrh the local Use of this remedy leaves the surface clean, tones the relaxed palatal muscles, and with its internal use gives good results in most cases.

In irritable cough depending upon a relaxed state of the mucous membranes of the bronchi it is most valuable.

In vaginal and rectal catarrh it is of service used as a wash.

It influences the entire mucous membrane. It may be combined with chionanthus in catarrhal jaundice, with polemonium in bronchitis and with dioscorea in appendicitis.

It is valuable in hay fever, used locally and internally; and in bronchial catarrh, when it is usually combined with lobelia. In bronchial pneumonia it may be associated with asclepias tuberosa and lobelia, and in la grippe with asclepias tuberosa and solidago canadensis.

Broom weed acts promptly in relaxation of the vocal cords and uvula, and in aphonia and edema of the glottis.

LAURUS SASSAFRAS.-By O. S. Laws, M.D., Los Angeles, Cal. (*California Medical Journal*, January, 1899, p. 20.) Abstracted.

To those who desire to stop the use of tobacco I give the oil of sassafras in doses of two to ten drops, either in capsule or syrup, three or four times a day. A vena or nux will be needed in most cases to stimulate the nerves for three or four weeks, and then gradually withdrawn.

Having discovered that sassafras will destroy the nauseating property of lobelia, I now prepare an elixir of sassafras in which to drop remedies which are rather unpleasant to weak stomachs.

SENECIO IN AMENORRIHEA.-By C. E. McKee, I.D., Cincinnati, O. (*California Medical Journal*, January, 1899.) Abstracted.

The patient was pale, languid, always tired, with periodical headaches and distressing pain in the precordial region; heart-beat rapid, often tumultuous and irregular. The menses appeared at the fourteenth year, continued in a normal manner for about a year and then ceased. One doctor after another prescribed for her without effecting a cure, and she was gradually growing worse. Upon the suggestion of Prof. Watkins I gave her gtt. v. sp. senecio three times a day. At the end of eight weeks the normal menstrual flow appeared, and she continued regular for four successive months. She then made a protracted visit, and missed three consecutive menstrual periods. Senecio was again given in doses of three drops four times a day, and at the end of the fourth week the normal flow appeared. The small dose acted more promptly than the large one. In this case no other remedy was given.

VERATRUM VIRIDE.-By P. F. Bullington, M.D. (*Materia Medica Reports*, May, 1902.)

In September 1901, J. R., aged twenty-six, a strong, robust miner, came to me for treatment for a "sore arm," as he expressed it. On examination I found the basilic vein of the right arm inflamed. To the touch it felt as though a section of a lead pencil was incased in the vein, and for a space of about six inches in length and about midway from the axilla to the elbow, it appeared about to suppurate and break. The patient's temperature was 102°, with a full, strong pulse. Prescribed: \mathcal{R} Sp. veratrum 3ss.; sp. echinacea 3j; chloroform water ad \mathfrak{z} iv. M. S. A teaspoonful every hour till four doses, then every two hours. Also: \mathcal{R} Sp. veratrum, sp. echafolta, aa. \mathfrak{z} j; water \mathfrak{z} ij. M. S. Apply to the arm on absorbent cotton, keeping it wet. There was no suppuration, and the patient was soon at work again.

On April 9, 1902, I was called twelve miles into the country to see a child, five years old, who was having convulsions. On inquiry, I found the child had been sick thirty-six hours; had chilled all the preceding day, then fever came up, followed by convulsions, five of which the child had before I arrived. Found temperature 101.40 F., pulse 132, full and strong; face very red. On examining the throat I found the tonsils and fauces covered with a diphtheritic membrane, and it was with difficulty the child was aroused.

Child was very hoarse and had a croupy cough. Prescribed: ℞ Sp. veratrum, 3ss; sp. chionanthus, 3i; sp. gelsemium, gtt. xx; water, ad ℥iv. M. S. A teaspoonful every two hours. No more spasms and child convalescent in four days.

On April 12, 1902, W. A. called on me for a prescription for impetigo, which covered the left side of the face and extended down the neck. He was by occupation a grocer's clerk, of florid complexion; very fat, plethora being a family characteristic. After trying two other prescriptions without benefit, I prescribed: ℞ Sp. veratrum, sp. echinacea, aa ℥j; water, q.s., ad ℥iv. M. S. Apply on absorbent cotton. After using twelve ounces of this prescription he was discharged cured.

STAPHYSAGRIA.-By John Fearn, M.D., Oakland, Cal. (*California Medical Journal*, 1887.) Abstracted.

In regard to the influence of staphysagria on the mind, removing morbid mental depression, gloomy forebodings and outbursts of passion, I had a case under treatment some years ago, a lady. There appeared to be no organic wrong; neither ulceration, inflammation, nor displacement, but there was a condition of atony left by a long and wearing siege of neuralgia. Her mind seemed at times unhinged. She could see nothing but disaster whichever way her husband might turn in business. Without cause, she confessed she was jealous. This increased till she would be subject to fits of passion, which might be denominated paroxysmal insanity. After these spells were over she would confess the wrong she had done and was glad of a prospect of relief. Staphysagria, in small doses, was tried and with such satisfactory results that I shall always think of this remedy in these conditions.

In treating cases of spermatorrhea and prostatorrhoea, remedies that will relieve mental depression and gloomy forebodings are especially called for, and in these cases staphysagria is a prime remedy. The dose may be one to three drops of specific tincture or fluid extract, in a little water, four times a day.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Wm. Phillips, M.D., Jackson, O., writes, April 27, 1911:

"My experience with apocynum has been that it acts better in cases with little or no fever; atonic conditions, where there is an exudation of serum through the walls of the capillaries. Anasarca is the typical condition. In ascites or hydrothorax I have no results. I had a recent case of hydrothorax that I aspirated and drew off seventy-eight ounces of fluid. The case was subacute pleurisy with effusion.

"The case got along nicely without recurrence of the fluid. on tonics to which I added gtt. ij sp. apocynum."

Ralph B. Taylor, A.B., M.D., Columbus, O., writes, March 21, 1911 :

"Dr. Adolphus' article on the treatment of pneumonia was of practical interest to me, since I have long known the value of heat as a stimulant, and, at the same time, a relaxant, to aged people suffering with this malady. My experience is not so extended as that of the doctor's, but I would feel handicapped to endeavor to treat feeble aged patients without this help."

A. J. Crance, M.D., Pasadena, Cal., writes, March 29, 1911:

"A good thing is Mother Nature. She takes, as a rule, gently to almost any form of treatment, be it good, bad or indifferent, just so it does not kill outright. In fact, she usually disregards therapeutics; or perhaps is so flexible as to accommodate herself to conditions so as to make the good doctor feel that his treatment has been just the thing and at the right time. All in all, to say the least, she is extremely obliging to take so kindly to such a variety of treatment, though I fear if called upon for an explanation it would be rather embarrassing and confusing."

Dr. Ralph B. Taylor writes, April 19, 1911:

"I always enjoy the comments of the doctors as well as the body of the reports.

"Like Dr. Holmes, I have some very gratifying results from sodium succinate. I can recall two cases which responded very nicely to its administration.

"Boldo has not found a place in my laboratory as yet.

"In infantile ophthalmia the silver salts and cold applications are decidedly curative. Argyrol is certainly a very fine remedy in such cases, and the reaction from it is *nil*."

Eli G. Jones, M.D., Burlington, N.J., writes, April 20, 1911:

"The report by Dr. Haifley on apocynum can. in neuralgia is valuable. It would be interesting to know why it relieves the pain in neuralgia. When it has been tested on the human body in health it has produced dull aching pains in the small of the back, also hard aching in both knees similar to what we have in the early stages of inflammatory rheumatism. It may be that this is where the idea of prescribing it in neuralgia and sciatica originated. Results, however, are what we are looking for, and if it cures that is the most important thing of all.

"Veratrum viride is not a remedy I would use in all cases of typhoid fever. The pulse and the tongue will tell when to use it. A full, hard pulse, with a yellowish coating on the tongue, or a red streak down the middle, would be the indications for this remedy.

"I have taken Daniels' passiflora when I have suffered from insomnia, in teaspoonful doses, but without relief. I regard it as useful when we want to quiet the nerves, and in convulsions of children, but it will not relieve pain."

G. W. Holmes, MD., Sharpes, Fla., writes, April 22, 1911:

"If, in writing books on materia medica, the authors draw their knowledge from other men's experiments without giving credit the result must be against us, as a school, in the end. Superior knowledge in therapeutics can only be obtained by diligent study and experiment on our own part. Wooster Beach became distinguished by original study and experiment on the plan suggested by Eli G. Jones. My preceptor, B. C. Stimson, was an original investigator and student of our materia medica, and true progress depends upon such men.

"As regards specific medication, while it is the end we all wish to attain it is my humble judgment that we will, in many cases, have to fall back on the plan by general elimination.

[If the reader will note the treatment of puerperal fever by Whitney, in a former report, with large doses of veratrum viride; the treatment of dysentery, by Borden, with "broken doses of green lobelia;" the cases reported by Adolphus, notably pneumonia; and the cases given up by the doctor and cured by Thomson with heroic doses of lobelia; all based on elimination, or restoring the normal perspiration as a fundamental principle, it will help him to understand the force of Dr. Holmes' comment, he being educated in that atmosphere. I have used lobelia, veratrum and some other remedies, so as to secure their adenagic effect, with results truly extraordinary; and, I think, in our search after specifics, we ought not to lose sight of the method by which the heroes of our cause won.-ED.]

"Only a few days ago I had occasion to prescribe for a case of peritonitis occurring in the course of typhoid fever. Pulse 120, and weak; temperature 104° F.; extreme tenderness in the ilea-cecal region. Under aconite and bryonia the condition was under control in forty-eight hours, and gave hope in an otherwise desperate case.

These two remedies, especially bryonia, are of great value in lesions of serous membranes, and aid greatly in preventing perforation of the intestine in severe cases of typhoid fever.

"Dr. Sarah J. Hogan's article on lobelia is like 'music in a sinner's ear' to us old fellows. Dr. J. M. Scudder taught that in desperate cases, and when in doubt, we should give lobelia.

"During the epidemic of measles referred to in a previous report, I was treating a child in a family where the mother was exhausted by her vigils, being kept for days and nights without sleep, while the little patient seemed not to have vitality enough to bring the eruption to the surface. The lungs became engorged and something akin to capillary bronchitis ensued.

Deficient aeration was pain fully evident and respiration could be heard outside the house. I prescribed: ℞ Tr. lobelia seed, ʒij; sp. asclepias tub., ʒss echafolta, ʒij; water, ad ℥iv. M. S. A teaspoonful every hour. Within twenty-four hours the moist skin and sedative action of the remedies brought relief to both the patient and the worried doctor.

"Lobelia is not a pleasant remedy, but it is a valuable one in a wide range of cases.

"I have seen patients in the 'alarm stage' from lobelia, and have watched with much anxiety to see what would be the outcome of the profound relaxation that alarmed all hands as much as a congestive chill would have done, but I am glad to chronicle that no permanent evil ever came from a free use of lobelia in the early days of my practice.

"I always carry the remedy now. I use it hypodermically in hernia to aid reduction.

"It is a remedy of great value in close calls."

[Sarah J. Hogan, M.D., died at Chicago, in the spring of 1909, aged eighty-two. She was of English descent, one of her ancestors having been a distinguished member of the British Parliament. She was a noble woman, and an active worker for the good of humanity. The ordinances for pure milk for babies, and public lavatories in the Chicago parks are largely due to her labors. Being only a woman, she was ridiculed in the *Inter-Ocean*, but she won nevertheless. She was educated a Thomsonian, as her paper on lobelia shows, but did not confine her treatment to the narrow limits of this distinguished reformer.-ED.]

J. E. G. Waddington, AM., M.D., Detroit, Mich., writes, April 24, 1911: "I have recently lost two cases of malignant diphtheria in one family. The child, aged four years, took sick first and was not given hypodermic lobelia until twenty-four hours from date of attack. She was injected daily with 4 to 5 c.c., The membrane all disappeared, but she died on the eighth day of pharyngeal hemorrhage, and her condition generally was very weak. The mother took sick two days after the child did, and was injected at once with hypodermic lobelia, 5 c.c., but died within forty-eight hours.

"These cases were malignant and I doubt if anything would have saved the mother.

"Dr. Jentzsch believes the hypodermic lobelia not to be so efficient as the specific medicine. and there may be truth in that belief.

"To hear and read of men who *always* cure their cases of diphtheria, never lose one, argues that they are not telling the truth, or else that they have forgetful memories. They are on a par with the men who have practiced several lust rums and have never seen a lacerated perineum. Blindness alone could excuse such a statement, as the cleverest obstetricians will see them at times, simply from the very nature of things. "I wish our Eclectic writers, when they are supposed to be writing Eclectically, would confine themselves to Eclectic remedies and not browse in Homeopathic pastures. We, of course, want the best and should choose such wherever found, but life is too short to endeavor to partly study all forms of medication. Let us study our specific remedies thoroughly and we shall not need to study attenuations. Some books recently published by Eclectic writers read more like Homeopathic than Eclectic text-books. It will take all our time to become thoroughly conversant with our specific medicines without dabbling with the X's, The Homeopathic principles are so entirely opposed to the Eclectic that one cannot combine the two, nor properly study the one without relinquishing the other. Let us be true Eclectics. prescribing for conditions of disease by opposing them with the physiologically indicated drug. A medical hybrid is not the highest type of physician.

"Drosera I am using quite extensively in the present epidemic of measles, using anywhere from ten to thirty drops to the four ounces of water, along with the other indicated remedies. For the cough I find nothing better, though it usually takes some time for it to finally disappear.

"When indicated, I get results from Lloyd's sodium sulphite that no other brand will give. I give fifteen grains every two hours at first, then every three hours. I cured a bad case of catarrhal gastritis, in a man sixty-four years old, recently, with this remedy."

SAMUEL THOMSON.-By the Editor.

If we take the edition of Thomson's "Narrative" of 1832, copyrighted in 1822, which antedotes, probably, any published works of Wooster Beach and Elisha Smith, and follow his cases after he came to employ lobelia courses for every disease we may be able to do justice to a man who, previous to 1830, did more than any other to develop the indigenous remedies.

In November, 1802, We have the first record of his use of lobelia in a lesion of the respiratory organs: The bronchitis, broncho-pneumonia following measles, and, as he gave the patient "several portions of the emetic herb," we have no doubt that he secured its adenagic effect.

In 1798 he had smallpox. This disease he considered as "the highest stage of canker and putrefaction," while he regarded measles as a lower stage, and requiring the same treatment.

The next case was a woman with the cholera for several years, having periodical turns of it once a month. This was probably dysmenorrhea. He prescribed "my medicine to remove canker," and "steamed" her, effecting a prompt cure.

The next patient was sick with a "fever," "He had taken so much mercury that it had settled in his back and hips, and he was so stiff that he could not bring his hands lower than his knees." Though "steaming" is the only remedial measure named to produce a natural perspiration we may safely assume that lobelia was employed also. However this may have been heat-dry heat, as the spirit vapor bath-remains our best remedy in the treatment of rheumatism, as this case undoubtedly was.

We will not lose sight of the fact that the patient was cured by the means employed, more than a hundred years ago, by the "illiterate and plebeian" Samuel Thomson, Botanist, as he styled himself.

The next report is of a young woman who was considered in a "decline and the doctors could not help her." She was so weak as not to be "able to sit up but very little." She recovered, having been given "medicine and directed what to do." This was in 1805.

About this time he formulated his plan or system of treatment and adopted as a fundamental principle the doctrine that "all disease is the effect of one general cause and may be removed by one general remedy; that cold, or the lessening of the power of heat, is the cause of all disease."

That "to restore heat to its natural state by removing all obstruction, and causing a natural perspiration is the rational way to effect a cure."

Of the remedies to "remove obstruction and restore the normal heat, and the normal perspiration," lobelia had the first place. To hold the ground gained he gave capsicum, and to remove canker bayberry was employed. He enumerates fifty indigenous remedies in his materia medica, but lobelia, capsicum and bayberry head the list, while steaming was associated with these.

The next case was "bleeding at the lungs." "The family judged that he had lost six quarts of blood in twenty-four hours." Here he gave medicine "to get as great an internal heat as possible, and got him to sweat profusely;" then gave him medicine to "remove the canker," and in four days he was well.

We know that lobelia alone, given to produce its adenagic effect, would do all this; determine the blood away from the lungs; but, agreeable to Thomson's theory, capsicum and bayberry must be added.

GRINDELIA ROBUSTA.-By O. S. Laws, M.D., Los Angeles, Cal. (*California Medical Journal*, March, 1899, p, 85). Abstracted.

Mr. F. had an excrescence on the edge of the lower lid of his left eye, near the inner canthus. It had been two months since first noticed. It looked to the naked eye like a wart, but under a magnifying lens the innocent wart was converted into a malignant growth in appearance.

A well-defined sinus was observed at the apex, out of which exuded an unpleasant fluid which glued the lids together. At least a dozen doctors had advised him to have it cut out, but he sought other treatment. A drachm of specific grindelia robusta was added to an ounce of boiled water, and used as a lotion to the excrescence several times a day. In a week, there being no improvement, I doubled the strength of the lotion. In another week the growth was pale and wilted, On the third call it had shrunken almost even with the border of the lids, but still ejected some fluid. As he did not return after two weeks, the treatment may be considered a success.

Mullein Oil.-[Dr. Laws makes his own oil by packing a pint bottle with fresh mullein flowers, corking securely and wiring, so that the gas will not force the cork out. This bottle is placed in the sun about four weeks, in a position to allow the resulting oil to settle at the shoulder, so that it can be more easily drained off.-ED.]

Uses.-In all cases of earache and deafness in children, two or three drops in the clean ear, twice a day, has given invariable satisfaction. Grown people thus treated are always benefited, even in catarrhal deafness. It has cured all the cases of enuresis in which have prescribed it, some of which had resisted all the ordinary remedies. It cured an aged minister, who had become a nuisance to society and at home, on account of the constant dribbling of urine. The dose is gtt. xv to ℥iv water, one teaspoonful three times a day.

For internal use a tincture of the fresh flowers has the same effect: gtt. xx to xl to water ℥iv, in teaspoonful doses four times a day.

ECHINACEA ANGUSTIFOLIA-By H.D. Quigg, M.D. (*American Medical Journal*, January, 1903, PA 17).

During the past three years I have used a considerable amount of specific echinacea. I tried it in an epidemic of spotted fever, or, more correctly cerebrospinal meningitis. In twenty cases there were three recoveries; not a very brilliant victory for echinacea. I thought, perhaps, that this was no the disease to try it in, and the above record confirmed me in this belief. The next class of diseases in which I employed it was typhoid in nature; and some were very severe cases. They recovered, and I might add that recovery has always been the rule in my practice.

The past summer we had an epidemic of typhoid fever of a very malignant form, and it was very contagious, so much so in fact that every case was traceable to contact with the disease. Out of fifteen cases five died, and died under heavy doses of echinacea; a teaspoonful was given every four hours. True, these cases were very bad ones, but it is in this class of case where the drug is so highly recommended, and in mild cases we would not think of giving it to our patients.

I am firmly convinced that typhoid fever cannot be abated, cut short, or materially mitigated, by any treatment at our command. I have never seen a case where I could see that the drug was of any value, except, perhaps, in sore throat.

My conclusions are that the drug, internally administered, is absolutely inert.

If our medicines are all no more potent than echinacea, I should say "Throw physic to the dogs, I'll none of it."

GRINDELIA SQUARROSA.-By W. L. Leister. M.D. (*American Journal*, October, 1903, PA 460). Abstracted.

I have used grindelia squarrosa extensively in the treatment of chronic intermittent fever with almost uniform success. Given a case of recurrent chills, with hypertrophied spleen, fullness in the epigastrium, sallowness inclining to cyanosis, and grindelia squarrosa will give satisfaction. A stitch in the left side; pain at point of gastro-splenic junction, and grindelia squarrosa may be prescribed with confidence.

We must not lose sight of other agents of known merit, such as those which influence the circulation-*veratrum*, *lobelia*, *rhus tox.*; remedies which influence the digestive apparatus, the spinal and sympathetic nervous system-*podophyllum*, *nux*, alkaline salts, acids, etc., but in some of these phases, especially the want of normal blood circulation, the *grindelia* is all sufficient.

For twenty years I practiced in a decidedly malarial region in Indiana, where intermittent fever prevailed. After a rather wide experience I depended upon the following agents: *Podophyllum*, *nux*, *wahoo*. *nitric acid* and *grindelia squarrosa*.

In my experiments with *polymnia uvedalia* I found that it was good in painless hypertrophy of the spleen, taken internally and applied locally, but further than that it will not go.

Webster cites Bundy's conclusions as regards the use of *grindelia squarrosa*: "What is necessary in this case is to remove the splenic hypertrophy, which is positively the perpetuating cause, in combination with malarial influences, if the patient lives in a malarial district. There is a 'balm in Gilead,' and, when the profession has frittered away time enough in tinkering with routine and hackneyed treatment in unsuccessful attempts to cure chronic intermittents, it may see fit to resort to this remedy and learn how to succeed in curing them.

"This drug has enabled me to cure over seventy cases in the past four years, and I have yet to see the case it will not cure if properly given. That it may sometimes fail is certainly possible, as almost any remedy is liable to sometimes disappoint; but failure in my hands in curing chronic *ague* has never occurred with this remedy."

Dr. Bundy's method of giving this agent was: \mathcal{R} Fl. ext. *grindelia squarrosa* (P., D. & Co.), 3iij; syr. *acacia*, aq. dest., aa, q.s., ad. \mathfrak{z} ij. M. S., A. teaspoonful four times daily. He gave tincture *ferri chlor.*, in syrup, the same number of doses daily. I have usually combined it with other indicated remedies. In those cases where there is general fullness of tissue, I write: \mathcal{R} Fl. ext. *podophyllin*, fl. ext. *grindelia squarrosa*, aa 3ijss; ess. *peppermint*, 3ss; syr. *orange*, q.s. ad 3iv. M. S. A teaspoonful four or five times daily. If the bowels become too free, lessen the amount of *podophyllum*; if the condition is markedly atonic, *nux*; or, if a tonic and antiperiodic is demanded, *euonymus* is selected as the associate remedy; or, if there is a tendency to sepsis, then *nitric acid*.

BUTTERNUT AND WILLOW-HERB.-By Sarah J. Hogan, M.D. Chicago, III.
(*Materia Medica Reports*, January, 1902).

Butternut and willow-herb have long been employed as remedies in chronic affections of the skin. I have not found the fluid preparations and extracts of *juglans* equal to an infusion of the recent root, nor have I found it to be as efficient when used alone as when associated with willow-herb. The former is given as an internal remedy, while the latter is applied as a wash or lotion.

Willow-herb is a remedy which I have employed with great success in skin diseases. It is classed by writers on *materia medica* as tonic, astringent, demulcent and emollient, but I have no doubt that it has a special or specific action in chronic *eczema* and kindred diseases of the skin. The butternut has some reputation as a remedy for those inveterate cases of chronic disease commencing with papules and maturing into scales, but its curative powers are not confined to special lesions of the skin, but it is curative in a variety of other diseases.

In salt rheum I employ an infusion of willow-herb in the bath daily, in conjunction with an infusion of butternut bark internally.

The following cases will serve to illustrate the therapeutic powers of these remedies in the diseases named:

Case I.-Mrs. B. had been under treatment for several years. Her family physician had assured her that there was no cure for her condition. To dry it up with zinc ointment from time to time was the only relief she had from treatment.

When I saw her the hands and arms, as well as the face and ears, were covered with exudate arising from the disease; it being the moist or weeping kind of tetter. I had the infusion of willow-herb made fresh twice a day, and the diseased parts bathed with it fifteen minutes at a time morning and evening. Associated with this treatment I gave her an infusion of butternut bark, half an ounce to a pint of water. This to be taken during the day. The case was cured by this treatment in a short time. I saw her a year afterward and there had been no return of the disease.

Case III.-This case was that of a man whose disease recalled the leprosy of Gehazi, the servant of Elisha, whose skin was "as white as snow." There was no history of syphilis, and no evidence that this disease had ever occurred in the history of the case. The disease began when he was about twenty-three years old, and he was in his thirty-fourth year when he came to me for treatment. I assured him that the disease could be cured. His body was covered with a white, scaly eruption. It was at first papular, followed by moisture and the formation of white scales. When the disease first appeared he consulted a physician who gave him an ointment, and a medicine to take, which appeared to cure the disease, but in six months it broke out again. Being again cured, to all appearances, it broke out at shorter intervals and eventually resisted all treatment. The scales would fall off and a moist eruption succeed with the eventual formation of scales, so that life was indeed a burden. I had him steep one pound of willow-herb, and put it in the bath with enough water to cover the body, and directed him to remain in the bath twenty minutes. This treatment was continued for a week. I then used a smaller amount in the bath. He had taken strong cathartics so long that his bowels were obstinately constipated. I gave him an infusion of butternut bark, one ounce to the pint of water, daily for a week, but his bowels continued inactive. I then gave him an enema consisting of half a pint of a decoction of slippery elm bark with two grains of capsicum. From this time on he had an infusion of butternut bark, half an ounce to the pint of water, daily. At the end of two months he was well. He continued this treatment six months.

I saw him after the lapse of two years and hardly recognized my former patient when we met in the street. He said that my treatment had made him like a new man, and there had been no recurrence of the disease. After he quit treatment under my direction he said that he had not had occasion to take medicine of any kind.

SAMUEL THOMSON.-By the EDITOR.

The next case was undoubtedly puerperal fever, with a "cancer on her back," which may have been a bedsore. She had been confined, and had "taken cold," and had a fever that the doctors failed to cure, because "her case was so putrid and ulcerated." This woman had been sick three months and was cured by Thomson in one month.

The next was a woman with a dropsy which the "mineral doctors" failed to cure. "Her situation was very distressing, she began to turn purple in spots and it was expected that mortification would take place." She said that it appeared to her that she was "full of scalding water." We may explain these symptoms as evidence of malnutrition with irritation of the bladder. The scalding sensation was relieved with an infusion of "checkerberry and hemlock," and we note that wintergreen is a remedy for irritation of the bladder in our own times. Under the usual routine she recovered in a week, and lived twelve years. He adds: "This desperate case was cured to the astonishment of all who witnessed it."

The next case was called the "yellow fever." Hot stones wrapped in moist cloths were put about the body, and medicines given "to raise the internal heat and for the canker," and there was a quick recovery.

The next case was a child who "was taken very sick and was entirely stupid." The usual routine treatment cured.

The next was a woman with paralysis of ten years' standing. The first treatment was to clear the stomach and promote perspiration. The remainder of the treatment was by suggestion; that she should try to use her limbs, and this succeeded. Thomson's personal confidence in his treatment had, no doubt, much to do in promoting cures in such cases.

The following case is clearly hysteria: "A young woman is taken in a fit." "I went to see her," he says, "and found that she had been subject to fits for some time." She was "much bloated. . . Every time she took medicine she would have a strong convulsive fit". He pursued his usual plan of treatment, "got her to sweat freely," and the fits were at an end; and "her other evacuations became regular." This appears to have been a case of hysterical convulsions with irregular menstruation, and was cured, may we say, with lobelia and capsicum in 1805.

The same year he first reports a tumor of the breast, supposed to be cancer, which he cured. He says elsewhere that he failed to cure cancer in some cases. Here extract of red clover blossoms was employed as a local application together with the usual routine. He reports many badly ulcerated tumors of the breast cured. Extract of red clover blossoms is still employed as a remedy for cancer; and if we add lobelia for its admagic influence we improve the treatment; but the adjuvants were not to be credited alone with effecting the cure in Thomson's system.

In the winter of 1807 he reports the cure of a young man who had "convulsive fits. His feet and hands were drawn in towards his body, his jaws were set, his head drawn back and every part of him as completely fixed as a statue." This patient had lobelia, capsicum and myrrh, but we know that lobelia was the curative agent.

Dr Eli G. Jones has recently published a work on *Cancer*, which is the most complete study of the subject that I have seen. He reports cases with the symptoms and treatment in detail of about every variety of the disease which he has cured, and also a long list of remedies with definite indications, for the use of each on the plan of his "Definite Medication."

While I do not regard cancer as incurable, it must be regarded as a formidable disease to treat, but granted that we have specifics for pathological conditions it is curable, and it is on this foundation that Dr. Jones has built.

The book shows infinite labor, and I believe will impress everyone favorably who has need for a work on the subject.

MEDICAL PRACTICE IN THE FIFTIES.-By Vincent A. Baker, M.D. Adrain, Mich.

Regarding our cognomen "Eclectic," I always sympathized with Payne, who advocated "New School" instead of "Eclectic." The Botanic and Botanico-Thomsonian succeeded by their method of prescribing remedies from the vegetable materia medica, which was in: marked contrast with the old school doctors who resorted to the routine.

Of course with heroics in the treatment of their sick; nevertheless many old school country doctors used the vegetable remedies more than their city confreres of that time, or more freely than their modern brethren of to-day, but knew nothing of specifics in medicine as now taught. The general practice of medicine was *routine*, and that with a vengeance.

Digressing a little. I must add, to ease my mind, that the old school: doctors of to-day are not so very far behind the old school doctors of yesterday in the free use of calomel (jalap left out), opiates, or their derivatives, alkaloids of opium; whereas old school doctors formerly made free use of laudanum, paregoric, Dover's powder, etc., which, as a rule, are not used very much now as compared with the practice of former times.

On this account thousands of infants and children are *providentially*. so those of the sacred desk say, taken to dwell with the angels. As to Eclecticism in our own time, the laborers are plentiful; but can we bring them together in a cause, that for a time may seem obscured, but will, in my judgment, triumph and lead all men to a better knowledge of our clean materia medica?

BAPTISIA.-By A. J. Clark M.D., Loveland, Colo. (*Eclectic Review*, January, 1905.)

In an epidemic of measles, commonly called "black measles," nine cases of the disease were treated successfully with baptisia. A peculiarity of all these cases was the rapid, panting breathing.

It was so rapid that it was almost impossible to count the respirations for some minutes; then there would be a period during which the child did not seem to breathe at all. Another symptom was the dark color of the skin about the mouth and nose of each little patient, associated with a stinking breath. This form of measles is very fatal, and there is no doubt that baptisia exerted a beneficial influence in these cases and saved their lives. Baptisia has been used with success under the same circumstances of fetor and prostration in scarlet fever and diphtheria and also in other infectious maladies.

ALNUS RUBRA.-By C. A. Berger, M.D. (*Eclectic Review*, May, 1905, p. 125.)

About a year ago I was called to treat a lady afflicted with chronic eczema of the worst type. The fingers were covered with a crust caused by pustules forming and breaking, emitting a very disagreeable odor, and apparently destroying all the soft parts. Alnus rubra was the principal internal remedy employed in the treatment, which resulted in a complete recovery, the case improving from the first week.

SAW PALMETTO.-By W. S. MULLINS, M.D. (*Eclectic Review*, December, 1905, p. 322)

M. S. had pain on micturition and tenderness in the prostate gland; dull aching at times, sharp, cutting pain extending to the testicles; discharge of prostatic fluid at every stool and when urinating; and a yellowish, watery discharge from the urethra. Examination revealed enlarged prostate gland as a source of all his trouble. He was able to come to the office next day. Prescribed the palmetto tincture, ten drops every two hours. After three weeks' use there was a decrease in the size of the gland of over one-half. Neither mucus nor prostatic fluid was discharged. He has now been under the same treatment for two months and a half, and there is still no discharge. He has gained twenty pounds in weight. The prostate gland is more nearly normal. He is still taking saw palmetto, five drops of the tincture three times a day.

VIBURNUM PRUNIFOLIUM.-Editorial, *Eclectic Review*, 1905, p. 237.

Soon after I began the practice of medicine I was called to see a lady who had most of her life been an invalid, subject to many ills, and among those which caused her the most suffering were cramps in her legs. She said that for more than twenty years she had not passed a night without being compelled to get out of her bed and walk the floor of her room, it being the only means known to her of mitigating her sufferings. She asked me if I could do anything which would modify the severity of the cramping pain in the legs, from which she suffered so intensely. In reply, I said that I could do so, and turned with confidence to my viburnum opulus bottle, only to find it empty. Not wishing to explain this fact to the old lady, I gave her a small vial of viburnum prunifolium, and told her to take twenty drops of the medicine every four hours, intending to refill the vial at my next visit with viburnum opulus; but at my next call she informed me that she had not had any trouble from her old enemy, the cramps, since she began the use of the medicine which I had prescribed for her. From that day to this viburnum prunifolium has been my cramp medicine, and I have yet to see the first case of cramp in the legs which I cannot cure with it. I direct my patient to take twenty drops of the specific medicine three times a day for three days. This will usually prove sufficient. If the cramps return I repeat the treatment.

PASSIFLORA INCARNATA.-By W. S. Bogart, M.D., Erie, Colo. (*Eclectic Review*, November, 1905.)

Given a leaden, dead feeling after or between meals, a burning or a degree of flatulency or sour eructations, and we have the field for passiflora. Having been for several years a great sufferer from sour stomach, where soda only offered temporary relief, I resorted to specific passiflora, gtts. v before meals and at bedtime, and this cured me.

APOCYNUM CANNABINUM.-By William Phillips, M.D., Jackson, O.

Replying to your question: Should apocynum be given in tincture or infusion, will say I have used both, but much prefer a good tincture in everyday practice. I want to emphasize the fact that apocynum is the remedy in all cases of varicose ulcers, infantile eczema, and in all conditions where there is a profuse exudation of serum, or so-called "weeping" ulcers; and in all inflammatory conditions attended with profuse watery secretion. No other remedy in the list of medicines is so certain in curative effect. It is of no benefit in cases where the skin is dry and scaly, as in ulcers where there is little pus.

I often combine it with other tonics, as gentian, nux, etc. The dose is from gtts. v to gtts. x every three hours. In giving it to children, or those with delicate stomachs, the best vehicle is neutralizing cordial.

In conclusion, I think the specific action of apocynum is upon the capillaries, contracting their caliber, and improving capillary circulation. Whilst others have had success in administering apocynum in cases attended with high fever, my experience has been to the contrary, and I do not give it because we do not have the specific conditions in case of high temperature, for the skin and mucous membranes are dry.

DELIRIUM TREMENS.-By Henry Reny, M.D., Biddeford, Me. (*Materia Medica Reports*, November, 1901).

E.A.L, male, aged twenty-eight, had a severe attack of delirium tremens. He had smashed the panels of a door with his fists, and dislocated his mother's shoulder during an attempt to hold him. Two physicians were in attendance and I was called in consultation. The attending physicians had given him large doses of morphia hypodermically, but his condition grew worse. I gave him gtts. x specific veratrum hypodermically. This calmed him considerably, and one of the physicians remarked that it was doing the business. I repeated the dose in thirty minutes. The patient fell asleep after ten minutes with pulse at 80. The pulse had been 140, and strong. Temperature could not be taken. He woke after four hours, feeling well. After taking a lunch he wrote a letter and went out and mailed it. He was not made sick by the veratrum, which may be attributed to the morphia he had previously taken.

I have prescribed veratrum for sixteen years in many cases of sthenic character, with undue excitement of the circulation, with gratifying results.

LOBELIA INFLATA.-By Eli Wright, M.D., Chicago, Ill., and others. From the record of the third meeting of our Society, held December 27, 1901.

Jaundice.-By Dr. Wright.

Lobelia, in pretty full doses, will clear up the skin in jaundice from hepatic congestion. Prof. H. K. Whitford has taught for years past that lobelia is the king of remedies in jaundice, and this accords with my experience. Prof. A. L. Clark also held that as a routine remedy in jaundice lobelia is, perhaps, the best we have.

E. G. Trowbridge, M.D., said that he had employed lobelia as a cough remedy with good results. He had found it valuable in spasmodic cough. In whooping cough he gave it in conjunction with wild cherry. The child under this treatment is able to play out of doors. It relieves the most distressing symptoms, but does not stop the disease altogether.

E. J. Farnum, M.D., said that he had found lobelia to be the best remedy we have for catarrhal jaundice. It is very much superior to chionanthus.

In cases curable with lobelia the jaundice comes on without pain; there is some disorder of digestion; the food causing gastric symptoms, as in dyspepsia. These cases may be acute or chronic, of short or long duration. In some cases the patient may suffer from grippe, or sore throat, with derangement of the stomach, the gastric symptoms following for a few weeks, when the jaundice comes on suddenly and without pain.

In other cases the stomach will be deranged from overeating, or from indiscreet selection of food, and the jaundice follows the indigestion. In either of these cases the jaundice may appear at any time of life; children are at times so affected. In these cases I believe lobelia is one of the best remedies that can be employed.

I prescribe it in doses of five to fifteen drops, every three hours, depending on the age of the patient. I do not crowd it so as to produce emesis, but expect that the patient will be a little bit nauseated after taking it.

In the case of a child it may be combined with neutralizing cordial. In some of the more obstinate cases, if the lobelia is combined with a good preparation of wild cherry the patient will be able to take more of the drug with less nauseating symptoms. A favorite prescription for an adult is: ℞ Specific lobelia, fluid extract of wild cherry (Proctor's), aa ℥j; water. ad. ℥iv. M. S. A teaspoonful once in three hours. Proctor's wild cherry is made with glycerine.

PRESCRIBING FOR DISEASES BY NAME.-By M. W. Henry, M.D., Waelder. Tex. (*National E. M. A. Transactions*, 1903, p. 93). Abstracted.

I prefer the method of the early Eclectics, and not a modified Homeopathy, or any fad or ism. I feel sure that no practice that tends towards the placebo methods and obscure provings of the Homeopath can by any possibility be an improvement upon the practice of the early Eclectics. The first thing to do as I was taught, and now practice, is to examine the patient thoroughly, and seek to make a correct diagnosis by finding out the cause of the symptoms; and, having done this-named the disease-treat to remove them; which, with a thorough knowledge of our remedies and their action and uses, is comparatively easy.

Prescribing for symptoms may tide the patient over a crisis but can never, in any proper meaning of the term, be counted curative.

[Prescribing for symptoms is extremely indefinite language. To me it is a means employed to avoid a routine treatment.]

In the early days bilious fever treated by symptoms was apt to become "slow fever," as distinguished from typhoid fever and mercurial fever, but under the early Eclectic treatment this was prevented, as in cases where on account of inertia and great torpidity of the glandular system this was

threatened, a few emeto-cathartic doses [of mandrake] would overcome it in a few hours and the resulting condition be amenable to treatment as ordinary bilious fever.

Some of the late graduates of our colleges show great ignorance of our remedies in their journal articles and might study the older works of our school to advantage. I studied medicine with a graduate of the Eclectic Medical Institute, and am a graduate of that college, class of 1857, and may reasonably be acquitted of ignorance as to what the early Eclectic practice was, but a few cases will serve to illustrate.

Mrs. H. T. had symptoms which the family interpreted as indicating pneumonia. I found her in bed with a flushed face, a dry hot skin, a distressing cough, considerable pain in the left side near the edge of the false ribs, and the tongue heavily coated. I made a careful examination of the patient and found the liver considerably enlarged, very tender and painful on pressure, and the pain produced would shoot through the seat of pain in the left side. Diagnosis: Acute hepatitis. I put her on an active cholagogue treatment to correct the abnormal condition of the liver, with quinine and ferrocyanide of iron to control the fever, and she was convalescent in a few days.

I feel certain that a semi-homeopathic method by small doses would, never have given such salutary and gratifying results. The early Eclectics did not deny the specific action of remedies, but they did not make a hobby of it. I used specifics in the above case, but I applied them directly to the seat of diseased action.

A young man had been sick several days, while his mother, who was a doctor, had charge of the case when I was called.

I found his spleen greatly enlarged and painful on pressure. The condition of his spleen was sufficient to account for his severe illness. Diagnosis: Acute splenitis. I gave him an active cholagogue to remove any possible torpidity of the liver that might be obstructing the free flow of blood from the spleen, thereby increasing the congestion, and incidentally to arouse the whole glandular system to increased activity.

I also put him under the full constitutional influence of antiperiodics, which I consider to be an important part of the treatment of acute splenitis. In addition I made a poultice of corn meal, with a strong decoction of red pepper, and applied it as hot as it could be borne. In a few hours the soreness had abated considerably in his spleen and he was resting quietly. The next morning his condition was much improved in every respect. On the third day he was able to leave his bed, and in a few days more he was convalescent.

The symptoms in the above cases were only useful to me in arriving at a correct diagnosis, which is the first thing to accomplish. This was the teaching of the founders of the Eclectic school. I believe that the innovations made on the teaching of the fathers has very much discouraged the efforts of our students to master the art of diagnosis, and this has greatly lowered the standard of clinical success among us.

The next case was found with some arterial excitement and was very melancholy and despondent. I found no serious disorder of liver, lungs, spleen or kidneys, but his genital organs were inflamed, swollen, painful and tender to the touch. There was no evidence of venereal disease.

Prof. J. R. Buchanan taught that there is an intimate sympathy between the genital organs and the basilar portions of the brain, as well as with the sacral nerves. On this hint I examined the lower spine and found considerable pain on pressure over the lower lumbar vertebrae extending down to the sacrum. He was put upon an active course of treatment for spinal irritation, with Eclectic alteratives to stimulate all the emunctories to increased activity. He began to improve immediately and reached perfect and permanent health.

I might report other cases, but these will serve as illustrations, and will tend to make more clear the basic principles upon which the American Eclectic school of medicine was founded and as they were taught in the earliest Eclectic colleges. The success attending this method of treating disease was the wonder and admiration of the world. The Allopath was impressed that what he had regarded as essential was often useless or destructive of vitality; that bleeding could not be relied upon in the severe inflammatory fevers, such as pneumonia and pleurisy; that there were a number of vegetable remedies, some of great potency, and others mild in action, which would do the necessary work and not leave the patient in a deplorable condition as the mercurials often did.

Though Allopathy was a close corporation, and sought to stop all reform with a mailed hand, the above facts compelled recognition, and the twin evils, bleeding and mercury, ceased to be depended on as remedies for inflammation.

BEACH'S PULMONARY BALSAM. By V. A. Baker, M.D., Adrian, Mich. (National Eclectic Medical Association's Transactions, 1903, p. 114.) Abstracted. *Elecampane* is stimulant and carminative, and the hot infusion taken freely will overcome the chilly sensation which often precedes pneumonia *Horehound* is also stimulant, and is a remedy for bronchitis with profuse expectoration, where it is specific.

Comfrey is a remedy for hemoptysis and passive hemorrhage; chronic and subacute diarrhea; gleet and any catarrhal condition. In debility of the female, indicated by too frequent menstruation, leucorrhoea or vaginitis, it is a safe and reliable remedy. In cases of chronic cystitis with scalding urine, or those cases of frequent urination with a teasing uneasy sensation a decoction of comfrey will afford relief.

I have now in mind the case of a married woman, the mother of four children, who had suffered for several years, sometimes in a mild form, but never free from the annoyance and at times, as she explained it, in agony. Urination was frequent, with burning cystic heat all the time, and urethral scalding almost unbearable. A decoction of comfrey relieved her promptly, and while not cured, the attacks are mild and are readily relieved by the remedy.

Spikenard is invaluable in pectoral diseases as a general restorative. It is appetizing and nervine, and is adapted to conditions of wakefulness associated with diseases of the chest. The decoction is used.

Sanguinaria is a remarkable remedy, and has long been known as a remedy for croup. It is an important ingredient in the pulmonary balsam.

SOLANUM CAROLINENSE. By W. P. Best, M.D., Indianapolis, Ind. (National Eclectic Medical Association Transactions, 1903, p. 120.) Abstracted

Solanum has been employed chiefly as a remedy for epilepsy, but success has been recorded with it in chorea, puerperal eclampsia, infantile and hysterical convulsions. I have found it a positive remedy for whooping cough, and after treating fifteen cases with it alone, I can still recommend it.

My two children being in the incipient stage of whooping cough, I decided to try solanum, and prescribed: ℞ Succus solani fl. ℥j glycerine an water aa. fl. ℥ iij. M. S. A teaspoonful every three hours during the day and when awake at night. The disease disappeared rapidly.

As opportunity offered I employed the remedy in other cases of this disease, with positive evidence of its curative power.

PODOPHYLLUM. By Lee Strouse, M.D., Covington, Ky. National Eclectic Medical Association Transactions, 1903, p. 129.) Abstracted.

When you talk about blood purifiers, podophyllum comes as near being one as may be found. In it we have a remedy that will search every gland and bring into activity the secretory system from the crown of the head to the soles of the feet.

An ointment made from the green root of podophyllum, gathered in the latter part of October, and thoroughly cooked, pound for pound, in lard, with a little gum ammoniac added, will cure piles and stop the torments of pruritus ani. It is an efficient remedy in the treatment of indolent ulcers, open sores, syphilitic abscesses, and some forms of cancer and carbuncle.

Mrs. B., aged forty, had a large carbuncle on the calf of her leg, and was cured with this ointment. Mrs. S., aged forty-four, had a carbuncle on the nape of her neck, and was cured by the same treatment. Both these cases were grave, and their lives were despaired of by several physicians.

If this ointment is applied immediately to superficial burns there will be no blister, and when applied to deep burns it prevents inflammation.

Podophyllum is one of the best remedies for jaundice. It will relieve a throbbing headache made worse on stooping. In typhoid fever, after the ninth day. I give a combination of podophyllum, golden seal and capsicum, enough to move the bowels six or eight times in the twenty-four hours, but not to cause exhaustion, with positive advantage, the fever usually coming to an end by the sixteenth day. This treatment carries away a poison which tends to prolong the fever if not eliminated.

I employ podophyllin in the treatment of constipation, headache, etc., usually in combination with capsicum. The dose is 1-32 to 1/4i grain.

Podophyllin was discovered by Prof. John King in 1835, and recommended as a remedy for hepatic diseases, scrofula, dropsy, leucorrhoea, syphilis, gonorrhoea, gleet, obstructed menstruation, etc., in combination with an alkali. I employ only the brown podophyllin. Specific podophyllum is the best fluid preparation.

The indications for podophyllum are full tissues, full veins; full tongue, covered from base to tip with a pasty, dirty coat, presenting a lifeless appearance; foul breath; bad taste in the mouth; patient half dead when on his feet, and when he sits down to rest or read involuntarily falls to sleep; dark spots (liver spots) on the face and chest; bowels sluggish, half lifeless, accompanied by constipation.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Dr. Eli G. Jones writes of our May report:

"The article on lobelia by Dr. Sarah J. Hogan is the best I have ever seen written on this herb. It shows what can be done with one remedy when we know how to use it. It goes to prove what I have often said, that a good physician only requires a few remedies when he knows how to use them. Take gelsemium, bryonia, belladonna, cimicifuga, veratrum, ipecac, study them carefully, and you will be surprised how much can be done with these remedies.

"One of the fathers of the Eclectic school, and one of my teachers, used to say that a good mechanic needs but few tools, and as I grow older I am convinced that he was right."

Dr. George W. Billig has something to say about my comment on his use of antitoxin in diphtheria. As to the inference that this disease cannot be diagnosed outside the laboratory, I will say that I do not believe it. I not only hold that true diphtheria can be diagnosed at the bedside, but that this is the only way to diagnose it. I will not retreat from my position that I can and have diagnosed and treated true diphtheria successfully as state-not all cases cured, it is true, as some will die in spite of us. It is a pity that the student of to-day is taught to depend on a laboratory diagnosis for skill and success give me the doctor who as a student was trained at the bedside.

Dr. J. E. G. Waddington writes, July 28, 1911: "I used specific apocynum a couple of weeks ago in a case of severe brachial neuralgia with success. The patient was a married woman, aged twenty-eight. She was worse each evening. I saw her the third night. I prescribed specific apocynum gtt. j, in hot water every fifteen minutes, for four doses, then every half hour. After the first three doses she went to sleep and had no return of the neuralgia. This may be a coincidence, and we wait other cases for trial."

Dr. G. W. Thompson, New York, writes of our May report: "Most of what has been written of the action of drugs accords with my experience, but there have been some uses made of lobelia that I am not familiar with. Your reference to Samuel Thomson and his use of lobelia, capsicum and vinegar is refreshing, as all these remedies and methods of treatment are still in vogue in the backwoods, showing that many of the old grannies retain by inheritance more knowledge of these valuable remedies than many of our well-read professionals.

"I have a vivid recollection of my old grandmother's method of treating throat troubles with hot vinegar and vinegar (vapor) inhalations, and the hemlock sweats, and lobelia and capsicum. They have been used by me, except the hemlock, ever since I have been in practice, with the greatest satisfaction.

"My experience with echinacea does not accord with your own. One of the worst cases of septicemia that I have ever treated, one that lay in a semi-unconscious state for several days, yielded to treatment with echinacea in thirty minim doses every three hours.

"A case of syphilis with high fever, gummata of the lymphatics, and a corroding ulcer of the thyroid gland, which had been pronounced cancer, and had been treated with arsenical paste locally and mercurials internally, was entirely cured in three weeks with echinacea, gtt. xx, every two hours, and the Eclectic wash, 20 per cent., in hot water."

Dr. R. B. Taylor writes, August 1, 1911, of our May report: "Regarding the enclosed report, I have enjoyed it thoroughly.

Lobelia inflata, as I stated before, has been a family heirloom with my mother's people. The acetous tincture was always on hand for croup; a lobelia emetic ushered in the treatment of all diseases of childhood, and we soon came to have respect for the large bottle and spoon. Regardless of who deserves credit for its discovery, the plant has scored a large place in medicine.

Whether it will do all that is claimed for it, I know not. We are indebted to the enthusiasts very largely for much of the progress made in clinical medicine, or, in fact any branch of medicine.

"I have no doubt that much of the medicine we prescribe does little good because it is not properly prescribed, or is not indicated, but the indicated remedy will perform wonders. Lobelia will loosen a cough or cold with marked rapidity, and it will relax a rigid os as nicely.

"Asclepias cornuti is a stranger to my shelves, and I cannot say aught concerning its virtues, but veratrum viride, we always hail a marked indication for it with open arms, for if ever indicated remedy did the work expected of it, this is the one. In puerperal eclampsia it is never out of my mind, and regardless of diagnosis, when indicated, veratrum gets first call.

"Hypodermic lobelia has given some very nice results, but, like any other remedy, has but its own field to cover, and cannot overshadow other remedies.

"Recently a child who always has convulsions from the slightest illness, was treated through diphtheria. As usual, I administered diphtheritic antitoxin, but when the convulsions came on a generous hypodermic dose of lobelia quieted matters, and he rode safely through the storm.

"Every day we become more familiar with and learn more about our common remedies. There is a very limited number of physicians who endeavor to widen the field of knowledge concerning remedies; and I know of one man who enjoys quite a nice practice in this city, who carries but two remedies, and those in his vest pocket. They are calomel and Dover's powder. I would not care to have him for my family physician, however."

THE ALARM STAGE OF LOBELIA.--By Sarah J. Hogan, IMD., Chicago, III (*Materia Medica Reports*. December. 1901). In large and frequently repeated doses lobelia is a relaxant, and is suited to sthenic inflammations and spasmodic affections; in small doses it exerts a tonic influence and is useful in asthenic conditions.

It has been charged by those who do not speak from practical experience that lobelia given to produce its full relaxing effect is a dangerous narcotic poison, but I do not believe it. I can speak from my own experience, and that of others, in favor of the safety of such treatment. I do not know of a single death being caused by such use of lobelia. I do not claim that the treatment is pleasant, but from personal experience I can testify to its efficacy and safety.

I recall a case treated during the days when Thomsonism was rampant, where an incredible quantity of lobelia was given with no apparent injury to the patient. The case was that of a lady, who, from the demands of various social functions, was obliged to be up night and day until she was thoroughly exhausted; with obstinate constipation, etc. I prepared a strong decoction of lobelia by boiling half a pound of the herb in water, making a quart of the medicine. I directed that it be injected into the rectum in divided doses not to invite an evacuation, but rather to allow the remedy to absorb and act through the blood. This was done and it caused alarming prostration with deathly nausea; the danger line of the old Thomsonian practitioners; for which, however, nothing was done, except to allow her to drink freely of warm water to which I added a little bicarbonate of soda. After a time there was free vomiting and purging, more than a gallon being discharged in these two ways. After the operation of the medicine, the patient was scarcely able to get onto the bed, but when there she almost immediately fell asleep. This was at six o'clock in the evening and she slept soundly till daylight. When she awoke she was greatly improved in all respects, I then gave her a glass of wine to stimulate the system somewhat.

When she went to sleep again and slept till ten o'clock the next morning, when she awoke feeling perfectly rested, got up and ate a hearty breakfast of beefsteak, coffee, etc. She was thoroughly cured by this treatment and expressed herself as feeling better than she had done for the past two years.

[What was the pathological condition here? What the diagnosis-the name of the disease? Debility certainly, and we may name it "neurasthenia. For debility a tonic treatment is naturally suggested, selected according to specific indications, but" would quinine, strychnine, gentian or iron have cured this case? We may easily condemn this typical Thomsonian treatment; but, except as a good treatment overdone, is it worthy of condemnation? According to approved theories this patient had exhausted her nervous *force*; every function was imperfectly performed; there was imperfect nutrition and imperfect waste; the whole system was poisoned. In the treatment it was necessary to stimulate the weakened organism so as to increase the nervous force, make good blood and effect normal waste, To do this, clinical experience has demonstrated that not a tonic but a sedative is demanded. Lobelia is such a sedative, and given in such manner as to secure its adenagic action the whole body is restored to a normal condition in a short time-overnight, in fact.

This treatment was the discovery of Samuel Thomson, and we cheerfully give the credit to him and not to the Penobscot Indians.-ED.]

RHUS TOXICODENDRON.-By John M. Scudder, M.M.D. (*Eclectic Medical Journal*, 1873, p. 46). Abstracted.

A characteristic symptom indicating rhus is a peculiar glistening redness of the skin with unpleasant burning. In fever and pneumonia it sometimes shows itself in one cheek. In remittent fever and diseases of the chylopoietic viscera it may show above the frontal and orbital sinuses. Occasionally it is seen about the mouth, attended with swelling of the lips, and very unpleasant "fever" blisters. I have noticed it first on the nates in protracted diseases and in some cases on the extremities.

In a case of continued fever with marked irritability of the nervous system, one half of the foot was found of this glistening red color, being swollen with pain and burning. I called it erysipelas, but it was not. Gelsemium and sedatives failing to relieve, I prescribed rhus, gtt. v; water, ℥iv; a teaspoonful every two hours, alternated with aconite.

A child had a swollen face with burning pain for a week, with a few vesicles about the mouth and the shining appearance. Rhus, given as above, cured,

Mrs. L. had a miscarriage, and five days afterwards had facial erysipelas. The fever ran high with irritability of the nervous system and sleeplessness. Face was swollen, bright red, glistening, with burning pain. Rhus with aconite internally and veratrum locally cured.

VERATRUM VIRIDE.-By the Editor.

I like Dr. Holmes' illustration that we should put new wood on the old tree, as it accords with my experience. To wipe out what has gone before medicine is not a good thing, but to reform abuses is to be commended. The old Thomsonian practice accomplished wonders, but it was a good thing overdone. There was no need for the abuse of lobelia, but there was and is need for its medicinal or curative action in the treatment of disease.

As to the old claims that the cholagogue remedies stimulate the liver and purify the blood, thereby eradicating disease, it is, in my humble opinion, an established fact; but here again I do not favor a routine treatment with podophyllin as a panacea. I go so far as to distinguish between the remedy or dose which may do harm and the one that will cure.

That lobelia given to secure its adenagic action, that is in divided doses, stimulates the entire glandular system, was the opinion of Tully, who gave us the name. The word is obsolete, but I do not care for that; the fact remains that we can get curative results from lobelia given in this way that we cannot get from the small dose.

I also am of the opinion, with Dr. Holmes, that some of those cases of malignant diphtheria where hypodermic lobelia failed might have recovered had the remedy been given in the old way to secure its adenagic effect.

What I have said here of lobelia applies equally well to veratrum. There is a field for the small dose, and also cases where we need its adenagic action. We do not lose ground if it causes vomiting.

Here ten drops of tincture of opium will stop this, and if the first dose is rejected the second will take effect and stop the vomiting promptly, as I have observed, As the vomiting is controlled we usually find the pathological condition greatly improved and our patient well on the road to recovery, if he has not quite recovered.

To cause vomiting with veratrum I count an accident. We get its adenagic action while stopping short of this. To give as much as the system will tolerate is the rule, to be governed by the pulse. The system is poisoned by the disease, as I view it, and by stimulating the glandular system eliminate this poison, or neutralize it.

Dr. Hogan's case, where the system was already depressed to the limit which was treated by depressing doses of lobelia, would seem to militate against the doctrine that the sedative remedies must be limited to the strong subjects-the sthenic cases with a full pulse; but I do not feel that we know just how remedies act; all we know is the phenomena of disease, and the resulting action of remedies. "I was blind, now I see," was the testimony of the man whom the Master healed; and so it is in any case of healing.

With these preliminary remarks I submit the following cases treated with veratrum viride:

Acute Bronchitis.-Male, aged twenty-two; extreme difficulty of respiration; could speak but a few words at a time, and said he would suffocate. Percussion, chest resonant. Auscultation: Vesicular murmur; air enters slowly, with an effort and a sibilant sound. High fever, with small, frequent, irritable pulse, which could not be counted. Gave five minims tincture of veratrum viride, and repeated the dose every hour till four doses had been taken. Before the third dose pulse 138, after the fourth dose pulse 129. Same dose repeated every two hours. Respiration gradually became fuller and less labored. He slept considerably sitting up. Same doses repeated every two and a half hours next day. In the evening slight crepitation in spots, and next day all over the lungs, with slight expectoration. Remedy continued at longer intervals, and on the eighth day he was attending to business.

Veratrum viride is probably more serviceable in acute bronchitis than in any other disease, as by lessening the rapidity of the circulation it relieves the inflammation of the mucous surface by diminishing the quantity of blood sent to the lungs. while oxygenation can more fully take place and the painful sense of suffocation is thereby relieved. As a sedative it relieves the painful dyspnea, and as an expectorant removes the consequences of inflammation and produces no debility.-PERCY.

Cerebral Meningitis.-Woman had symptoms of cerebral meningitis, with convulsions; gave her twenty-five drops of tincture of veratrum viride hypodermically, largely diluted with water, and followed it with two doses of ten drops each. A cure was accomplished without deleterious results.-RODGERS

If there is almost constant vomiting in cerebral meningitis, with a hard tense pulse, give Norwood's tincture of veratrum in doses of three to five drops every fifteen minutes, until the temperature and pulse come down, when, as a rule, the convulsions will cease. Give the medicine yourself, and watch the case.-HOOD.

Congestion of the Brain.-Girl, aged four, had convulsions from congestion of the brain; pulse 120. Applied cold to the head and gave gtt. of tincture of veratrum viride every hour. After three doses she broke out into a profuse perspiration, with symptoms of great prostration. Nothing was done to stimulate her, and in four and a half hours her pulse was 72; she was better in every way and playing with her dolls.-BISHOP.

Bilious Colic.-Veratrum viride, in doses of gtts. ij of the tincture every half hour till its full effects are apparent, will cure bilious colic. It is not surpassed by any other remedy in this affliction.-BATES.

Chorea.-Girl, aged four, after a day of unusual fatigue and a night of poor sleep, had symptoms of chorea, which continued to increase in severity till her condition was pitiable. She had not slept for sixty hours, and could scarcely swallow a teaspoonful of water; pupils contracted, eyes injected, glassy stare; face suffused; pulse thready, very rapid; convulsive movements incessant, every muscle moving.

Gave five minims tincture veratrum viride hypodermically. In half an hour she was better; repeated the dose, and in one hour pulse softer, but on account of muscular movements could not be counted. She took farina gruel. In fifteen minutes felt sick; drops of sweat on forehead and face; did not vomit; no pain; lessened movements. Kept her still, and in two hours and seventeen minutes from the first injection of veratrum she was asleep. The convulsive movements were gradually subdued and a cure effected with veratrum.-PERCY.

Diphtheria.-Have treated sixty-seven cases of diphtheria successfully with veratrum viride. Early and decided use of the remedy is demanded with every promise of good results, even in the most malignant cases. It should be the basis of the treatment, and be given till it slows the pulse; to give it in smaller doses is useless. Given a case of diphtheria with a dull, sallow complexion; pulse 120 to 140, hard and wiry; with subsultus; cervical glands enlarged, as revealed to the touch or perhaps to the eye, and veratrum is indicated.

Diphtheria always has the above pulse, rarely is it slow. If we slow the pulse and circulation, the inflammation of the throat and lungs is mitigated. The system when under the veratrum tolerates the diphtheritic poison, and sepsis is stayed. Veratrum prevents asthenia by strengthening the heart. There is a tremendous waste of nervous force with the pulse at 180 per minute. A child aged four months was taken with malignant diphtheria, another child having died in the same family a short time before of the disease. Pulse hard, rapid, small; skin sallow; fever high, with twitching of the muscles of the extremities. In five days the larynx showed croupous diphtheria, and a membrane covered the throat and occluded the nostrils. It could not suckle, and death from inanition threatened. As the disease advanced, the membrane covered the fauces and protruded from the anterior nares; pulse 180, small, thready; sepsis. Gave gt. j Norwood's tincture of veratrum every two hours, as a smaller dose failed to affect the heart. Under these doses the pulse fell to 80, and the veratrum was continued to keep it there. Within the following twenty-four hours the child was able to nurse, and its recovery was rapid.-BOYD.

I find other practitioners agree with Dr. Boyd as to the value of veratrum in the treatment of diphtheria, and even go so far as to claim antiseptic powers for it. Prof. A. J. Howe was of the opinion that veratrum is *par excellence* the remedy for diphtheria.

Dysentery.-Mrs. R., aged twenty-seven, had frequent bloody discharges; severe tenesmus; high fever; parching thirst; tormina severe beyond measure; prostration complete; countenance haggard with expression of great suffering; skin hot, dry, husky; pulse 135 to 140, thready; tongue dry and coated with a brown fur, with red edges and tip; tongue tremulous, voice scarcely audible; the least pressure on the abdomen caused her to cry out; legs flexed, and with every evidence of violent enteroperitonitis. She had opium and camphor aa. grs. iij, and gtts. viij tincture of veratrum viride, with fomentations of hops to the abdomen. Intermitting pains threatened miscarriage. After fifteen minutes repeated the dose of the medicine. In ten minutes marked improvement, pulse 115, pain subsiding. Gave dilute sulphuric acid, morphia and rhubarb, with veratrum gtts. jv, every two hours. Next morning pulse 80, and improvement in all the symptoms. She recovered in a few days and did not miscarry.-DEWEY.

Dysentery.-Boy, aged six, had thirty or forty evacuations in twenty-four hours; pulse 130, small, wiry; temperature 103.5°. Gave gtts. iij Norwood's tincture of veratrum every hour, increasing one drop each dose. In six hours pulse 60, temperature 101°, with a lessened number of evacuations, and fecal matter in them. He made a good recovery.-RAGLAND.

Encephalitis.-Girl, aged eleven, fell down stairs, striking her head on a stone. After the injury she had creeping chills and headache, which became very severe after the lapse of eight hours. She said the pain was inside her head. Symptoms increased in severity, face flushed, eyes injected right pupil double the size of the left; ecchymosed spot on the right temple. [This injury caused the 'right pupil to dilate-paralysis.] Great intolerance of light:, which greatly increased the pain; thirst; water taken was vomited at once; skin hot, pulse 174, wiry; very noisy delirium. Prescribed podophyllin cathartic, and two minims tincture of veratrum viride every hour till eight doses had been taken, then every two hours. In five days she was free from fever. Her bowels were kept open with rhubarb and soda. Two minims of veratrum were given every three hours after the third day. She had as nourishment powdered cracker boiled to a jelly. Vomiting appeared to be controlled by the sedative influence of veratrum on the brain. It will be seen that the child's tolerance of the remedy was very great.-PERCY.

Erysipelas.-Patient had phlegmonous erysipelas of the head and face for five days. When seen she was in a furious delirium, screaming, howling, striking, so that it took several persons to keep her in bed. Pulse high and strong; no sleep for sixty hours. Tongue very red, inclined to a brown color on the edges, with a dark stripe through the center about three-quarters of an inch wide. Prognosis: Could not live forty-eight hours. Prescribed tincture of veratrum viride, gtt. v, in half a glass of water, a teaspoonful every half hour. In four hours she slept. Next day improvement was marked. Made a good recovery.-SEARLE.

Tully held that we cannot get the full remedial action of veratrum viride unless enough is given to arouse the absorbents, or the glandular system, which he defined as its "adenagic" action. (*Materia Medica*, vol. 1, p. 151).

Tincture of veratrum viride has been used to advantage as a local application in erysipelas, tonsillitis, itching skin diseases and dermatitis. Percy's experiments demonstrate that its local action is on the vaso-motor or sensory nerves. (*To be continued.*)

CORRESPONDENCE.

Ralph B. Taylor, A.B., M.D., Columbus, O., writes:

"Anent ophthalmia neonatorum, it yields more readily to silver salts than any other treatment. Argyrol is much less irritating and equally as effective as the nitrate.

"Apocynum has worked nicely for me in sciatica, but is not a specific by any means. I have not yet discovered the indications for its use in these cases."

W. H. Haifley, M.D., Amboy, Ind., writes, August 1, 1911:

"My experience with staphisagria has been identical with those recorded in your June report, especially its apparent control of mental conditions. Its action in these cases reminds me of pulsatilla, except that it seems more suitable for males, while pulsatilla acts more favorably on the female.

"About nine years ago I first began to use broom weed, but, although I noted undoubted good results from it, I also found it so unpalatable that I soon discontinued the use of the drug. "To-day I begin a crucial test of sodium succinate in gall-stone colic, and may report results later."

G. W. Holmes, M.D., Sharpes, Fla., writes, August 5, 1911:"I am glad that we have the report that hypodermic lobelia does not cure all cases of diphtheria. I doubt if it is as effectual hypodermically as by the old way carried to emesis.

"In the early days access to this section of the country was difficult, and contagious diseases not of frequent occurrence. There have been but two outbreaks of diphtheria in thirty-six years in this region. A family moved here from New Brunswick, and one child died of diphtheria on their arrival at Melbourne. Another child was taken sick with the disease here and I was called to treat the case in association with Dr. Fee. Aconite and phytolacca, with a throat wash, constituted the treatment. The disease spread, but the cases were mild, all recovering.

"Some months after the family had settled here the mother aired the little one's clothing, who had died, in the presence of a number of other children, some of whom took the disease, but none died. This shows how long a time the contagious principle is active.

"The general testimony of physicians of all schools to the value of our remedies and mode of practice shows that the old tree is not dead, but is continually putting on new wood. It is not a new tree.

"I had a chance to use sticta on myself recently. A stiff neck with pains running down into my shoulders was the condition. Relief came as I took the remedy, but it took four days to complete the cure. In addition to sticta I employed dry cups; three tumblers, from the neck down. I know of nothing equal to dry cups in such cases in the acute stage. The old irritating plaster will do the work, but it is an unpleasant local treatment compared with the cups, and the action is not so prompt.

"I was recently called in the night to a patient, some distance from my home, who had fallen from a bicycle, striking on his head. Two other physicians had seen the case. I found him unconscious. There was a fracture of the clavicle, near its union with the scapula, which had been overlooked by the physicians who preceded me; some of his front teeth were loosened by the fall; and there was some rise in temperature. Sticta and belladonna were the remedies employed. It is possible that he would have recovered without treatment so far as the brain was concerned, but I think it best to treat these cases in view of possible danger in the future, as we can never say in a head-injury that an apparent recovery will be final.

"I have recently had an opportunity to use an infusion of digitalis in a case of dropsy from weakness of the heart in an old man. Apocynum and infusion of digitalis leaves, ʒi to ʒviij water, did the work. Patient aged eighty-two.

"Another case of dropsy, but not my patient, was cured by an infusion of elder bark after all other treatment had failed. This patient could not lie down for many months."

"I believe in specific medicine and old medicine too."

CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS.-By John M. Scudder M.D. (ECLECTIC MEDICAL JOURNAL, 1873, p. 140, abstracted.)

CASE I.-Child, aged two and a half years; sharp fever, head drawn back, eyes bright, pupils contracted, skin dry, upper lip much swollen, mouth dry and sore, pulse 110. Child would sleep for a few minutes, then start with fright and a sharp cry-cry *encephalique*. Sharp stroke of pulse (click), wave of blood tremulous until next stroke. Swollen lip, sore mouth parched, bright flush on left cheek and orbital pain pointed to rhus. Prescribed: ℞ Tr. rhus gtt. ij; tr. aconite gtt. iv; water ʒiv. M. S. A teaspoonful every hour. Decided relief in twenty-four hours, arrest of cerebro-spinal disease in seventy-two hours, and a good convalescence, except that the mouth remained sore.

CASE II.-Child aged seven had soreness of back and limbs with headache. In the morning very sick. Found her unconscious, head drawn back, eyes maintained' in one position, pulse 120, sharp stroke followed by tremulous current of blood. Prescribed aconite, belladonna, hot foot baths worse, thought she would die. The sharp stroke of pulse, peculiar appearance of papillae of tongue, dryness of eyes, slight flush of *left* cheek, indicated rhus. Prescribed: ℞ Tr. rhus gtt. iv; water ʒiv; a teaspoonful every hour. Next morning much better. Gave aconite and ipecac; convalesced rapidly.

CASE III.-Child aged two, unwell in the morning, at three o'clock P.M., when seen, unconscious; head drawn back, condition of semi-spasm, limbs being in continuous movement. Sudden startings, *cry encephalique*, sharp stroke of pulse, tremulous wave of blood following; eyes dry, bright flush of cheeks. Prescribed: ℞ Aconite gtt. iv; rhus gtt. ij; water ʒiv; a teaspoonful every hour. Improvement.

On evening of second day nausea, vomiting of blood, at last dark-colored and grumous. Prescribed nux in small doses with relief, but cerebra-spinal disease was revived with evident suppuration of the meninges. Died in five days.

Of eleven cases treated, two died. Rhus the chief remedy in seven, bicarbonate of soda in one, bryonia in two and aconite and macrotys in one.

Danger of relapse. Continue special treatment seven days till complete convalescence is assured.

VERATRUMI VIRIDE.-By the Editor.

In our last report we gave Dr. Searl's indication for veratrum, with the report of a case. He reported also a case of inflammatory rheumatism, with the dark stripe through the center of the tongue, cured with veratrum. Dr. Dayfoot also reports a case of inflammatory rheumatism, with this indication, cured with veratrum, and the following case of pneumonia:

Mrs. B., aged fifty-five, had high fever, vomiting, flushed face, quick and bounding pulse, labored breathing, purulent expectoration with considerable blood. Her tongue had the dark stripe and veratrum cured.

Prof. Scudder remarks (ECLECTIC MEDICAL JOURNAL, 1873, page 576) that he had observed five cases with this red streak within a month. Three were cynanche maligna; red stripe looked like raw beef, smooth and glistening, sides of tongue covered with grayish-white coat. Four of the five cases had a full pulse, 100 to 110. One had a weak heart. In all veratrum exerted a markedly curative influence. Dose, gtt. x veratrum to ℥iv water, a teaspoonful every hour. We note here that the patient with the weak heart, "pulse small and very feeble, accelerated ten beats by sitting up, twenty beats by walking across the room," was cured by veratrum.

According to the report of these three observers, veratrum cured after other remedies failed.

Heart Disease.-H., aged twenty-five, had frightful pain in the region of the heart, temperature normal, pulse 81, small, wiry, irregular. Heart much enlarged, apex striking the chest wall violently, blowing sounds over the aortic and mitral valves, could not swallow, was threatened with suffocation, dryness of the throat. He had inflammatory rheumatism five years before, which left the heart diseased. Attack brought on by overwork. Gave gtt. x sp. veratrum and in half an hour gtt. v. Hot water bottle to seat of pain, ice in the mouth for thirst. In an hour heart nearly normal; the symptoms greatly relieved; pulse full, soft; mouth moist, and could swallow. Pain being persistent, continued prescription, ℞ Sp. veratrum, gtt. xv; water, ℥iv; a teaspoonful every fifteen minutes, and often four do at longer intervals. Treatment relieved the pain and improved the patient. TUCKLER

Heart Disease.-Woman, aged thirty; pulse 120, weak, intermitting every seventeenth to nineteenth beat; pain in region of apex; sense of suffocation; unable to lie down for hours at a time, usually in the early part of the night; tongue furred; red tip and edges; poor appetite; no energy; bowels constipated.

℞. Sp. veratrum, gtt. viij; water, ℥iv; M. S.-A teaspoonful every two hours. Cured.-PAYNE.

Hydrocele.-Percy's experiments indicate that veratrum is curative in hydrocele when injected into the sac.

Hemorrhage.-Veratrum should be given in doses of gtt. iij to gtt. xv of the tincture every two or three hours, carefully watching the effect. It is used with benefit in hemoptysis, aneurism, menorrhagia, hemorrhage after the amputation of the cervix uteri, hemorrhage in uterine cancer and in flooding.-COLLINS.

Intermittent Fever.-Mrs. B. had chills, followed by fever; intermission at 3 o'clock P.M., slightly marked; skin hot and dry; face flushed; severe headache, with cerebral excitement; tongue red on tip and edges; whitish fur, inclined to yellow in the middle and at the root; nausea; constipation. Gave calomel cathartic. Patient took quinine contrary to orders, and was made worse, with delirium, high fever, active cerebral congestion.

Advise cold douche to the head and five drops tincture of veratrum, the dose to be repeated in half an hour. This caused emesis; pulse less rapid. Gave three drops veratrum every hour and a half with spirit of nitre. Next morning very much better and recovered rapidly.-HILL.

In the above case quinine was contraindicated. When we give quinine or morphia we must have a moist and cleaning tongue, a soft and open pulse, a moist skin, and the nervous system free from irritation.

Neuralgia.-Girl with neuralgia of the face, the whole right side of the face affected, and teeth aching terribly. No sleep for forty-eight hours, pulse 147. I injected six minims tincture of veratrum into the angle of the jaw. In two minutes pain had gone, and did not return.-PERCY.

Percy reports a case of acute sciatica where he injected five minim tincture of veratrum into the popliteal space, and repeated the dose after several hours, when the pain returned. Three doses cured.

Puerperal Convulsions.-Mrs. M. in convulsions for ten hours. She had severe headache, pain paroxysmal, driving her distracted. She was about the fifth month of pregnancy. Had four severe convulsions in six hours. Chloroform and gelsemium given freely did no good. Pulse full. Gave her ten drops of specific veratrum. This dose was gradually increased until forty drops were given at intervals of one hour. Delivered a five months fetus; no hemorrhage; good contractions. Convulsions returned as violent as ever. She was put on half-drachm doses of specific veratrum and the doses gradually increased to one drachm. The convulsions gradually decreased in frequency, and finally yielded entirely to veratrum. She was unconscious from noon Thursday until Sunday. She had twelve convulsions which were neither mitigated nor decreased in frequency by any other treatment except veratrum.- GOULD

Veratrum viride is depended on in puerperal eclampsia by nearly all practitioners at the present time. Albuminuria or suppression of urine do not contraindicate it. The quantity that such patients will bear seems incredible. Ten drops of specific veratrum or Norwood's tincture hypodermically every fifteen minutes until there is evidence of relief is a common dose. Bleeding, chloroform, chloral, the bromides, elaterium or other remedies, yield to veratrum, which in large and frequently repeated doses is depended on.

Pneumonia.-Male, aged nineteen, active and robust, red face, full pulse. Had no other remedy but veratrum in pretty full doses. As a tonic during convalescence he had Howe's acid tincture of iron.-HARRIS.

Pleuro-Pneumonia.-Mrs. A., aged thirty-seven, had slight rigors in the morning after going to bed indisposed. At 10 o'clock A.M. rigors succeeded by flashes of heat; tongue dry, parched; thirst. At 2 o'clock P.M. severe chill for twenty minutes, followed by fever and much constriction across the chest; tearing, tickling, painful cough. At 4 o'clock P.M. severe painful stitch on the right side, two inches to the right and a little below the nipple; pulse 164; respiration 30; skin hot, dry; face flushed. Passed no urine since morning: no bowel movement for twenty-four hours. Auscultation showed crepitation over the whole of the right lung, vesicular murmur heard in front, but not behind, in lower right lobe.

Treatment.-Brisk cathartic and hot poultices over seat of pain. At 6 o'clock began with four minims tincture of veratrum viride and repeated the dose every hour, with an increase of 3, 2, 1 minims till pulse was reduced to 100, and afterwards repeated the dose to keep it there or below. Pulse varied from 94 to 57.

Gave morphia sulph., gr. 1/4, morning and evening. On the third day crepitation had ceased except in a small spot near the base; expectoration easy; no rusty color. Gave two minims tincture of veratrum every two hours, two days longer, when all medicine was discontinued, the normal respiration being heard over the whole lung.

Veratrum was given to control the pulse, and morphia to control the respiration and nervous irritability.-PERCY.

I question the practice of giving morphia in pneumonia under any circumstances.

Percy reports another case of pneumonia where veratrum was given alone. and the inflammation more quickly subdued than in the above case, but there was alarming depression and vomiting occurred. Nothing was done for the depression, and he revived in a short time, the veratrum being continued afterwards in two minim doses every two hours. The next morning the lung inflammation had entirely disappeared.

Pneumonia.-Woman, aged twenty-two, strongly marked consumptive family, growing steadily worse from double pneumonia under the usual treatment. Gave her veratrum on the fourth day of treatment; pulse 135; next day 120, next 100, and the third day 85. All the symptoms improved as the pulse came down.-WILCOX.

In pneumonia veratrum may be given in doses of two drops of the specific medicine every two hours. Should the heart action be extremely weak and rapid, and so continue without improvement for twenty-four hours under veratrum it should be withdrawn, but there are very few such cases.

Veratrum is as near a specific for pneumonia as quinine is for malaria of the intermitting type. It is indicated in nearly every case, and as a heart tonic is fully equal to digitalis. It slows the heart's action within twenty four hours, and the pulsations become full and strong. Within forty-eight hours the pulse should come down to sixty-five or seventy beats in a minute. With the lessened pulse rate the fever falls to a safe degree, secretion is established, rapid breathing is relieved, expectoration is free and easy, the kidneys do their work well, the tongue clears, the bowels move without a laxative; in fact the disease comes to a safe and rapid termination. If given early in efficient doses, veratrum will alleviate the disease. If danger is imminent from great cardiac weakness, give specific digitalis in doses of two drops every two hours, and 1-100 gr. nitroglycerine as often as needed. Of all the remedies for pneumonia at our command, the best one is specific veratrum. It can properly be called the sheet-anchor. All other remedies when compared with it sink into insignificance.-QUIGG.

Poisons and Antidotes.-In Percy's experiments it was found that the poisonous effect of strychnine, opium and cantharides was counteracted by veratrum viride, which acted as an antidote.

I find a case of poisoning by strychnine reported, where a child took strychnine pills by mistake, and, though spasms had set in, the hypodermic injection of veratrum saved the child's life. In another case where a poisonous dose of morphia had been taken, the hypodermic use of veratrum completely counteracted the effects of the morphia.

Peritonitis.-A miscarriage, supposed to be instrumental, was followed by septic peritonitis. Except that the patient was conscious, the symptoms were alarming in every particular. Cloths wet in a weak infusion of capsicum were applied hot to the abdomen, and gtt. iv tincture of veratrum given every half hour for two hours. After sixty drops had been taken, vomiting occurred, with profuse perspiration. Delivered a six months' fetus and placenta. Abdomen fully relaxed, headache gone; the flush which had appeared over the whole body had passed away, and no mark of the disease remained except some tenderness on pressure and uterine hemorrhage. She was able to do work in three days.-DAVIDSON.

Puerperal Peritonitis.-The case was given up by the preceding doctor, who said that she could not live but a few hours. A liniment of chloroform and ammonia was applied to the abdomen, and gtt. vi tincture of veratrum given every two hours, which brought on copious vomiting after the fifth dose, at which time every unfavorable symptom gave way. Pulse reduced from 140 to 55 in ten hours. Small doses of veratrum completed the cure. SMILEY.

The same author reports another case of puerperal septicemia even more unfavorable than the above, which recovered under veratrum.

Puerperal Mania.-Patient was delivered prematurely of a dead child, and did well until the tenth day, when she became silent, suspicious and distrustful of those about her without obvious cause.

By the twelfth day symptoms of puerperal mania were still more developed, and she would not allow the doctor to come near her; his presence terrified her; she thought he had poisoned her and meditated her destruction. She slept little or none, and it was difficult to keep her confined to her bed and her room. In view of controlling the general circulation and diminishing the nervous excitement, she was directed to have gtt. v of veratrum every three hours, as long as it did not cause nausea, vomiting and prostration. The following morning the symptoms of mania had passed away. The good of the veratrum was observed after the third dose.-ATLEE. (*To be continued.*)

SAMUEL THOMSON.-By the Editor.

In 1807 he reports an epidemic of dysentery, with thirty patients, all cured. About the same time he had a severe case of urticaria, where, the usual routine being employed, the patient said that he felt as though he should die from the treatment. This patient was completely cured of his tendency to attacks of urticaria.

In 1807 he discovered that lobelia is curative of asthma.

A case which is described as "venereal," and "one mass of putrefaction," probably syphilitic, was cured by the usual routine, "to keep up a perspiration." It is worthy of notice that while aconite and ipecac are used in the practice 'Of to-day in the treatment of acute inflammations, as dysentery, nephritis, pneumonia, and here, too, to maintain a perspiration, no mention is made 'Of lobelia for this purpose; even Eclectics do not use it to any extent worth mentioning.

Thomson reports several epidemics of dysentery, where the attacks were very severe, successfully treated by his method of restoring the normal perspiration, lobelia being the chief remedy.

In 1808 he had a patient who "was very weak and low, in the last stages of consumption, and all hopes of recovery were at an end." In this case he writes: "The lobelia operated very kindly, and threw off his stomach a large quantity of cold jelly, like the white of an egg; the perspiration moved gently and was free. The medicine fixed the determining power to the surface and threw out the putrefaction to such a degree that the smell was very offensive." This patient began to improve from the time he received the lobelia, and gradually regained his health, At this period it was custom to call all wasting diseases "consumption." It is not claimed that lobe emetics will cure pulmonary tuberculosis. In 1809 he attended a case of chronic disease said to be consumption.

"She had been confined to her house four months; her flesh was exhausted and she had a violent stricture of the lungs; which she said seemed as thou there was a string drawing her lungs to her back. This caused a dry, hacking cough which was very distressing." This case was treated for six months but finally recovered. The following case suggests diphtheria. A child is sick with "quinsy and is in a stupid state in the evening, and the mouth as white as paper the morning; and next day given up to die; and finally it began to struggle for breath, and appeared to be in great distress, similar to a drowned person coming to life." This child was not appreciably relieved until it had lobelia; after that it soon recovered.

I have given this sketch of the practice of Samuel Thomson to show what a great variety of diseases he treated successfully with lobelia as the chief remedy.

As to the success of Thomsonism, *The Maine Thomsonian Recorder* for 1840 makes the statement that there were 2,000 Thomsonian practitioners, four million patrons of the system, twenty periodicals, two hundred converts from the regulars, and two medical colleges, while fifteen States had repealed obstructive laws.

STRAMONIUM.-By J. B. Harrison, M.D. (ECLECTIC MEDICAL JOURNAL 1873, p. 113, abstracted.)

In chronic inflammation of the bladder, where there is a dull, head cramping pain through the bladder and bowels after voiding urine; and a where there is a lack of contractile power in the bladder, and it takes a I time to start the urine, tincture of stramonium seed in half-drop doses curative.

CONSUMPTION.-By A. J. Howe, M.D. (ECLECTIC MEDICAL JOURNAL 1873, p. 115, abstracted.)

In the early stages of phthisis I usually commence treatment with one drop of Norwood's tincture of veratrum, two drops of Fowler's solution and three drops of tincture of nux vomica, so regulated that the medicine will be given an hour apart and four doses of each during .the day. As liniment to irritate the skin: ℞ Sweet oil ℥jss; oil of cloves ℥ss; Oil croton ʒj. M. S. Use externally.

For night sweats, sage tea or aromatic sulphuric acid will usually pro effective. Arsenic arrests chills, rigors or "creeps," and checks emaciation by improving the assimilative process. Veratrum exerts a happy influene on the hurried circulation and respiration, and nux improves the appetite and digestion. Peppermint lozenges are efficient in allaying cough. If chills persist, nibbling fresh horseradish root by day, or a piece of gum camphor held between the molar teeth on going to bed, will probably arrest the chill.

After the above course of treatment has been pursued for several months, a change may be made to elixir of pepsin, bismuth and strychnine (Wyeth). After giving this for a time, return to the former treatment.

When there is suppression of the menses, veratrum and arsenic have a favorable influence, and no special emmenagogues are needed.

Patients with syphilis or narrow chests labor under diminished chances of recovery.

Hemoptysis can generally be controlled by the free use of veratrum viride. I have tried other agents, but found none equal to veratrum.

The diet should be the articles of food that the patient has found by experience to be most easily digested.

CORRESPONDENCE.

F. H. Robinson, M.D., New Bedford, Mass., writes: "I would like to ask a question regarding apocynum. An elderly physician first called my attention to the drug, and stated that he employed it in a decoction. I note that Lloyd's tincture is made with strong alcohol, so have had the tincture I use made with the regular U.S.P. spirits-95 per cent. Upon the addition of water a precipitate is formed which is a gum or resin. Of what value, if any, is this substance? I wonder if it is this which sometimes causes nausea from its use.

EUPHORBIA HYPERICIFOLIA -By H. L. True, M.D., McConnellsville, O. (ECLECTIC MEDICAL JOURNAL, 1874, p. 454). Abstracted.

This remedy has received but little attention, but has long been popularly known as a remedy for obstinate cases of summer complaint. The following cases will serve to illustrate its action:

CASE I.-A child had summer complaint, but was without other than simple home treatment. I directed euphorbia boiled in milk to be given to the child, and this cured.

CASE II.-Child, aged eight months, sick with cholera infantum of a chronic character. It had aconite, ipecac, neutralizing cordial and other remedies, without avail. Another doctor had treated it for a week, but it did not improve. The child was reduced to a skeleton, and could not live long without relief. I recommended euphorbia boiled in sweet milk to be employed and it recovered rapidly. In this case the prominent symptoms were vomiting and diarrhea, associated with fever of a remittent character, and great prostration.

CASE III-Child, aged one year, with symptoms like the above case. I treated it for two weeks with but little improvement. The most prominent symptom was extreme looseness of the bowels. I gave a strong infusion of euphorbia in teaspoonful doses, and the vomiting and diarrhea improved rapidly, the child recovering in a short time.

CASE IV.-Child, aged two years, sick two months. Skin very yellow, much emaciated, with vomiting and diarrhea. Prescribed infusion euphorbia, two teaspoonfuls every hour. Diarrhea stopped in a few hours when the remedy was discontinued. Next day the child appeared to be dying; sleeping with the eyes half open; pupils not dilated; pulse full, not accelerated; would rouse up when spoken to. Had a similar spell a week previous. Gave leptandrin, triturated with sugar and mixed with water. Child made a rapid recovery.

CASE V.-Child, aged two years, diarrhea. Prescribed neutralized cordial, but without relief; bowels moved twenty times a day, and she very sick, with vomiting, high fever, and passages like the washings of meat. Prescribed aconite gtt. xv, water ℥iv, a teaspoonful every hour alternated with ipecac 3ss, water ℥iv, a teaspoonful every hour, with sinapism to epigastrium. Next day, child much prostrated; fever somewhat abated, but bowels no better. Continued treatment. Next day, bowels no better. Continued aconite for the fever and gave strong infusion of euphorbia, two teaspoonfuls every hour. This treatment controlled the bowel movements a recovery was rapid.

I believe euphorbia hypericifolia will be found to be a cases where there are exhausting discharges arising from nervous system.

VERATRUM VIRIDE.-By the Editor.

Phthisis.-Male, aged twenty-two, advanced phthisis, with frequent hemoptysis, pulse 120. Gave tincture of veratrum, gtt. v, three times a day. This reduced the pulse and kept it there, day by day, with improv ment.-RUPPNER.

It is not claimed that more can be done in such cases than to minister t the comfort of the patient.

In the early stage of phthisis veratrum has a curative action. The marked symptoms are a frequent pulse and a high temperature. In proportion as we control these the disease is modified. Veratrum is not a de pressant here. It lessens the frequency of the pulse, and reduces the temperature, improving every function. It may be combined with arsenic which, in small doses, is a stimulant. Veratrum relieves the thoracic pain, cough and fever; and with the pulse normal, the appetite good, there is a gain in health and strength, and the abnormal sound disappears from the lungs.

CASE.-Girl, pulse 120, temperature constantly above 100° F., a persistent cough, thoracic pain, hectic fever, no appetite, very thin in flesh, evidence of tubercular deposit in the apex of the left lung, with small, , whistling sounds extending to the right lung.

After two months treatment the pulse was reduced to 90, temperature normal, cough much better; whistling rales passed away, and she could walk a mile without trouble.-JOHN M. SCUDDER.

Aelite Pericarditis.-Pulse quite irregular and frequent, 96 to 116; respiration 30. Gave gtt. v Thayer's fluid extract veratrum viride every two hours. He became more comfortable. pulse in tHe evening, 96. He had a more quiet night. Veratrum was continued from day to day, and occasionally caused vomiting, when it was relinquished for a time, and again renewed. The patient finally recovered. The veratrum had considerable effect in diminishing the febrile condition, but it did not prevent an intercurrent attack of pleurisy and pulmonary congestion.-MINOT.

Acute Rheumatism.-A young man with a typical attack of acute rheumatism had specific indications for veratrum viride. He was directed to take drop doses of specific veratrum every hour, but by mistake he had larger doses which caused complete relaxation; the pulse was brought down, and he vomited freely, throwing up a large quantity of bile.

The veratrum was stopped and the stomach settled, and he was kept warm in bed. As he recovered from the effects of the veratrum it was found that the fever and all signs of rheumatism had disappeared and did not return.-FEARN.

CASE.-Male, aged fifty, confined to bed with inflammatory rheumatism. He had a compound podophyllin pill to move the bowels, and gtt. iij tincture of veratrum every two hours. After following this direction for a time, he, by mistake, drank the whole of the medicine which had been prepared for the day. He began to vomit in fifteen minutes, which continued, for three quarters of an hour. He vomited even brandy, which was given him as a stimulant. The pulse fell below normal, his face grew pale, but his extremities remained warm. After the effect of the medicine had passed off the coating on the tongue and the joint inflammation had passed away, and next day he was able to go to work.-DANIELSON.

Tonsillitis.-The patient frequently suffered from ulcerative tonsillitis; tonsils much enlarged and inflamed. Gave her gtt. v tincture of veratrum viride every three hours in the evening till three doses were taken, and no more till morning. She had grs. xv Dover's powder at bedtime. There was no more soreness in the morning. pulse being weak she had morphia sulph., gr. one-eighth, every three hours as a stimulant.-W AMBURN.

Dr. Washburn believes that morphia is necessary to support the heart in order that the large dose of veratrum demanded may be tolerated.

Woman, aged thirty-five, obliged to do her own housework, and dreading a long illness, was treated with veratrum and morphia with a view of aborting the attack. She had Norwood's tincture of veratrum, gtt. x, and morphia sulph., gr. two-thirds, on going to bed.

She was well next morning, cured with this one prescription.-HUDSON.

Dr. Hudson reports another case of tonsillitis treated with large doses of veratrum, with morphia added as a stimulant, which recovered overnight. He writes that all his cases yield to this treatment. That when veratrum is given alone it nauseates, but when morphia is given with it this is not the case, while a prompt cure is effected, showing special therapeutic euphoria in teaspoonful doses, and the vomiting and diarrhea rapidly, the child recovering in a short time.

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The veratrum was stopped and the stomach settled, and he was kept warm in bed. As he recovered from the effects of the veratrum it was found that the fever and all signs of rheumatism had disappeared and did not return.-FEARN.

Case.-Male, aged fifty, confined to bed with inflammatory rheumatism. He had a compound podophyllin pill to move the bowels, and gtts. iij tincture of veratrum every two hours. After following this direction for a time, he, by mistake, drank the whole of the medicine which had been prepared for the day. He began to vomit in fifteen minutes, which continued, for three quarters of an hour. He vomited even brandy, which was given him as a stimulant. The pulse fell below normal, his face grew pale, but his extremities remained warm. After the effect of the medicine had passed off the coating on the tongue and the joint inflammation had passed away, and next day he was able to go to work-DANIELSON.

Tonsillitis.-The patient frequently suffered from ulcerative tonsillitis; tonsils much enlarged and inflamed. Gave her gtts. v tincture of veratrum viride every three hours in the evening till three doses were taken, and no more till morning. She had grs. xv Dover's powder at bedtime. There was no more soreness in the morning. Pulse being weak she had morphia sulph., gr. one-eighth, every three hours as a stimulant.-WASHBURN.

Dr. Washburn believes that morphia is necessary to support the heart in order that the large dose of veratrum demanded may be tolerated.

Woman, aged thirty-five, obliged to do her own housework, and dreading a long illness, was treated with veratrum and morphia with a view of aborting the attack. She had Korwood's tincture of veratrum, gtts. x, and morphia sulph., gr. two-thirds, on going to bed. She was well next morning, cured with this one prescription.-HUDSON.

Dr. Hudson reports another case of tonsillitis treated with large doses of veratrum, with morphia added as a stimulant, which recovered over night. He writes that all his cases yield to this treatment. That when veratrum is given alone it nauseates, but when morphia is given with it this is not the case, while a prompt cure is effected, showing special therapeutic properties when given together.

In a practice of half a century he had found no drugs which have the power to control inflammation equal to these agents.

After reading Dr. Hudson's article, I tried his prescription on the first case of tonsillitis which came to hand, but the result was not so magical as I had anticipated. I did not understand that to get the adenagic action of the remedy I should have gradually increased the dose so as to cause nausea, if need be, or a marked change in the pulse. While the record goes to show that veratrum has cured tonsillitis, mammitis, orchitis, and other glandular inflammations, showing that it is one of our most active agents in the treatment of these affections, I do not believe it is equal to phytolacca.

Percy found that veratrum increased the solid constituents of the urine, and he believed it had a catalytic action. The claim made by Dr. Hudson and others that by associating veratrum with morphia a sufficient quantity, may be given to subdue inflammatory conditions without causing nausea is worthy of more than passing notice, since it is equivalent to saying that; its adenagic action can thus be secured without danger of causing nausea, vomiting and extreme prostration.

Typhoid Fever.-In incipient typhoid fever, where unmistakable prevalence of the disease existed, veratrum speedily brought down the pulse to 30, and effected a cure in from four to seven days.-RICKARD.

Dr. Laws writes (*California Medical Journal*, Dec., 1899, p. 338) that when practicing in Kentucky, where typhoid fever was prevalent, he gave veratrum substantially as directed by Norwood, except that he gave the medicine every two hours instead of every three hours, with results that astonished everybody. "In a short time the patient's condition was changed. from a burning furnace to a fountain of cool perspiration, and held there until well. In some cases the dose reached fifteen to sixteen drops before nausea was produced."

That typhoid fever can be jugulated with veratrum is claimed by physicians thoroughly qualified to pass judgment in the matter, and denied by those of equally high standing. Those opposed take the ground that in typhoid fever we have the true asthenic pulse, while veratrum is the remedy for sthenic fever with the full, hard pulse; that while veratrum is not positively contraindicated in all cases of typhoid fever and other asthenic conditions, the dose must be small and be given to overcome atony; that specific veratrum in one-fourth drop doses every hour stimulates the nervous action in these cases; that the pulse becomes fuller in volume and more nearly normal in character; that the skin becomes moist, the salivary glands secrete more freely; the urine is more abundant, the expectoration is easier and more free, and the irritation of the intestine is lessened.

APOCYNUI CANNABINUM-By U. S. Wright, M.D., Fayette, Mo. (*Medical Advance*, November, 1889, abstracted.)

Having known for years that in the practice of Eclectic physicians there was a remedy they held in high esteem to expel fluids from serous cavities, I concluded about two years ago to give it a trial, and I must say it has been with me a remedy giving good satisfaction. The remedial agent of which I speak is apocynum cannabinum. The tincture is the article used, and in my experience is the surest remedy I have ever used. I had up to a recent date given it in too small doses, using only five drops at a dose, repeated every four to six hours.

In a case where I was using small doses of apocynum, with infusion of digitalis, and salts and senna, without success, I concluded to try the apocynum in a larger dose. He was in a critical condition; his ideas much confused and not able to recognize me; abdomen and limbs fully distended, extremities cold, breathing much interfered with. It was a gloomy prospect, and if I tapped him he might drop off suddenly and the family think I had hastened his demise. I concluded to try to get him to swallow fifteen drops of apocynum with the tonic-iron, quinine and strychnine-he was taking. With much difficulty and after several trials I got him to swallow about twenty drops of the apocynum. I directed the dose to be repeated every four hours.

The next day, twenty-four hours later, I found him bright in intellect and extremities warm, with the report that he had taken no medicine since my visit, but had discharged, by way of the kidneys, several gallons of water. I repeated the dose and directed fifteen drops of the tonic mixture to be given every eight hours. Patient is now better than he has been for months, with but little dropsical effusion, goes to his meals, eats heartily, and works about the house as he has not done for six months.

I am not prepared to say what other properties apocynum has, but in a work in my library on "Specific Medication," it is recommended for uterine derangements.

VERATRUM IN PNEUMONIA.-By G. R. Martine, M.D., Glenn Falls, N. Y. (*American Medical Association Transactions*, 1889.)

Dr. Martine said that the object in treating pneumonia was to regulate the heart's action by such a drug as veratrum viride so as not to stimulate the heart at a time when the lungs are already too much engorged with blood. He thought stimulating the heart did much harm where there was red hepatization.

Dr. I. E. Atkinson, of Baltimore, thought the veratrum viride treatment had been used long ago without much success. It produced alarming symptoms in small doses. Patients thus ill die more from heart failure than from being drowned in their own blood.

Dr. H. A. Hare said that in the first stage we should give veratrum viride to abort the disease, and in the second stage digitalis. Few cases of death occur from veratrum viride as emesis prevents poisoning.

Dr. Cronyn thought that no two cases should be treated alike.

Dr. Martine claimed that his plan was new in that no writer had told us when to give the drug (sedative), and hold the pulse below 80.

SALIX NIGRA.-By E. M. Hale, M.D. (*N. Y. Medical Times*, 1889, abstracted.)

The officinal tincture is now made from the buds of the black willow. It has been recommended in diseases of the female sexual organs. In some women pain in the ovarian region is a constant attendant upon the menstrual epoch; in some this is due to organic disease, but in a large number it is one of the manifestations of the neurotic temperament. Such cases are met with in all degrees of severity, from a slight amount of discomfort, along with indications of globus hystericus, up to hystero-epilepsy in its most pronounced form.

The most numerous class of cases in which I have exhibited the drug were women of a nervous temperament, in whom the nervous irritability reaches its height at the menstrual period, when along with the general malaise is added a very decided pain in one or other ovary. They also suffer from hemicrania, the pain being situated above the left eyebrow, and resembles the feeling as if a nail were being driven into the skull (clavus). Many of them, too, complain of pain under the left breast, and extending around to the back. On one or two occasions I have noticed patients complaining of the above symptoms, and only in a moderate degree, under favorable conditions, as, for example, long-continued anxiety or alcoholism, go from bad to worse till they became hystero-epileptics.

Along with the ovarian pain one can usually elicit other indications of an irritable nervous system. In these cases I give half a drachm of salix nigra three times a day. A great amount of relief is usually obtained after two or three days' treatment. Not only is the ovarian hyperesthesia relieved, but the nervous palpitation of the heart is abated, and the patient feels in every way stronger.

I have also given the drug in two cases of nocturnal emission with marked benefit. The pollutions ceased entirely while the drug was being taken and for several months thereafter. Virile power was not much, if at all, diminished, but the relief from the ailment gave them great satisfaction.

RHAMNUS CALIFORNICA.-By H. T. Webster, M.D., San Francisco, Cal. (*Transactions Nat. Ec. Med. Association*, 1898, p. 103, abstracted.)

Rhamnus californica is destined to become a remedy of wide and extensive use. This must be the case, for its properties are so valuable that more use will be made of it as time is afforded for the profession to become acquainted with its properties. Our old favorite, macrotys, fails to compare with it, though it fills about the same class of indications. Rhamnus californica cures all forms of rheumatism that are curable, both acute and chronic. It is a cure for cardiac rheumatism unexcelled. It cures amenorrhea, though its use here must be protracted. It controls the pain of dysmenorrhea in many cases, though here the dose must be massive in order to get a prompt effect. The myalgias almost all yield to it. Severe hemicranial pains, due to cold, menstrual depression or general debility are promptly controlled by it when it is properly used. Weather neuroses afford an excellent field for its action.

Its greatest drawback is that it produces too much bowel relaxation in many persons, and must be discontinued or administered in such small doses that its effects are somewhat interfered with. However, in chronic cases, this is not objectionable, for here a small dose suffices.

CORRESPONDENCE.

E. J. Farnum, M.D., Chicago, ILL, writes September 3, 1911: "I think this old article on lobelia by Dr. Hogan sounds mighty good. I am using hypodermic lobelia and will give you the surgical side of it when I have time. I find it of great value in surgical practice. I am using it for the condition commonly known as shock, no matter what the cause, and the results are much better than I have seen from all the other remedies combined."

Dr. G. W. Holmes writes, September 15, 1911: "Your September report has been read with the customary interest. Your summary of conditions for the correct use of lobelia, tallies with my own quite extended use of it. The alarm stage is a most annoying condition, and no amount of assurance on the part of the doctor can keep the family tranquil.

"Of rhus tox. I can say, as of many other things medical, John M. Scudder wrote it in my memory. It is one of the easily applied specifics, and the way it will 'lectioneer for you is cheering. The elongated, narrow, trembling tongue; pain around the left orbital region; frontal headache, or other symptoms of irritation, are easily met with this remedy.

"Dr. Howe was the veratrum advocate at all times. While its value in puerperal convulsions is so generally recognized by all schools, its use in other forms of disease is not so generally recommended. With the indicated bounding pulse, however, in full doses, it does the work up quickly. I came, I saw, I conquered, may be said of its action in a large number of cases where it has been employed.

"The resume of veratrum in the enumerated cases does not present the fact that it has been the winning remedy, associated with lobelia in the treatment of tetanus. These remedies succeeded in a case of tetanus' with me, which had intelligent treatment, including anti-tetanic serum, without success. Veratrum will always be a large branch in the tree of Eclecticism.

"My daughter's baby, aged eleven months, was exposed to rhus tox., and as a result a fine rash appeared all over her body. She was treated with a wash of boric acid and aconite, with echafolta internally.

"Some years ago I had a case of rhus poisoning of a dangerous character. The patient, residing some fifty miles away, had been ill for some days; the entire body was much swollen; he was unconscious and had convulsions; pulse so rapid that it could with difficulty be counted. As he could not swallow and I had 110 rectal syringe with me, hypodermic medication was resorted to. It looked like a fatal case. Believing veratrum to be one of our most efficient antispasmodics, I injected ten drops of the specific medicine hypodermically. The convulsions soon ceased, and the pulse beat was less rapid. When swallowing became possible, other indicated remedies were administered.

He recovered and afterwards avoided field work where he would be exposed to rhus tox., and is now in the employ of the railroad company.

"I am under the impression that veratrum acts best when the pulse is strong, and that Prof. Scudder was right in recommending it in sthenic conditions of disease.

"While I believe that any remedy that slows the pulse adds to its volume, I admit that there are exceptions to most rules and also to this one. Where a remedy slows the pulse it will control most forms of convulsions, but there is a wide field for the exercise of common sense.

"I like the specific idea and in my humble opinion it is the right doctrine to stand by, but there are exceptions to be carefully noted while we maintain the central idea of our school, specific medication."

R. B. Taylor, A.B., M.D., Columbus, O., writes of our July report: "The discussion sometimes gets so far out of my field that I am unable to take part very intelligently. The grindelias have never proved of the slightest value with me in any case. I probably have not selected my cases with sufficient wisdom.

"Echinacea is, in my opinion, a very much overrated remedy. I have never seen the wonderful results from it in typhoid that is claimed, but locally in wounds it acts nicely. For ivy poisoning I employ the straight undiluted tincture applied to the inflamed parts, and effect a cure in a short time. I think of no other remedy in a marked case of ivy poisoning. It is a little expensive but efficient.

"Viburnum is a remedy of infrequent use in my practice, and the remedies I use are so commonplace that I hesitate to write concerning them.

"Occasionally I feel that I have found some wonder-working compound or combination only to see later that the case was one demanding just such remedies, while the next case demands something of its own.

"We are all prone to recite our unusual cases and seeming unusual cures, but I am coming more and more to feel that the man who handles his usual cases well and avoids the serious times which the friends are constantly telling about, is not getting his share.

"It has been said by a medical friend of mine that his competitor could get more advertising out of a funeral of one of his own patients than my friend could out of a case however well managed. So I believe the man who allows his patients to acquire all kinds of complications gets entirely too much credit for remarkable cures."

VERATRUM VIRIDE.-By A. J. Crance, M.D., Pasadena, Cal.

This is an important agent in medical practice and has always held a conspicuous place in my medicine case. I have invariably found it to be one of positiveness in action, always doing good when properly indicated. It is preeminently a drug for sthenic conditions; the more pronounced this picture the more actively it may be pushed to effect; when this has been accomplished it should be discontinued, or the dosage very materially reduced. It is usually called for during the onset or early periods of acute febrile movements, when the circulation is active and the vessels overcharged with blood, as evidenced by the full, bounding pulse, obstructed capillaries and congested facial expression.

Whilst veratrum is classed as a poisonous agent, its toxic features are but rarely manifested, owing to its property of exciting the vomiting centers and otherwise in non-toxic doses opening the avenues of elimination for its removal, therefore is non-cumulative. Medicinally, veratrum viride is primarily a cardio-vascular depressant and sedative, with antispasmodic properties as a secondary result. On the heart, it reduces its pulsations and lowers the tension; on the arterial circuit it causes a relaxation with softening of the pulse. The combined influence serves to lessen the temperature of the body in febrile states.

In exalted action of the circulatory system its power over the momentum of the heart is readily demonstrated by the exhibition of the agent in five to ten drop doses of the specific tincture given hourly or half-hourly for a few repetitions. It is unwise to employ the drug in this manner, except we have a definite object of accomplishment in view, as occurs particularly in convulsive diseases and especially of a puerperal nature. Ordinarily the fraction of a drop to two-drop doses, repeated once hourly or even two hours, will best serve the purposes for which veratrum is usually employed. Thus given, its action over the circulatory apparatus is regular and steady, gradually overcoming the rapidity of the heart's impulse, reducing the tension of the arterial vessels, relieving the engorgement of the capillaries and inducing transpiration from the skin; which in the aggregate brings about a physiological state of nature approximately that of health, or places the systemic forces in a receptive mood for auxiliary treatment.

It is understood when speaking of veratrum in controlling the rapidity of the heart's action that it applies in direct opposition to the use of digitalis for the same purpose. The digitalis heart is rapid and feeble, whilst the veratrum heart is rapid and hard or bounding. The inconsistency of a combination of these remedies, which I have now and then seen, is clear, and the practice is extremely illogical.

The symptomatic condition calling for veratrum is in some respects the same as that for gelsemium, which is frequently indicated in combination, and thus united are workers in harmony owing to a synergistic influence contributed by gelsemium.

In view of the power which veratrum viride has over the heart's momentum, together with its vasodilator property, renders the agent peculiarly important in acute inflammatory attacks, and especially of the pulmonary organs. Not infrequently with a timely and judicious handling of the drug, an otherwise inevitable pneumonia may be aborted. Its kindly office in pulmonary hemorrhage is due to the lessened volume of the blood sent to the parts, as well as the lessened force of transmission and longer intervals. It overcomes internal congestions by virtue of lessened peripheral resistance of the capillaries, and relaxing arterial tension occurring as a sequence of some external influence or an internal toxemia. It is a remedy of value in persistent high blood pressure from renal insufficiency, and otherwise is applicable theoretically in many instances where the nitrates are employed.

RHUS AROMATICA.-By J. T. McClanahan, M.D., Boonville, Mo. (*Nat. Eclectic Med. Ass'n Transactions*, 1881, p. 170). Abstracted.

This remedy has been employed by members of my family for over thirty years in the treatment of diabetes, hematuria, gonorrhoea, leucorrhoea, diarrhoea, and later in uterine hemorrhage, bleeding from the lungs, catarrh and bronchitis with free discharge. It is indicated where there is a free discharge, with sallowness, loss of flesh, flabby abdomen, tongue pale and trembling, pulse feeble, trembling of lower limbs, with general feeling of lassitude and languor.

Catarrh of the Bladder.-Dr. Springstein reports a case with enlarged prostate, excruciating pain during micturition, necessitating use of the catheter, cured with rhus aromatica, a teaspoonful of the fluid extract four times a day.

Diabetes.-I was called to see a lady, in a critical condition; confined to bed; skin sallow; eyes sunken; pulse feeble and quick; temperature, 100.5° F.; loss of flesh; cough; night sweats; appetite variable; thirst all the time; constipated, with general sense of lassitude and languor. Urine contained sugar, specific gravity 1031. At first had frequent calls to urinate, and had to get up at night to void large quantities of urine.

Treatment: Prescribed gtt. x saturated tincture of rhus aromatica every four hours. In a week the discharge of urine was greatly diminished and she was better in every respect, except pain over the region of the kidneys, which was relieved by wearing an irritating plaster. With care as to clothing,

bathing, exercise and diet, as regarded sugar-forming articles of food, she regained reasonable health after four months.

Enuresis.-It is effective where there is muscular atony or irritation of nervous fibers.

John D., aged five, enuresis following scarlet fever; could not control his urine night or day. All treatment had failed. Ordered *rhus aromatica* lx, ten drops three times a day, and to empty the bladder at bedtime and in the night. Latterly only the evening dose was given. Cured in three months.

T., aged fifty-one, male, had constant dribbling of urine for more than a year; system debilitated; appetite and bowels irregular; palpitation; skin sallow; pain in back and loins; pulse soft and feeble; tongue purple. Prescribed \mathcal{R} *Ferri perchlor.*, $\mathfrak{3ij}$; *nuc. vom.*, gtt. xv; *syr.*, $\mathfrak{3ij}$. M. S. A teaspoonful after each meal; and \mathcal{R} *Rhus aromatica*, $\mathfrak{3j}$. S. Take ten drops at 8, 11, 3 and 7 o'clock each day. Improvement rapid and cure after eight weeks.

The success in the treatment of diabetes and enuresis led to the use of *rhus aromatica* in other lesions of the urinary and reproductive organs, especially albuminuria and post-partum hemorrhage.

Summer Diarrhea.-Stools profuse, skin cool and sallow, pulse small and feeble, loss of flesh, abdomen flabby, tongue pale, trembling and moist; trembling of lower limbs, general sense of lassitude and languor. Dose for children, five drops lx as often as necessary.

Diabetes.-John W., aged thirty-seven, compositor; patient of Dr. J. P. King; seen in consultation. He observed that he passed more urine than usual, with general failure of health; food caused discomfort; very thirsty; palpitation; absence of mind; very nervous; sleep disturbed by frequent

calls to pass water; pain across the loins; loss of flesh; gums sore; pain up the spine. He worked all day, and seven days a week, and late at night, in a room lighted with gas, and occupied by thirty other compositors. The urine contained sugar, specific gravity 1040. Prescribed fluid extract of *rhus aromatica*, a teaspoonful three times a day, with instructions to change his mode of living and his diet. There was speedy improvement.

Enuresis.-Dr. Blair, Waterford, Pa., reports a case of this lesion with dribbling of urine in the daytime that resisted all treatment until relieved by *rhus aromatica*.

Many physicians testify to the value of this remedy where there is an excessive discharge from any mucous surface, urethral, vaginal, bronchial, etc.

Purpura Hemorrhagica.-M. P., aged twenty-six, presented a marked case. Temperament sanguine, eruption a bright scarlet color, principally on breast, neck and arms, most marked in the morning, when it appeared on the skin in blotches and streaks as if scratched by the finger nails. Much of it could be removed by rubbing it with a cloth, staining it red. It was treated with iron, ergot, belladonna, etc., with little effect. Prescribed \mathcal{R} *Rhus aromatica*, glycerine, aa $\mathfrak{3ij}$. M. S. A teaspoonful every four hours. Decided improvement after the second day and so on to recovery.

Profuse Sweating.-Mrs. M. was very much emaciated and debilitated from a complication of diseases, and was troubled with profuse sweating. *Rhus aromatica* cured, after sage and aromatic sulphuric acid had failed.

Profuse Menstruation.-Dr. A. F. Pettee reports twenty cases cured; two of the women, who had been married several years without children, becoming pregnant after taking *rhus aromatica*. He also recommends it in diarrhea of typhoid fever and cholera infantum.

RHAMNUS CALIFORNICA. By the Editor.

Dorothy M., aged seven, had a sore throat, which appeared red on examination; following this she complained of soreness in the right foot, which caused her to limp a little; in a day or two the pain was more pronounced, the foot and ankle were found swollen, and she could not bear to have them touched. Temperature, 100° F. Diagnosis, subacute rheumatism. Prescribed \mathcal{R} *Sp. aconite*, gtt. ij; *sp. phytolacca*, 3ss; water, ad $\mathfrak{3iv}$. M. S. A teaspoonful every hour. No effect.

She had cimicifuga, salicylate of soda, and oil of wintergreen occasionally, but without improvement. I now put her on Lloyd's tincture of rhamnus californica, gttss. x, in a capsule, every four hours during the day, with the aconite and phytolacca at night. The first day of this treatment the swelling extended to the knee, and she complained of pain in the left leg. Observing that Prof. Webster advised that enough be given at first to move the bowels, I repeated the dose every two hours the next day, when the bowels moved in the evening. Following this the improvement was remarkable, and in forty-eight hours no trace of the rheumatic swelling remained; only the weakness usual in the course of recovery in such cases.

With the exception of the spirit vapor bath in certain chronic cases, I have not had marked effects from any remedy or mode of treatment in rheumatism. In this case, however, the improvement after she was put on rhamnus californica was so pronounced as to be beyond question. This remedy is indeed a boon to humanity.

THUJA.-By A. J. Howe, M.D. (*Nat. E. M. A. Trans.*, 1881, p. 89).

I have employed a tincture of arbor vitae as an injection of the tunica vaginalis testis for the cure of hydrocele, and the inflammation or irritation the fluid provokes is decidedly curative. No other agent thus employed has been followed by so large a per cent. of cures. The injection is not as painful as iodine, and not more so than ergot. I commend the use of the agent to the surgical profession, and feel confident that we can now look forward with hope of cure when hydrocele is to be treated.

PHYTOLACCA.-By J. M. Scudder, M.D. (*Eclectic Med. Journal*, 1873, p. 149).

Mrs. S. had inflammation of the right mammary gland, and enlargement of the axillary lymphatics terminating in suppuration, with three children, and dreads it very much with the fourth. On the second day symptoms showing themselves, put her upon the use of ℞ Tinct. phytolacca (green root), ʒj; water, ℥iv, a teaspoonful every three hours. The irritation passed away in twelve hours and she had no trouble with breast or gland.

EUPATORIUM.-By W. W. Thom, M.D., Glasgow, 111. (*Eclectic Med. Journal*, 1873, p. 320).

The tincture of eupatorium perfoliatum is a specific for indigestion. I use it in half-drachm doses in water two minutes before meals.

The wild turnip makes the finest poultice I have ever used for all indolent ulcers.

POKYMNIA.-By J. W. Pruitt, M.D., Russellville, Ark. (*Eclectic Med. Journal*, 1873, p. 454).

An ointment made from the green root of bears foot has cured white swelling when all other means have been tried in vain. It should be well rubbed into the parts two or three times a day, covered with flannel and a flat iron, as hot as can be borne, passed over it several times.

Inflamed breasts, lumbago, pain from old fractures may be speedily relieved with this ointment. Its use in enlarged spleen was called to my attention by an old gentleman, who said it was a sure cure for this disease.

The tincture of polymnia has been used with success by the country people in the treatment of rheumatism, taken internally, prepared in whisky the same as poke root.

EUPATORIUM PERFOLIATUM-By Joseph Adolphus, M.D. (*Eclectic Med. Journal*, 1873, p. 451. Abstracted).

The virtues of this plant are not as well known as they should be. It is a prime remedy for gastrointestinal diseases. When the cold infusion is given in small doses, it gives tone to the gastric glands, modifies their secretion by controlling the capillary circulation in and around them.

Eupatorium is indicated in gastro-intestinal diseases attended by excessive action of the gastrointestinal glands, which the following case will illustrate. A medical friend who had been a dyspeptic for many years had become broken down, and unfit for professional labor. His food would become acid very rapidly after being swallowed, intensely so, and accompanying this would be foul eructations of gas, intense nervous suffering, his heart would beat as rapidly as 160 per minute, and a horridly harassing sense of constriction would be felt across the precordia, as of approaching dissolution. This would pass off in an hour or two and be followed by vomiting of an offensive mess-food and mucus in a state of partial decomposition. He was reduced to a skeleton and his nervous system so shattered that he was fast becoming an imbecile.

I put him on a cold infusion of the green leaves of eupatorium perfoliatum, one ounce to a quart of water at eighty degrees, and two ounces of glycerine added. As nourishment he had Graham mush and milk, and a bolus of raw minced meat, the size of a hickory nut in the shuck, twice a day. The curative effect of the medicine, of which he took four ounces every four hours, was marvelous from the very onset, and after six weeks the unfavorable symptoms had disappeared. The difficulty in this case was due to an engorgement of the capillary system that supplied the gastric glands, whose function had thereby become absolutely perverted, and eupatorium removed it. In like manner it is curative of constipation, diarrhea of children, mucous diseases of the alimentary canal. In the mucous diarrhea of children and in the early stages of cholera infantum it is as reliable a remedy as we have. As an external application it is equally valuable, and here, too, it seems to act on the capillary circulation and cutaneous tissues in the same way it does on the mucous ones. A strong, watery infusion of the leaves applied to angry looking sores and inflamed parts affords relief. The green leaves applied to forming boils, swellings and other local painful parts will give rapid relief. It is also valuable in dropsy, scrofula, and disordered states of the liver and other glands, by controlling and modifying the circulation in the stroma of tissues and secreting glands.

A permanent preparation may be made by covering the bruised green leaves, in the proportion of eight ounces to the pint, in one part of glycerine and three parts of soft water; digest for two weeks, strain and press. This may be employed both for internal and external use.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Dr. Fyfe, of Saugatuck, Conn., asks me to correct a misstatement I made in a former report. He treated three cases of diphtheria, not one as stated with hypodermic lobelia. He gave drachm doses without any effect.-ED.

Dr. Crance, in explanation of his article on veratrum viride in this report, writes: "I am not a believer in the exhibition of medicines for this, that and the other disease as expressed by names; therefore cannot give a long list of cures to extol veratrum or any other drug. My belief is to give a reason, to myself especially, for the administration of certain agents along lines of their peculiar influences over morbid processes of nature as demonstrated by symptomatology or condition whereby the basic factors in the production or causation of diseases are met and relieved, compatible with good reasoning and judgment in the selective use of such measures as are best adapted to the conditions at hand."

Dr. F. A. Green, of New York, writes, October 9, 1911:

"Immediately on receipt of your communications I lay business aside and thoroughly peruse the matter before me. It is not only interesting but instructive, and I trust that all of us that are favored with these letters appreciate their worth.

"As to lobelia and veratrum the ground is so well covered by yourself and other writers that there is little chance for me to add anything new, but some time I will add my little mite."

Dr. G. W. Holmes writes:

"When qualitative analysis shows that there is renal insufficiency, I think of what Headland said on the action of remedies; that acetate of potash increases waste through the kidneys more speedily than any other remedy, so my patients get it when the condition demands such treatment. This condition exists so often that possibly more of our obscure insomnias, rheumatism and a lot of nondescript cases could be thus accounted for.

"When the skin is dry we promote normal function by sedatives and diaphoretics; if the condition is septic, we promote elimination and give antiseptics. The free use of water in both cases is essential, but all signs fail in dry weather, and we must use judgment.

"The old idea of equalizing the circulation is not forgotten, and the two-gallon jug, filled with hot water and carefully wrapped, is applied to the feet and legs to keep them warm. I do not feel that I can get along if I do not resort to this treatment. If we could get along without such measures much of the doctor's attention would not be needed. To me it is the opportunity to show solicitude for the patient's welfare in a realm that he knows also and appreciates fully with me. I am quite an old granny.

"My last cases (two) of obstetrics had rather strong membranes; pains wandered irregularly; and as the parts were dilatable, I did as I have been doing in the past, broke the membranes. The lull was followed by regularity, rapid advance, and, with chloroform, quite an easy labor.

"Thought is needed in all lines ; we should be particular to remember the successful thinker and develop on his lines as far as possible."

GELSEMIUM.-By G. W. Holmes. M.D., Sharpes, Fla. (*Materia Medica Reports*, August, 1905).

I am a wretch unhung for neglecting to respond to your praiseworthy efforts to record the observations of our physicians on the action of remedies.

When I said I would write on gelsemium, I began to read what others had written, and found such an amount of thought given to that one plant that it seemed a work of supererogation to write on it, and, if those who have been skeptical as to its remedial excellencies are not now convinced, it seems useless to present further evidence.

In the first case of tetanus I ever saw I was associated with other doctors. We pushed tincture of gelsemium. It was the only remedy that gave any appreciable response in the right direction. Ultimately it failed. Recently I noted a case reported in which it was curative. It was given in very large doses, over a pint being administered before it conquered.

Beginning the practice of medicine before Professor Scudder announced the specific medication idea, it has been somewhat difficult for me to rest satisfied at all times with the use of one or two remedies in a given case. I think that I get more comprehensive results with the double-barreled prescription.

Some years ago I attended a woman in confinement where the patient in three previous labors, and within twenty-four hours after delivery, had been seized with the most intense hemicrania, which the anodynes that seemed called for failed to relieve, and she was left in ill health for many months, unable to care for herself or her infant. Phenacetin had come on the stage as a remedy, and I gave her five grains of it every hour for some time, but without relief. When I returned in twenty-four hours the patient said I was like the other doctors-"no good." I conned the symptoms over: Bright eyes, pink cheeks, and very restless-gelsemium. She also gave a history of dysmenorrhea with those characteristic indications which call for pulsatilla. I left her two drachms of gelsemium and one of pulsatilla, to be taken in divided doses. She reported that before the second dose had been taken the pain had begun to subside, and as it disappeared she continued the treatment to prevent relapses. I was about as much surprised as was Mrs. C.

I think gelsemium is an excellent remedy in all cases where there is an irritable condition of an organ, especially the bladder. In the assemblage of symptoms that specifically call for gelsemium I class the intolerance of light. If the appendages of the eye are normal, I infer that we have a case of irritability of the retina.

Aided by a hot sitz bath, gelsemium is a most efficient remedy in spasm of the prostatic urethra with retention of urine, the catheter being readily passed as the system comes under the influence of the remedy.

In all fevers not of septic origin, gelsemium will prove an effective remedy.

Gelsemium is contraindicated in every case where the extremities are cold.

I think that I do not have to exceed six or eight grains of quinine to get the maximum effect of the remedy in malarial fever when it is associated with gelsemium. This remark applies to all neuralgias, especially of malarial origin, in all parts of the body. Preferably, I give a large dose at bedtime, as I then hear no complaint of double vision from the remedy. Full doses are required to get prompt results. In strangulated hernia I associate it with morphia in full doses hypodermically at the point of constriction. I always direct the patient to discontinue the remedy in case it causes double vision or other physiological effects.

Gelsemium grows abundantly in our hummock lands. The trumpet shaped flowers are very fragrant. I tincture it from the fresh root.

While I think it most essential to employ the recent root of gelsemium in preparing the tincture, I am, on the contrary, firmly impressed that it is unwise to employ the fresh root of podophyllum either in making a tincture or fluid extract as it is too acrid. I always have on hand a tincture of podophyllum made from the dried root, as I do not get from it the scalding sensation which a similar preparation of the fresh root causes in the mouth and throat.

OUR REMEDIES. By Lyman Watkins, M.D., Blanchester, O. (*Chicago Medical Times*, September, 1898, p. 339. Abstracted.)

As many diseases tend naturally to recovery, this fact must be reckoned with in determining the curative value of a drug. Take macrotys. The remedy has been a disappointment to me, so much so that I have not prescribed it in any case during the last two or three years. After more than twenty years' experience I cannot feel justified in endorsing the remedy.

Aconite is another remedy that is below the standard. It is said to be indicated by the small and frequent pulse, yet I have given it day after day in this condition with no more effect than so much water. In children, however, I do believe in the efficacy of aconite, and that it here will do all that Eclectics claim for it. It is a splendid child's remedy. When that is said I can go no farther.

I think also that veratrum has a limited field of action, and have never been able to estimate rhus tox. very highly.

I read that thuja will cure leucorrhoea in young girls, or that Passiflora has cured la grippe, or rhus aromatica, enuresis. If this were true how pleasant the practice of medicine would be.

When a remedy is recommended for a disease I want to know something more than just the name leucorrhoea, la grippe or enuresis. To begin, I must have a reliable preparation of the remedy. I must know the condition of my patient as to temperature, pulse, tongue, skin, bowels, nervous system, age, innate recuperative power, idiosyncrasies, hygienic surroundings, and everything else that might have a bearing upon the case reported.

Having these as a guide, I would like giving the remedy a trial in similar conditions.

CONCERNING THE DOSE OF VERATRUM By the editor.

The dose of veratrum is a matter by no means settled and will bear discussion. That there is obstruction of the circulation which veratrum relieves seems demonstrable by clinical evidence. About a century and a half ago Cullen taught that in the course of a fever there is a spasm of the arterioles which gradually passes off with improvement or recovery. About fifty years after Cullen made this announcement Samuel Thomson claimed that in fever there is obstruction of the circulation which he relieved with relaxing doses of lobelia, thereby curing his patient. In our study of lobelia and veratrum the doctrine that fever is cured by causing relaxation is a favorite one.

Percy's experiments on frogs throw some light on the action of veratrum as a curative agent. Tincture of capsicum being injected into the peritoneal cavity of a frog was followed by a violent inflammation of the peritoneum, a rapid circulation of the blood and contraction of the capillaries in the frog's foot. When veratrum was given the capillaries dilated, the rapid circulation subsided and the inflammation was overcome.

If we make a careful study of the cases embodied in these reports, and the comments of the physicians who reported them, we find that opinions vary as to the therapeutic action of veratrum. It seems, however, that it relieves irritation of nerve centers, and the dose necessary to accomplish this result is anywhere from one-tenth of a drop to a drachm, repeated according to the demands of the case. The size of the dose and the periods of its repetition must be left to the judgment of the physician, and is a matter of clinical experience. When the remedy is doing good the symptoms improve within twenty-four hours. If there has been a full and bounding pulse it becomes slowed, or if wiry it becomes softer, or if weak, stronger; the high temperature is reduced and all the unfavorable symptoms yield.

CONGESTION OF THE KIDNEYS. By Joseph Adolphus, M.D., Atlanta, Ga. (*Chicago Medical Times*, January, 1898, p. 8. Abstracted.)

I was recently called to a case with intense congestion of the kidneys caused by standing in a draft while the body was warm and perspiring. There was heavy pain in the small of the back over the kidneys, skin hot and dry, headache, difficulty of breathing, pleuritic pain, heaviness of mind, pain in the whole muscular system, with very considerable diminution of urine. These symptoms were preceded by a severe chill, with great depression of spirits. After the chill the temperature rose to 103.5°, pulse 127 and wiry. I applied a bag of salt, made broad over the region of the kidneys as hot as could be borne. Internally I ordered him to take four ounces every hour of an infusion of smartweed. This remedy acts favorably in these cases. Next morning the patient was much better, but his urine contained albumin. For this I put him on gelsemium, lobelia and strychnine.

I find that colocynth in combination with lobelia and strychnine acts well in these cases, as there is usually congestion of the liver in renal diseases and these remedies act in unison on both liver and kidneys. Nearly all these cases are forerunners of Bright's disease. In patients past the prime of life these cases are hard to cure, but treated as above all simple cases recover rapidly.

EVENING PRIMROSE. By F. K. Martin, M.D., Wenona, Ill. (*Chicago Medical Times*, 1898, p. 13. Abstracted).

I place *Oenothera biennis* at the head of my list of remedies for diseases of the digestive organs. The indications are a sallow, dirty skin, tissues full and expressionless, tongue the color of the skin and very large, patient gloomy and despondent. In typhoid fever it allays irritation of the intestinal mucous membrane and lessens the chances of serious mischief from the inflammatory action which precedes the ulceration of Peyer's patches, and may prevent ulceration if used in time.

Primrose is indicated when there is functional disorder of the digestive organs, extreme debility, distress after eating, vomiting, restlessness at night with aggravated desire to urinate, watery diarrhea, or bloody or mucous discharges. The dose is generally ten to thirty drops at meal times.

VERATRUM VIRIDE. By E. G. Trowbridge, M.D., Chicago, Ill. (*Materia Medica Reports*, December, 1901).

Since the present discussion of veratrum viride I have been using it more frequently in my practice and at the Bennett clinic, and am surprised at the results of treatment. I have treated five cases of impetigo contagiosa, one a lady from Iowa.

The eruption was like ringworm, and was first treated with a lotion of carbolic acid followed by alcohol, but this treatment made the disease worse. In the meantime another member of the family took the disease; this was a child, then a woman took it, and then another child, and so it extended until there were five cases altogether. I put them on ℞ Specific veratrum, ʒj; specific rumex crispus, ʒij; water ad ℥iv. M. S. A teaspoonful every three hours. Locally, ℞ Tincture of tar, ʒj; alcohol, ad ℥j. M. S. Swab the sores and cover with subnitrate of bismuth. This treatment effected a cure in a short time.

Prof. H. K. Whitford holds that veratrum viride acts powerfully on the glandular system and is indicated in all cases where a poison is to be eliminated.

I have treated several cases of syphilis at the Bennett clinic since the November meeting of the society. As these were out-patients some did not return, but where they did the improvement was striking. In one case where there was unmistakable chancre, improvement was manifest in two days. In these cases the aim is to evacuate the poison of the disease through the glandular system. The prescription was: ℞ Specific veratrum, ʒj ; specific phytolacca, ℥ss; carbonate of iron, ℥ij; water, ad ℥iv. M. S. A teaspoonful every three hours.

CONGESTION OF THE LIVER. By the editor.

M. V., aged forty-six, butcher, stout build, had severe pain in the region of the liver, and the surface was so sensitive that he could not bear any pressure there; retching and vomiting, at first food, afterwards water and a little mucus; no fever; no headache; tongue broad, red and smooth; constipated; pulse not increased; pupils normal. His life had been one of hardship and hard work, drank rather freely of beer and wine but not whisky. He had not eaten anything unusual before he was taken sick. Skin pale and sallow, but not jaundiced; feels chilly. Treatment: ℞ Morphia sulph., gr. 1/4; atropia sulph., gr. 1-150, hypodermically. Bottle filled with hot water to seat of pain, and hot flatirons to the feet and around the body. After a time, as the pain was relieved and he still continued to retch, I gave him gtt. v, Merrell's fluid extract of lobelia seed. After a time the pain being relieved and the retching having ceased, I directed him to take gtt. iij of the lobelia every hour when awake. This was about 8 o'clock p. m. The next morning he was very much better and was soon able to attend to his business.

I do not vouch for the diagnosis, only for the results of treatment.

BERBERIS AQUIFOLIUM. By John Aulde, M.D. (*Medical News*, October 25, 1890, p. 418. Abstracted.)

The accounts of this drug are somewhat highly colored, but we may now accept it as a remedy of value through its influence on the intestinal glands, which is shown by the increased activity of digestion when it is taken just before meals, acting not only as a stimulant to the intestinal tract, but also affecting a more rapid elimination of waste products.

The beneficial effect of berberis on the digestive system, the blood and the secretions is quite perceptible. Constipation is relieved and the bowel movements become regular and natural, which influence the blood quickly feels; the complexion clears, the muscular strength increases, and the skin and urinary organs are more active. It is laxative, diuretic and alterative.

Berberis acts well in syphilis and especially in scrofula and cases tending to scrofula.

The general indications for berberis are those peculiar to indigestion, as a coated tongue, fetid breath. and a general feeling of malaise, with little or no appetite. The special indications are long-continued gastric and intestinal indigestion, not very severe, but occasionally lighted up by some indiscretion in diet or exposure to inclement weather or over-exertion. The condition is more pronounced in women, and especially at the climacteric.

Mrs. S., aged forty-two, married, eldest child thirteen, an invalid, being under treatment two years and confined to bed four months.

There is decided derangement of all functions of digestion and assimilation, with great physical depression. She broods much over her misfortunes and seeks relief from chloral and bromides. She has stomatitis, dyspepsia, fermentation of food in the intestines, obstinate constipation, hemorrhoids, ovarian pain and tenderness, constant headache and irritable heart.

Treatment consisted in regulating the diet and giving remedies to remove the most conspicuous symptoms for a few weeks, when she was put on a tonic treatment, the chief remedy being fluid extract of berberis aquifolium, twenty drops, three times daily. She was cured in two months.

Another patient, a woman of sixty years, long residing in a malarial section of the South, was placed on berberis after an anti-malarial treatment as follows: ℞ Fluid extract berberis, glycerine, aa ℥ss; prickly ash ℥ij; Jamaica rum, ℥iv. M. S. A tablespoonful in water after meals with like favorable results.

Both xanthoxylum and berberis are anti-malarial. I associate berberis with other remedies according to special indications. When the liver is torpid I add podophyllum or euonymus; if there is constipation, aloes or cascara; if a diuretic is called for, small doses of hyoscyamus; if marked debility, nux vomica. Sometimes strophanthus is called for as a special heart tonic.

Drayman, aged sixty-one. suffered a long time from general weakness and loss of appetite. He was treated for nervous prostration, senile heart and fatty degeneration of the heart, but without improvement. On examination I decided he had tobacco heart and gastro-intestinal catarrh. Prescribed five drops tincture strophanthus and twenty drops fluid extract berberis in syrup of rhubarb after meals three times daily. In a week improvement was marked and he was cured without changing the treatment.

In association with remedies as above berberis is valuable in the treatment of chronic rheumatism, glandular enlargements, chronic hepatitis, scaly skin diseases and phthisis in the early stage. In combination with prickly ash, berberis tends to overcome congestion of the pelvic viscera, keeping the bowels in a healthy condition, hence is valuable in diseases incident to women.

VERATRUM IN PHTHISIS. By E. J. Farnum, M.D., Chicago. Ill. (*Materia Medica Reports*, October, 1901).

After many trials to reduce the rapid pulse in this disease with veratrum the remedy has failed to do any permanent good, which may, however, be said of all remedies in this disease. We are not called, it may be, to these cases soon enough.

VERATRUM VIRIDE. By Herschel N. Vaite, M.D., Johnson, Vt. (*Materia Medica Reports*, December, 1901).

I have used veratrum viride in a variety of diseases during the past twenty years. I have found it to be an effective remedy in acute bronchitis, pneumonia, typhoid fever, cerebro-spinal meningitis, combined with gelsemium, and in other diseases and complications. I have used it in rheumatism in combination with colchicum with favorable results.

In some forms of heart disease veratrum has succeeded where digitalis has failed, as in the following case:

In the year 1888, I was practicing in New York. In May of that year I was called to visit a patient living at Stowe, Vt., who was in the care of two regulars. The patient was a man of robust constitution, by occupation a farmer, aged eighty-four. He was suffering from disease of the heart, which was diagnosed as hypertrophy with dilatation, following an attack of rheumatism. The physicians in charge of the case had used, and were using, digitalis for the heart lesion, but the patient was growing weaker, and had been given up to die. I immediately changed the treatment, substituting veratrum for the digitalis. In twelve hours he was much improved, to the surprise of physicians and friends; and in ten days he was able to be up and about town.

I had to use other remedies in this case, but veratrum was the hero and champion.

I have used veratrum in other forms of heart disease in place of digitalis, and have always found it a safe, reliable and valuable remedy.

MEDICAL THEORIES AND VERATRUM. By the Editor.

In compiling the article on veratrum viride I was impressed that several time-honored theories, as well as the use of certain words and phrases are misleading; in fact, that they are an impediment in the way of a true understanding of the action of the drug in disease, and tend to banish it from our materia medica.

Take the doctrine of sustaining the vital force; and in order to make it apply, the theorists claim that when the pulse is full and bounding, the heart is unduly strong, and when we give enough veratrum to reduce the pulse to normal we weaken the heart to a corresponding degree, and depress the vital force. For my part, I do not believe it is true that this treatment reduces the vital force, or is a real depressant of life and should be abandoned.

In the old time when the allopaths employed the antiphlogistic treatment, the Thomsonians abused lobelia, and the Eclectic pioneers made too free use of mandrake cathartics; each of which tended to weaken the patient; this doctrine of sustaining the vital force was a call for a change in treatment not to be ignored. But when veratrum is given judiciously, to secure its adenagic effect, clinical experience demonstrates that the result is favorable.

The experiments of Norwood may seem barbarous in the light of subsequent experience, but there is no record of death from the treatment. We have learned to stop giving the remedy when the curative effect has been secured. I easily trace the doctrine of sustaining the vital force to Cullen. He claimed that fever (typhoid, as we now term it) depresses the nervous system, making debility its chief factor, and on this account he fed fevers; as against the starvation (antiphlogistic) treatment then in vogue.

Every theory has to be taken with some allowance, and so this one. In a general way Cullen was right; we must feed the patient sick with typhoid fever, but judiciously; and at times withhold nourishment when abstinence will aid the cure; and so for remedies, we must know when to give them and when to withhold them. To determine the exact indication is in line with specific medication, and is determined, not by a theory, but on clinical evidence.

Another theory, which I believe we have from Hahnemann, that all drugs are poisonous, is also misleading. This distinguished reformer held that the allopaths drugged the sick, causing drug diseases, greatly to their detriment; and, to avoid this, reduced the dose to the thirtieth decimal attenuation. This teaching led Eclectics to adopt the small dose and to claim that the small dose alone is curative. This position of the theorists does not accord with my experience, and hence I do not believe it, and do not accept it. If there is anything demonstrated in medicine it is the adenagic action of veratrum, as taught by Tully, and proved by many observers. That this adenagic action can be secured by ten drops of specific veratrum in three ounces of water, a teaspoonful of the mixture being given every hour, as claimed by the theorists, is, in my opinion, without foundation in fact.

We also use the words "Eclectic" and "specific" in a loose way. As a definition of the former, I prefer that of Stokes, that an Eclectic is one who, has no creed; while I apply the latter to a remedy, given alone, let the indication be what it may, that cures in a reasonable time.

In making up these reports I take the record as I find it, and hew to the line.

VERATRUM VIRIDE IN DIPHTHERIA. By Paul W. Allen, M.D., New York. (*Transactions National Eclectic Medical Association*, 1876, p. 137).

For nearly twenty years, I have principally depended on the tincture of veratrum viride in diphtheria. At first I used it to prevent the development of the diphtheritic membrane. The rationale was:

All false membranes are the products of inflammation; so, cut short the inflammation by veratrum as an arterial sedative, and thus arrest the further development of the membrane. But, after using this agent in many cases with success, I especially noticed that if I left it off as *soon* as I had secured arterial sedation, the disease did not again return. If the disease poison be in the blood why does it not act and re-develop the disease? If all the work of veratrum be arterial sedation, why does not the inflammation return when veratrum is omitted? I could only account for this upon the supposition that veratrum must antidote the blood poison of the disease. In every case of diphtheria since, I have used veratrum, and it has been so entirely successful that I have rarely used any other internal remedy in the disease.

Those physicians who have graduated from the colleges in which I have taught, who have used veratrum in this disease, have come to the same conclusion as to its efficacy.

BERBERIS AQUIFOLIUM. By H. T. Webster, MD., Oakland, CaI. (*Transactions National Eclectic Medical Association*, 1896, p. 65).

Berberis aquifolium is the prince of remedies for syphilis, and it rivals the best specific we possess *for* honors as a remedy for cutaneous diseases, both acute and chronic. It also influences the mucous membranes, and is among the most reliable we have in all chronic catarrhal conditions. No one who becomes thoroughly acquainted with it will ever abandon it permanently for rival claimants, because its virtues are too prominent to be ignored. In addition to what is here set forth its stomachic properties entitle it to high honors as a restorative to the digestive and assimilative powers.

THE ADENAGIC ACTION OF LOBELIA. By the Editor.

Mr. B., aged fifty, called me on account of a severe abdominal pain. He was accustomed to eat *too* much and exercise *too* little, and a bilious attack was not unusual with him. He ordinarily employed an Eclectic physician, who adhered to certain Thomsonian tenets. I might have given him a hypodermic injection of morphia to relieve the pain, and a cathartic of antibilious physic to ward off the nausea and vomiting likely to follow morphia when the tongue is foul; and this with a reasonable certainty of affording relief in a short time, and doing no harm, but he would not hear to it. He looked on morphia and mercury as twin sisters of evil, but he approved of a lobelia emetic. His temperature was above 1000 F., and his tongue heavily coated. I put a teaspoonful of the compound powder of lobelia into half a teacupful of water, and of this gave him a teaspoonful every ten minutes. It was more than an hour before he vomited, and about three hours before vomiting entirely ceased. The result was striking. He was free from pain, his temperature was normal and the heavy coating had disappeared from his tongue.

Tully thus refers to the adenagic powers of lobelia: "But lobelia inflata possesses another power of much more value than its emetic power. It is the exertion of this power when lobelia inflata is used as an emetic that gives it a superiority over all other emetics in common use, for the treatment of certain diseases."-WORTHY'S "Thomsonian Practice," p. 594.

COLLINSONIA CANADENSIS. By Henry Provall, M.D., Mount Morris, N.Y. (*Trans. National Eclectic Med. Association*, 1888, p. 151). Abstract.

R. G. Newton was of the opinion that collinsonia has little or no effect upon mucous surfaces as some writers claim, nor as a diffusible stimulant; that it acts on the pneumogastric plexus, and when there is high arterial excitement and cardiac irritation it relieves promptly. It is a remedy for functional disturbances. In large doses it produces great prostration. Dr. Brown found that after the third dose of twenty drops of Merrell's fluid extract, the nervous system was so prostrated and the hands and feet so cold as to require active stimulation to produce reaction.

J. M. Scudder regarded it as a specific in minister's sore throat and in the early stage of hemorrhoids. *Dose*, one-fourth teaspoonful four times a day.

John V. Shoemaker says: "Acute cystitis can be more quickly relieved by it, combined with aconite and morphia, than by the administration of any other remedial agent.

Spasm of the sphincter ani and vaginismus can be readily and safely relieved by the continued employment of rectal and vaginal suppositories of collinsonia combined with narcotics, selected as the case may demand."

He recommends it in biliary, flatulent and infantile colic; in chorea, and as a local application to contused and incised wounds; and as a rectal injection in ascarides, composed of the fluid extract diluted with four parts of water.

GERANIUM MACULATUM IN CANCER. By J. L. Furber, M.D., Topeka, Kas. (*Trans. National Eclectic Med. Association*, 1893, p.651). Abstract.

A microscope magnifying five hundred diameters will enable us to detect the germs of cancer. The remedy is geranium maculatum. Cancer may appear in any part of the body and may be in several organs at one time. A patient with cancer of the spleen, womb and bladder, was cured with geranium in five months. The cancer germs are protected as by a fortress, being concealed so that caustics, the hot iron or knife, cannot be made to reach them.

That cancer germs can be vaccinated into a well person is beyond doubt. I have not, for this reason, vaccinated any person for twenty-two years. Horses and cattle have every form of cancer and the germs are conveyed to the human subject by vaccination and in the milk. To vaccinate human beings to prevent smallpox and convey cancer is an act fiendishly criminal.

I have used geranium in the treatment of cancer forty years, and by its use I have been able to destroy the germs of this terrible growth.

I have now under treatment a case of cancer of the breast. Mrs. S., aged sixty-six, had a cancer for a year. When the growth was the size of a finger nail she was treated by a cancer doctor who failed to cure her. When seen, the ulcer had destroyed the nipple, and caused an excavation as large as a teacup, from which came a black, fetid discharge that permeated the whole house with an intolerable odor. After seven weeks treatment the odor has disappeared, and the ulcer is less than a third as large as when first seen; the pain has ceased, and the axillary glands are not one-fourth as large as when first seen. A cure is assured in a reasonable time. Geranium annihilates the cancer germs. It will go through a cancer as a ferret goes after a rat in a rat-hole. In some cases I have cured in six weeks, in others it has taken seven months or more, but I have triumphed in the end.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Dr. Waddington writes: "The last paragraph in the November report contains a germ of observable truth. Unusual and seemingly unusual cases are more often than not ordinary cases badly diagnosed and badly treated. The apparently unusual and severely complicated case in its incipiency, is composed of simple elements; a slight cause may, if unchecked, cause in calculable damage, as a lighted match is easily extinguished, yet the later conflagration caused by said unextinguished conflagrator may defy all efforts then put forth until both cause and result are arrested for lack of progressive material.

So precisely with disease, the cause accurately and quickly ascertained and the right remedy administered, the cases that otherwise might become interesting and unusual quickly and unassumingly changes its pathological function into physiological. Too often it is true that 'we have done those things which we ought not to have done, and left undone those things which we ought to have done.

"I cannot say much as regards veratrum, so far as my personal experience goes. I find indications for that drug occur but rarely; however, when we do get 'the full and bounding pulse,' veratrum will do the work. I have found that the tongue with a deep red streak down the centre, sides usually coated slightly, or not so deeply reddened, no matter what the pulse, unless extremely feeble, surely indicates veratrum; the varied pathological symptoms abating much more speedily and satisfactorily when veratrum is then prescribed with the other indicated drugs.

In a recent case of eclampsia puerperal, I was unable to keep up the veratrum, m xv doses of the tincture repeated within four hours causing nausea and vomiting lasting for several hours. I use veratrum so rarely, finding indications for same at such unfrequent intervals of time, that I cannot write much about it."

Dr. Holmes writes: "I needed bracing up on rhus aromatica in bedwetting. Two or three months is a long time for a child to have to take the remedy to cure, but attention to such matters is much needed, and greatly appreciated"

C. J. Hemminger, M.D., Rockwood, Pa., December 26, 1911, writes:

"This morning I attended a primipara, nineteen years old, who had been nine hours in labor; pains were ineffective. Suddenly she went into a violent convulsion. I gave her gtt. x specific veratrum hypodermically. The pulse came down to forty-six, and she retched considerably. As the os was well dilated I applied forceps and delivered her of a living male child. On examination of the urine, drawn by a catheter, I found it contained a large quantity of albumen. I gave her sulphate of magnesia, and directed that she repeat the medicine so as to move the bowels three times daily. Directed diet for five days of fresh milk and buttermilk. Baby and mother doing well. She had the characteristic headache and disturbance of vision.

"Veratrum is the remedy *par excellence* for puerperal convulsions. I have used it in twelve cases with only one death".

Michael Firestein, MD., Passaic, NJ writes:

"I have used lobelia with, excellent success, especially in asthma. It has rarely failed me in these cases. In consumption with hectic fever and dry cough it affords relief. I have had the best results from full doses of the tincture. "

G. W. Holmes, MD" January 1, 1902, writes:

"I am much pleased with your view that, as is quite likely, veratrum relaxes tissues-non-striated-like lobelia, and thus aids nature in curing our patients, I always find that when I have secured sedation, as Scudder put it, remedial agents act upon the various organs of the body much better than they do before the normal pulse is reached. Sedation of the pulse is a pivotal point to be obtained alike in either acute or chronic cases, and precedes the successful administration of other remedies.

"I presume it is an accepted fact that in all fevers of a septic origin, no permanent sedative effect is possible; so of veratrum in tuberculosis; it will fail whether given by Dr. Howe, or anyone else.

"Dr. Watkins is critical in his review of some of our favorite remedies. He may be right. Such careful critics are always needed, But 'It is human to err' and 'Remember Saladin thou are mortal,' are precepts of immense utility in passing judgment.

"I love our calling because I have seen such relief to suffering humanity at the hands of the doctor. With all our worries and failures at times, it is the grandest of professions. If I could 'turn backward time in its flight' I would seek only to make myself a better doctor.

"I am now asking Prof. J. U. Lloyd to name a local plant, called 'fever grass.' It is an active cathartic. I have seen it cure asthma, and break up malarial fever without the aid of any other drug. "In reply to your question as to the use of gelsemium and pulsatilla, in the case reported in my article on gelsemium,

I will say: It was Mrs. C.'s fourth confinement, and she flowed too freely in each after the child was born. She related her three previous experiences with hemicrania following within twenty-four hours after each confinement, its persistence calling for anodynes, and their depressing influence; the weaning of the baby, as there was not milk enough to nourish it; and a sanitarium six to nine months before health would return. She also informed me that she suffered severely from intense lancinating pains at her monthly periods. The latter symptom suggested pulsatilla. "The failure of phenacetin to relieve the pain during the first twenty-four hours; her pink cheeks, notwithstanding the severe loss of blood; with intolerance of light, suggested gelsemium.

I used the remedies together, as I reasoned that the conditions attending the labor had irritated the sensitive ovaries and allied organs, and the headache was a reflex from this.

"Puerperal mania may be caused by irritation of the pelvic organs during labor; all the mental perversion can be traced to this cause, and gelsemium will relieve it. My first case of puerperal mania was cured with gelsemium. It was reflex, as was the hemicrania in Mrs. C.'s case."

Dr. David Williams reported a case of puerperal mania cured by repairing a torn cervix. Percy Lee Templeton, M.D., Montpelier, Vt., January 1, 1912, writes:

"Several articles have appeared in the *Eclectic Review*, written by Stephens, that pleased me. They are old history, but it is well not to forget these facts as recorded. Prof. Lloyd's articles are fine. I miss Dr. Wilder's learning and unusual angle of view. Dr. Munn, of Waterbury, is one I admire much, Our modern new writers, as a whole, do not impress me, and I wonder if the new methods, for which I have no use, are going to succeed the old. It takes a long time to tryout theories, and the new way becomes popular without adequate tests. The antitoxins stagger me, I, who have a horror of vaccination, cannot accept them. What of diphtheria antitoxin? Do you vaccinate for smallpox, and render patients immune from typhoid fever, gonorrhoea, etc., by the new method? To sustain the vital force, equalize the circulation, and eliminate waste, are principles that appeal to me.

"I have just received some hypodermic lobelia; whether it will prove useful, I must find out for myself. I have no faith in it as a cure for diphtheria."

[I do not take the extreme view that Dr. Munn takes, or the late Dr. Wilder took in regard to vaccination, as to its danger. My experience leads me to the opinion that the system in health neutralizes or eliminates every kind of poison, and it is only when the quantity is too large for this that there is danger. Those who oppose vaccination, however, have the best of the argument if it can be proved that the spread of tuberculosis and cancer is due to the practice. I have vaccinated, and do not know that any harm ever came of it; however, I have a typical vaccination scar on my arm, and had varioloid when a boy, some years after being thus protected. I want a stronger proof of its protective power than that, I am in favor of testing every method of treatment unless the proof of danger is positive; as I believe it is in the use of tuberculin in the diagnosis of tuberculosis,-ED.]

Dr. R. B. Taylor writes:

"Referring especially to the article on veratrum, I will say that I have never used it in very large doses, except hypodermically in a case of puerperal eclampsia. In this case I combined it with gelsemium, giving about twenty drops of each. The patient showed some nausea, but no bad effects otherwise, and recovered very nicely from the eclampsia. "My partner relates a case in which he gave increasing doses of veratrum beginning with one drop and increasing one drop each hour until the poisonous effects were apparent. This was a case of pneumonia in a man of rather rugged constitution. The temperature took a decided fall and all the symptoms of pneumonia disappeared in less than twenty-four hours. He also relates a case of a patient who took 3j of Lloyd's veratrum by mistake with very alarming results in a short time, but after being restored was very much better of the trouble for which it was given."

ERRATA.

In tracing the origin of the doctrine of sustaining the vital force I say that Cullen fed fevers, whereas I should have said that Graves, of the Dublin Hospital, fed fevers. Graves was a distinguished reformer and contemporary with Beach. Cullen died in 1790, while Hoffman, whose theories influenced Cullen, died in 1742. Stokes, in his lectures on fever, designates as Eclectics all those physicians who favored sustaining measures in the treatment of essential fevers.-ED.

GELSEMIUM. By Vincent A. Baker, M.D., Adrian, Mich. (*Materia Medica Reports*, November, 1905.)

In the year 1853-4, the year of *my* graduation in medicine, I read in one of the Eclectic medical journals of the day of the wonderful properties of gelsemium, or, as it was then called, gelseminum. It was written by a Southern gentleman, who claimed long acquaintance and experience with it; one of the foremost claims being its curative power in fevers; even typhus and typhoid, claiming that it would check any fever in its incipient stage, or, failing to arrest it, would so modify it that the danger was rendered nil.

I was then practicing in Carthage, N.Y., and in fall and early winter fever was very prevalent there, and a large percentage of cases were fatal. The cause was attributed to the dam spanning Black River there, and causing an overflow of water on some of the low-lying adjacent country; very little account at that day being taken of the quality of the water supply, or other contaminated liquids, as causative; but malaria was first and last regarded as the real cause; greater distinction being made between typhus and typhoid than now. Typhoid being an adjective descriptive of the noun fever, it seems that we still have typhus as well as typhoid fever, yet the former is almost eradicated from present-day medical literature.

But I am writing of gelsemium, not of fever, save as gelsemium is related thereto as a curative agent. Fluid extracts were then in use, but only a few in number, there being no specific medicines, and consequently no specific medicine clubs, but great faith was had in fluid extracts.

In the spring of 1854 I commenced the use of fluid extract of gelsemium, which was then worth from three to four dollars a pound. I observed its effect in headache, in febrile conditions of children; in dysentery, and wrong conditions of parturient women, as I then thought favorably. I had no idea of specificity as taught young doctors to-day; hence, doubtless, was often astray in its use, but prized it, as *my* success was better than the purging and venesection of the day, with Dover's powder as the sheet-anchor for inflammation, pain and fever, as prescribed by old school doctors of that time.

Early in September I had *my* first case of genuine typhus fever, in a young man of twenty-two years; a bad case as I now view distinctions of temperaments favoring mortality in fevers. He had been clerking in a grocery store, and had slept in an upper room in the building with no special regard to ventilation, and as cool nights came on his windows and door had been closed; as he informed me that he feared the night air, ignorant of the bad effects of foul air from badly ventilated apartments. To me it is one of the most astonishing absurdities that the vast majority of mankind know so little of the common hygiene of everyday life; tens of thousands of people yielding life every year in consequence of such ignorance. Are we, as conservators of the public health, at fault?

The treatment I gave this young man, and it applies to a number of cases I had in *my* care later, was a mild emetic, and a cathartic of Beach's antibilious physic. My direct febrifuge was fluid extract of gelsemium, one-half drachm to half a tumbler of water, in teaspoonful doses half-hourly when the fever was on; with all the cold water he desired, which old school medics gave sparingly. When the fever was off I gave the following: \mathcal{R} Carb ammonia, gr. iij; quinine, gr. i; ipecac, powd., gr. i; licorice root, powd., gr. i. M. S. Give a powder once in four hours. He had hallucinations from the first, and by the fifth day was delirious, restless, pulse 120 (no clinical thermometer), bowels obstinately constipated and relieved by enemata.

I gave the gelsemium at this stage of the disease, once in two hours, unless he slept, increasing half hourly when fever was highest. I gave no Dover's powder, but gave a strong decoction of yellow ladies' slipper and hops in tablespoonful doses as an excipient for the powder and gelsemium also. I gave no more emetics, nor any cathartic medicine, except as noted. Of seventeen cases, I lost one. He was a man in middle life, who died from accidental hemorrhage, associated with an axillary abscess, coming on after he was convalescent. Those who employed the older methods of treatment lost heavily.

My main reliance in the treatment of children was gelsemium and fluid ipecac alternated. I early learned that gelsemium was appropriate for children with flushed faces, and nervous conditions of women and children, especially blondes.

I gave fluid ipecac to increase secretion of mucous membranes, and gelsemium for its constitutional effects. I often substituted an infusion of crawley for ipecac, especially where ipecac nauseated too continuously. I regard crawley as a valuable though much neglected remedy.

My experiments with gelsemium in another direction has been most favorable, *i.e.*, in all conditions where dilatation of a duct is desirable, as in the passage of gall-stones through the hepatic duct; or calculi through the ureter, as in renal colic; or hernia associated with pain; and in appendicitis, where, in my experience, it is unrivaled. I give it in such cases in heroic doses, and with uniform success. I desire also to laud it in dysentery. Gelsemium, the specific medicine as we now have it in the green tincture, is a masterly remedy, given in small and oft-repeated doses, the tormina and uneasiness associated in such cases is likely to be modified. I alternate it with fluid ipecac, specific aconite, or veratrum, as indications warrant. In headache with flushed face, small and oft-repeated doses of gelsemium usually succeed well; and, while it is useful in many cases of vertigo, my experience favors belladonna in this most unpleasant disorder. I having derived great benefit from its use, but it must be continued in old cases.

In renal colic I give gelsemium in increasing doses, from five drops every ten or fifteen minutes to one-fourth to one-third teaspoonful, in equal parts.: of water and glycerine, with assurance of relief. I had a case several years. since, a harness-maker by trade, who had repeated attacks, suffering severely. I treated him as just related, advising him to urinate in a clean., vessel and observe if anything of a calculous nature passed. He was well pleased a little time after treatment commenced, to pass a ragged calculous body measuring one-third inch in its greatest diameter. He has not been troubled since. This is one of several cases treated with like results.

LOBELIA INFLATA. By the Editor.

The practice of mixing lobelia with other agents limits our actual knowledge of its therapeutic range, but I do not on this account reject these combinations since they are accepted as standard medicines. Prof. Joseph Adolphus recommended Thomson's third preparation lobelia seed, ℥j; cyripedium, ℥j; No. 6, f. oz. xij-as a powerful nerve and heart stimulant; valuable in colic, collapse, opium poisoning, cholera morbus, violent attacks of uterine colic and ovarian neuralgia. Thomson's formula differs somewhat from the above, but not essentially, and he claims.: to have cured tetanus and hydrophobia with it.

Dr. J. S. Pettybone employs the following combination: ℞ Lobelia fol. ℥ij; cyripedium, ictodes, aa ℥j; menth pip., anise sen., aa oz. j; vin xericum, Oji. M. The drugs being powdered, add the wine; agitate daily: for two weeks and filter. This he recommends as an elegant and agreeable preparation, to be employed in colic, acute inflammatory conditions, colds, coughs, fever, etc. In the first stage of pneumonia it is the remedy *par excellence*. It may be given to children to promote sleep instead of paregoric. Give in four parts of sweetened water. Given in tablespoonful doses to an adult in a gill of hot water every hour until it affects free diaphoresis, and, if necessary, pushed to emesis, it will relieve the congestion in the first stage of pneumonia and cure the disease. If there is a cure, this is the remedy; a hundred times safer than veratrum and a thousand times safer than aconite.

Angina Pectoris.-Lobelia is our best remedy here. It lowers the vascular tension, and lessens the work of the heart by relieving the inhibition. The pulmonary circulation is carried on with greater ease, hence the distress of breathing subsides. Give ten to thirty drops of lobelia at once. It gives relief without causing nausea.-A. W. PORTER.

Dr. A. J. Smith reports the following case of angina pectoris: Expression of great agony; cold, clammy sweat; feeble pulse; intense coldness of the skin. Patient gasping for breath and yet unable to obtain it. Treatment: Gave tincture of lobelia seed, gtt. iij to gtt. v, every five minutes. There is no danger of vomiting. This treatment will save life.

Asthma.-Dr. Cutler's case is as follows: "I had been an asthmatic for ten years, during which time I had tried all known modes of treatment, getting better results from skunk cabbage than anything else. When an attack, the most severe I ever had come on, I took a tablespoonful of tincture of lobelia-the fresh plant, fully saturated-at a time when the difficulty of breathing was extreme. In three or four minutes the breathing was as free as ever it was; there was no nausea. In ten minutes I took another spoonful, which occasioned sickness. In ten minutes more I took a third, which produced moderate vomiting, and a prickling sensation through the whole system, even to the extremities of the fingers and toes. The urinary passages were affected with smarting on passing urine. These symptoms soon subsided and a vigor was restored to the constitution which I had not experienced for years. I had no attacks afterwards, but had on a few occasions some of the symptoms. Before taking the lobelia I scarcely passed a night without more or less of them, and often was unable to lie in bed."

The reader will note here the adenagic action of lobelia, which could not have been secured with the small dose.

In asthma no remedy is equal to lobelia, in doses of one or two grains every fifteen minutes.-I. J. M. Goss.

If attacks are recurrent and persistent, give lobelia in small doses frequently repeated.-A. W. PORTER.

I have relieved paroxysms of asthma with lobelia, but I do not regard it as a certain cure; and other remedies must be associated with it. The adenagic action of the drug must have a profound influence on any abnormal condition of the respiratory nerve centers; which, no doubt, is the chief wrong to be righted in the cure of asthma, but a cure is not easily effected.

Cough.-King's expectorant: Comp. tincture of lobelia, ʒij; syr. simp., ʒij. M. It is an elegant preparation, and is very valuable in bronchial cough, and in the cough following la grippe.-RUSSELL.

In order to understand how to get the best results from lobelia in diseases of the respiratory organs, the following suggestions by Prof. J. M. Scudder are valuable:

"In croup, asthma, bronchitis and whooping cough lobelia in nauseant doses relaxes the respiratory passages, and this gives temporary ease to the breathing. Continuing the nauseant influence there is increased secretion from the respiratory mucous membrane, and it is thinner and less tenacious than the secretion is during the inflammatory process; the engorgement of the vessels is somewhat relieved by this secretion and the mucus is removed with greater ease. In administering lobelia for this purpose the dose should be repeated so frequently as to keep up a continued action; for if given at long intervals the alternation of relaxation and determination of blood will prove injurious, and to obtain this action it should never be given to produce speedy emesis, indeed emesis is not desirable in any case, unless to remove accumulations of mucus already secreted." The cough we expect to cure with lobelia is catarrhal. My own experience is, that these cases are very liable to relapses from changes in the weather, and exposures in one way or another, so that what we gain to-day is lost tomorrow. While we give lobelia to restore the mucous membrane to a normal condition, we must at the same time give due attention to the skin protect it by woolen clothing, which is of first importance; and stimulate it by baths, friction and emollient applications

Croup.-*The acetous emetic tincture is the best remedy for croup I ever employed.*- WHITE.

One part of sanguinaria and two parts of lobelia, ten to thirty drops every hour, is valuable in croup, and no physician who has ever used it will do without it.-GASS.

In dry, spasmodic, persistent cough from hyperesthesia of the pneumogastric nerve, minute doses of lobelia, at short intervals, afford relief. DAVIS.

I have found that the oil of lobelia triturated with sugar, so as to allow one-fourth drop to be given at a dose, is a convenient form of administering lobelia to young children with croupy symptoms at night, saving much anxiety on the part of the mothers. A powder on the tongue, as the case may require, has seemed to answer every purpose.

I do not see the advantage or necessity of combining lobelia with sanguinaria in mucous or spasmodic croup. Sanguinaria is an approved remedy for membranous croup or diphtheria, and should be added when the formation of a false membrane is threatened, or where lobelia fails to relieve.

Convulsions.-A boy while playing ball fell in a fit. I saw the patient about an hour after the attack. I gave him bromide of potash, gelsemium and nux vomica, which helped him for a time. In two weeks he had a similar attack while at school. He was taken home unconscious, and I gave him a lobelia emetic. Consciousness returned, and he was relieved of the fit. He was taken from the school, but there has been no return of the fits. -BRANCH.

TREATMENT OF PNEUMONIA. By J. A. Burnett, M.D., Cecil, Ark. *Medical Brief*, 1906, p. 358. Abstracted.

In my opinion, asclepias is the most important remedy in the treatment of pneumonia. It should be given in doses sufficient to arouse the secretions. In most cases it will be best to combine it with lobelia and zingiber, as these agents will assist the diaphoretic and relaxing effect of asclepias.

The dose of lobelia should be small so as not to cause nausea.

If there is nervousness and restlessness add scutellaria. When the liver is torpid drastic cathartics should not be given, but instead I have found nothing equal to chionanthus. It will clean a coated tongue slowly, but surely, without any bad effect from its use.

If the bowels are constipated use an enema of infusion of boneset. A great variety of remedies have been used to relieve the cough, but we must be sure to give nothing that will injure the patient. Mustard, one part to seven of wheat flour, moistened with dilute vinegar, may be applied to the chest over the seat of pain. It will not blister. A mixture of turpentine and lard is good as an external application. When the heart is weak give cactus. *Amphiachyris dracunculoides* and *corallorhiza* are two important drugs in the treatment of pneumonia. They are not very well known to many physicians, but that does not lessen their value.

OLD SORE LEGS. By S. J. Smith, M.D. (*American Medical Journal*, 1904, p. 175. Abstracted.)

An old lady had an ulcer on her leg for years. One day when the leg looked unusually inflamed, probably from my heroic treatment, it occurred to me to give her *veratrum viride* in her medicine. Soon the fever sore was a fever sore no longer, only a simple ulcer; no blister appeared when the ulcer was nearly healed and my good old lady's leg was cured.

Since that time, seven years ago, I have healed in this way every fever sore, varicose ulcer, etc., that came under my observation. All ulcers under that treatment, with appropriate topical applications, will heal at the rate of one-eighth inch per week. An ulcer, for example, one inch in diameter, heals in eight weeks. I have verified this in over a hundred successive cases, but without *veratrum viride* you can employ what topical treatment you please and you cannot heal these ulcers with any degree of certainty.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Ralph B. Taylor, A.B., M.D., Columbus, O., writes January 5, 1912:

Lobelia has had a pretty good inning, and we are all convinced of its value in properly selected cases, but we cannot afford to attribute miracles to it in all cases. I still rely upon anti-diphtheritic antitoxin. I recently diagnosed a case on Thursday A.M. I gave 3,000 units concentrated antitoxin. On Friday almost no membrane apparent. Saturday the throat was perfectly clear. The child experienced no bad results in any way.

Had another case of diphtheritic croup which had been treated with liberal doses of lobelia hypodermically by another Eclectic physician. The case was suffocating when I was called. I intubated and advised 4,000 units of concentrated antitoxin, which was given at once.

This was in the evening, and the following morning the child was better, and in three days I removed the tube, and recovery followed without sequelae of any nature. The only case I have ever lost of diphtheria died of post-diphtheritic paralysis one month after subsidence of throat symptoms. In this case antitoxin was used very late, owing to my stupidity, and, at the time, disrespect for the remedy. I always feel safe when I can apply the remedy early.

F. A. Greene, M.D. New York, writes January 8, 1912:

I return your report, which I have read with a great deal of interest, and in the main believe that most of the articles are correct. I have associated with me an old school physician, who uses veratrum and has for many years, and swears by its effectiveness, and who, I believe, has never had a mishap, although administered in the olden days even in drachm doses, and I am of the opinion that when necessary, large doses can be administered with safety, and after the stage of complete prostration rapid recovery can be looked for, although, personally, I am opposed to exceedingly large doses.

J. E. G. Waddington, A.M., MD., Detroit, Mich., writes 1912:

I have nothing new to add upon the remedies mentioned in the January report. While administering our drugs to the full extent of their therapeutic worth, we should not forget as adjuvants, absolutely essential in many cases to a perfect result, our non-medicinal measures—hydropathy in fevers and congestive stages of disease, the vibrator in chronic nerve and muscular wrongs, the violet ray, especially useful in neuralgia and muscular lesions, as dysmenorrhea and amenorrhea, but should not be used where menstruation is in excess. I have treated several cases of mucous colitis lately with the violet ray lamp, giving an exposure of fifteen minutes every other day or so, at first gradually lengthening the intervals between treatments to one a week. There is immediate relief of pain and apparently a gradual improvement. Time will ultimately tell as to permanency of results.

M. Fierstein, M.D., writes January 14, 1912:

I must congratulate you on your excellent work for our association. I have used gelsemium in irritation of the bladder in women, and in suppression of urine from spasm of the neck of the bladder in men, with excellent results. One case had been under treatment for four weeks without success until relieved by gelsemium. I can recommend the remedy.

GELSEMIUM. By Charles L. Harding, M.D., Bellevue, O. (*Medica Reports*, December, 1905).

I pass to the therapeutic action of the drug which is varied and the effect, very certain, where well indicated; while many times it affords marked relief in diseases where it is not, strictly speaking, very clearly indicated by the usual train of indicating symptoms. As an antipyretic gelsemium has no equal in the slight ailments of childhood in which the temperature goes up very rapidly, accompanied by flushing of the face so characteristic of disease of a febrile character in children. One of these diseases which we are called upon to treat is catarrhal fever. In this disease we will almost always find gelsemium our most valuable agent. While many physicians; prefer to give it in combination with aconite or veratrum, it is very seldom necessary to employ these remedies, the gelsemium fulfilling all the demands of a sedative.

As an antispasmodic in the convulsions of children gelsemium may be given alone or in combination with passiflora, the bromides, valerian, etc., with the most pleasing results. In these conditions the dose must be larger than when employed as a simple sedative, but will vary with the age of the, child and the effects produced. After the required relaxation has taken place, the dose should be lessened.

In fevers of an intermittent or remittent type, where the patient has an idiosyncrasy that forbids quinine, gelsemium often performs the work of an antiperiodic as well, and sometimes even better than quinine. In neuralgia of the fifth nerve especially, and in all forms of neuralgia to a greater or less extent, gelsemium is a very effective remedy.

In ovarian neuralgia there is no better remedy than a good-sized dose of gelsemium, while the smaller dose relieves dysmenorrhoea. In irritation of the bladder or any part of the urinary tract gelsemium will afford relief.

In cerebro-spinal meningitis gelsemium is often the best remedy, being well indicated in the majority of cases.

In mania, delirium tremens, hysteria, and in many forms of insomnia, gelsemium will find a place in our treatment, and if specifically indicated will not disappoint us. If the heart is weak, gelsemium is contraindicated. In these cases it should not be given in large doses at all, but when the face is flushed, the eyes bright, pupils contracted, head hot, with restlessness and indisposition to sleep, it is safe and reliable. When the urine is passed in small quantity and with difficulty, and a sense of irritation in the urinary tract, it will be found one of our most certain and satisfactory medicines.

GELSEMIUM AND MORPHIA. By G. W. Holmes, M.D., Sharpes, Fla. (*Materia Medica Reports*, December, 1905).

In regard to the use of gelsemium and morphia in combination, as recommended by Dr. Farnum, I have had some experience. I use the combination when I want the effect of both. A case of incarcerated hernia will serve as an illustration. Previous to my arrival the most persistent efforts had been made to reduce it by taxis, with the only effect that the entire region became very painful to pressure. I put three-eighths grain of morphia sulph. into the tissues at the constricting point in association with twenty-five drops of gelsemium. This soon permitted taxis with comfort to the patient and general relaxation of the muscular system. As I failed to reduce it, as it was in the left inguinal canal, I gave a large enema of hot water, to which I added three drachms of lobelia, applied hot towels to the pelvic region, and drew the body up on an inverted rocking chair with a small pillow under the head. I invaginated the scrotum on my finger and passed it into the inguinal canal until, in conjunction with the fingers of my other hand, I could draw the intestine a little farther into the canal. The reduction of the calibre of the intestine permitted it to slip back into the abdominal cavity; and the patient said, "Thank God."

It would be preposterous to say that gelsemium did all that is related above; I think it and the morphia helped the patient to endure the subsequent manipulations. The inversion of the body, and the weight of the intestines drawing on the restricted section had much to do with the solution of the problem.

LOBELIA INFLATA. By the Editor.

Lobelia is a favorite cough medicine. In dry, spasmodic, persistent cough, from hyperemia of the pneumogastric; in cough with fullness of the chest; in cough associated with congestion of the pulmonary circulation, lobelia in small doses is indicated: ℞ Sp. lobelia, gtt. v; water, ℥iv. M. S.

A teaspoonful every hour.

In giving any medicine for cough from threatened inflammation it is observed that the cough abates as we cause a perspiration. The first expression of the inflammatory condition is a chill. The skin is cold and the capillaries are contracted; then there is a reaction; the skin becomes warm, the capillaries dilate, and there is perspiration. It is observed that when the treatment does not produce perspiration it does little or no good. This operation of medicine has been called equalizing the circulation, and of all the remedies for this purpose none has been more highly recommended than lobelia. In giving lobelia for cough we should keep this in mind: The patient should be warmly covered in bed, and the tendency to gentle perspiration promoted; and, if necessary to this end, the dose should be increased.

When the pulmonary circulation is at fault lobelia in small doses, repeated hourly, acts as a stimulant to the flagging nerve force, innervation is brought to a normal condition and health is restored.

When this is the basic lesion, and the disease does not require any adjuvant treatment, the practice is specific medication.

In illustration I quote the following report of cases, published at various times in the ECLECTIC MEDICAL JOURNAL, by Prof. J. M. Scudder:

Case I. S., attacked with prevailing fever, November 10, 1874. Pulse full, 110; basilar pain; pain in right arm; cough, with roughening of respiratory murmur on the right side. Veratrum in small doses did no good. Second day, lung relieved; fever the same; third day, worse; noticed oppression of the pulse and gave quinine; fourth day, still worse; oppressed pulse and precordial oppression. Prescribed tincture of lobelia, gtt. xx; water, ℥iv. A teaspoonful every hour. Fifth day, marked relief; ninth day, convalescent.

Case II. Rheumatic fever. Prescribed five days; no better, growing worse day by day. Sixth day, precordial oppression marked. There was the lobelia pulse from the commencement and life evidently in danger. A single dose of fifteen drops of lobelia, followed by the small dose repeated every hour, and the unpleasant symptoms were speedily removed.

Case III. W., aged two years. Infantile remittent, sick four days. Improved on aconite, relapsed third day. Gave quinine, gr. ij, during remission; worse. Fourth day, noticed oppression of the pulse and evident wrong of the chest. Gave tincture of lobelia seed, gtt. v; water, ℥iv; a teaspoonful every hour. Speedy relief and rapid convalescence.

Case IV. Mr. C. applied to me for treatment for inveterate ague that would not be cured by antiperiodics. It had troubled him now for three years, and his skin was sallow, his liver and spleen enlarged and tender, and altogether he was in a very unpleasant condition. The precordial oppression and pain were marked symptoms, and when examining him he had a very severe attack. At once I gave him gtt. xv tincture of lobelia and there was almost instantaneous relief. It was repeated, ten drops every four hours, with the result of a radical cure, the patient having no chill after the first dose.

Case V. Mrs. S. had suffered for years from uterine disease, which had rung almost all the changes and received almost all kinds of treatment. Now she had a free, semi-purulent discharge from the uterus, which is more than double the usual size, showing the cervix enlarged, a patulous os, and dilated cervical canal. Her general health was very poor, and, overshadowing all, are the frequently recurring paroxysms of precordial oppression and pain, which by some has been called angina pectoris, by others hysteria. I directed tincture of lobelia in gtt. xv doses, whenever distress in the regions of the heart is felt, and regularly in small doses, expecting to give other treatment in a few days. But no other was required as she improved rapidly from the first.

Case VI. Some years since I was treating a case of typhoid fever in which precordial oppression was a marked and unpleasant feature, and none of the ordinary means gave relief. The patient was very certainly going to his long home, and was discouraged. On visiting him one morning, about the tenth day, I happened to think of the action of lobelia in angina and concluded to try it. The result was most gratifying, the remedy relieved not only this, but other unpleasant symptoms.

Case VII. I was called in consultation in a case of pneumonia in which precordial oppression had become extreme and the circulation was very much impaired. Tincture of lobelia gave very prompt relief.

Case VIII. In obstetrical practice we occasionally find a case of this kind, but most frequently it manifests itself in fear of impending danger. Every expression of the patient shows this dread, and the movement of the chest shows impaired respiratory power. The case progresses slowly, and though usually there is no other trouble, yet you have reason to fear any of the parturient accidents. My word for it—five or ten-drop doses of tincture of lobelia seed will give marked relief, expedite labor, and give a better getting up.

With these reports I find comments which are in substance as follows: "All the so-called special sedatives are stimulants in medicinal doses. They lessen the frequency of the heart's action by giving it increased power through better innervation, and by removing obstacles to the free circulation of the blood. The same influence rectifies the innervation of the heart and puts the blood-vessels in better condition for the circulation of the blood.

Given precordial oppression with enfeebled circulation, and lobelia is the remedy. It occurs in various forms in disease, is always unpleasant, and in some cases death may result from cardiac syncope. It is the remedy for angina pectoris and neuralgia of the heart. Given asthma, with precordial oppression and full oppressive pulse, or feeble empty pulse, and prompt relief comes from lobelia. Given a functional wrong in any part of the body with these symptoms, and we give lobelia.

"In acute fevers and inflammation, and sometimes in chronic, there is a marked sense of oppression in the chest, the respiratory function becomes impaired, with imperfect aeration of the blood and oppressed pulse, which in old and feeble persons may lead to a fatal termination. In this condition lobelia affords relief. Tincture of lobelia seed gtt. x to xx; water, ℥iv; a teaspoonful every hour.

"If the pulse is frequent, it will slow it; if feeble, it will strengthen it; if oppressed, it will give it freedom."

He associates these symptoms together: "A full, oppressed pulse, doughy; fullness of tissues, with loss of normal elasticity and precordial oppression."

Elsewhere, he says: "Lobelia is the stimulant to heart and respiratory apparatus, especially if there is increased secretion. Given a case of pneumonia with an enfeebled heart and we want lobelia. Given a case of oppression of the chest, with difficult breathing, and we want this remedy. Given a case with full, oppressed pulse and full, dusky face, and we find nothing equal to lobelia. The child suffering from asthmatic bronchitis, with difficult breathing, and a rattling of mucus in the air passages so it can be heard while sitting by the patient, will be relieved by small doses of lobelia."

CANCER. By H. T. Webster, M.D., San Francisco, Cal. (*N. E. M. A. Transactions*). Abstracted.

Conium and hydrastis have long been known as remedies for cancer of the breast, but whether tumors removed by them were actual cancer is not clear. That such tumors are often the forerunners of malignant disease is granted; therefore, these remedies become preventions of cancer.

Mrs. F. had suffered for six months from a swelling in her left breast, for which she sought relief. The pain, which was compared to knives being thrust into the part, had become almost unbearable, and the patient was already beginning to assume the worn appearance so characteristic of the cancerous diathesis. The tumor, which had attained considerable size, was hard, heavy, and adherent to the skin, which was dark, mottled, and very much puckered, the nipple also being retracted. A lotion of hydrastis, with the internal use of the same medicine, was ordered. The pain almost immediately ceased, and the tumor so speedily decreased in size that at the end of two months it had altogether disappeared, leaving but the puckered skin, which had otherwise regained the aspect of health.

This is one of the most striking among the cases reported by Drs. Marston and Maclimont treated with hydrastis.

Both hydrastis and conium act on the breast and I prefer a combination of these remedies in the treatment of mammary cancer.

Mrs. G., had a growth in the left breast, which was not painful nor sensitive to touch, nor was there any marked retraction of the nipple to suggest malignant disease, but there was a history of cancer in the family. The growth was near the size of a hen's egg, situated near the nipple, and considerably denser to the touch than the surrounding tissues.

It had been several months in developing and the subject had gradually failed in health until she was weak, nervous, dyspeptic and sallow. She was of a lymphatic temperament, and about forty-five years of age.

I prescribed specific conium, ʒij; specific hydrastis, ʒij; water; alcohol, ʒiij, ought to preserve, q.s. ad ʒviiij. M. S. A teaspoonful four time daily, before meals and at bedtime.

Under this treatment there was gradual improvement and at the end of the fourth month the tumor had disappeared. After a lapse of ten years her health remained good and the tumor had not returned.

Dr. Webster reports three other cases under like treatment, two recent, cured; and one an unmistakable case of scirrhus breast, greatly relieved by the remedies.

He adds: "I believe that in these two remedies we have nearly a specific in new growths of the breast of benign nature, especially if they appear about the menopause. Which one deserves the most credit it is difficult to decide, from my experience, though if I were to decide on a single one of them I certainly should choose conium; however, hydrastis adds considerably to the quality of the prescription in its ability to promote digestion and assimilation and restore the general health. I believe the selective action of conium to be the active element in the removal of the local lesion."

CACTUS GRANDIFLORUS. By John E. Engstad, M.D., Grand Forks, N. D.

I have in mind a case of a young law student who complained of palpitation of the heart while walking or exercising in the gymnasium. His pulse would intermit every third beat while standing. If sitting, the heart would lose every fourth beat. If recumbent in bed he would not be troubled by any sense of suffocation as he was while standing, and the heart would be very regular. I gave him fifteen-drop doses of tincture of cactus grandiflorus three times a day. The functional disturbance was soon relieved. After discontinuing the use of the medicine for some time he suffered a relapse which was again speedily relieved by the use of the cactus. No organic lesion was present.

I recall a case of effusion into the pericardial sac. All known remedies had been tried except cactus. After using it for some time he recovered, as he thought, but overwork caused a relapse. There was enormous dilatation, respiration labored, expression pale and anxious, pulse weak, 32 per minute, but quite regular. I gave cactus for the heart, together with other treatment. Compensation had now taken place, and he expressed himself as feeling as strong as before the organic defect was first noted.

Recently I had a lingering case of typhoid-pneumonia in a lady of thirty-five. Her heart became feeble after the second week. Digitalis and strychnine were tried without any benefit. Cactus stimulated it immediately. She made a good recovery.

In convalescence from typhoid fever it is excellent; in cases where the heart shows symptoms of failing. Some time ago I had a case where the patient was so weak, and his heart so overworked that a feeling of syncope appeared if the head was raised from the pillow. Cactus was given with benefit. Its special field is in functional disorders, as in angina pectoris where it is almost a specific. I have never been disappointed in its results: I may probably in the future meet with cases that will not be amenable to treatment, but thus far angina pectoris has been easy to relieve by the Use of the remedy. Dose, eight to fifteen drops.

TREATMENT OF PNEUMONIA. By S. B. Munn, M.D., Waterbury, Conn. (*Medical Tribune*, January 15, 1891, p. 35.) Abstracted.

Where there is a quick, full, hard pulse and suspended secretion, aconite and veratrum, aa. gtt. x; water, ʒiv. M. S. A teaspoonful every hour is indicated.

If the tongue is coated white add to the sedatives potassium chlorate, ʒjʒss. If you have a heavily coated, dirty tongue, give soda sulphite; where there is bloody sputum the following is effective: ℞ Fl. ext. Iycopus virg., ʒiv; tr. lobelia comp. (King's), ʒiv to vi; tr. chloric ether, dr. ij; syr. tolu, q.s. ad ʒiv. M. S. A teaspoonful every two to four hours as required, To produce sleep and assist in controlling the cough Beach's diaphoretic powder is employed, and if there are sharp, lancinating pains I give bryonia, gtt. xxx, to water, ʒiv. M. S. A teaspoonful every one or two hours. Topical applications: Spread a cloth with lard and cover it with compound powder of lobelia and apply it about the chest, and change it as it becomes dry. This is especially indicated in croupous pneumonia; the mush (flaxseed) is perhaps better where there is a high state of inflammation.

A few years ago I attended a family of four-husband, wife, and two boys-all down with this disease at the same time. The cases were very severe; they spit fresh blood almost at the commencement of the attack. " All recovered. I gave in those cases aconite and veratrum, combined as 'above, a teaspoonful every hour, and a diaphoretic powder every four hours. I also applied the mush jacket-linseed poultice.

RHAMNUS FRANGULA. By J. S. Unzicker, M.D. (*Lancet and Observer*, 1875.)

In the case of hemorrhoids it certainly stands unrivaled and holds the " 'Same rank in chronic piles as potassii tartras does in those of a more acute, or inflammatory form. Both, when given in their place, quickly remove all partial congestion, constipation, and all that disagreeable feeling connected " with this complaint. The frangula ought to be given at bedtime, either as an infusion or decoction, ʒj to ij, to four ounces of water, or from one to two teaspoonfuls of Squibb's fluid extract. Thus given it acts more mildly and with less annoyance to the patient than when given in the morning. If, however, the above dose should produce more than one or two soft pas-' sages, the dose must be reduced and purging avoided, as the latter would only aggravate the trouble and do no good. Many inveterate cases have been cured by the continued and judicious use of frangula for some length of time.

CORRESPONDENCE

G. W. Holmes, M.D., Sharpes, Fla., writes, February 13, 1912:

"The assertion that cancer is communicated by vaccination lacks the essential proof. To convince others we must show it to be true in a number of well-observed cases. I have been up against it as hard as anyone when I say that I vaccinated an apparently well man, who became very ill, blood poisoning being a feature. But why in this case, when the rest of the family passed through the same several steps of vaccination, with the same vaccine, unscathed and at the same time. But he lived a long way from my place, and had but little attention of a medical character, which has been sufficient to explain the result, as the wound may have become infected through his own carelessness.

The same is true of the other charge, that vaccination causes tuberculosis-the lack of satisfactory proof. The white plague is certainly subsiding in this section and we still vaccinate as of yore, as the health boards are active in their efforts to enforce vaccination. Every white man or negro who is sick with smallpox is interrogated: Were you vaccinated previous to this attack of smallpox? The answer has been so far: Not vaccinated. "I am reluctant to force vaccination on anyone, though I regard its value demonstrated to everyone of ordinary intelligence, but having eyes they see not, and ears but hear not, may be applied to the doubters."

GELSEMIUM. By J. P. Harbert, M.D., Bellefontaine, O. (*Materia Medica Reports*, 1906).

I have for several years used gelsemium in acute catarrhal troubles of the nose and ear with very gratifying results. In acute rhinitis there is no remedy with which I am acquainted that will so successfully cut short the attacks and modify the symptoms as gelsemium. Ten drops in $\frac{3}{4}$ water, a teaspoonful every half-hour, is the usual dose. It will break up a cold in the head almost without fail if taken in the first few hours; likewise, it will prevent colds if taken immediately on exposure. There are no unpleasant after effects.

In implication of the frontal sinus in acute or chronic catarrhal troubles, it is especially indicated, and will give relief from the pain and fullness, and tend to establish natural drainage. Given internally in acute otitis, it modifies the pain, equalizes the circulation and tends to prevent serious complications.

In all the troubles mentioned it should be given early. The dose may be larger than that mentioned, but the above will usually be found very potent. I have no experience with any preparation of this drug save the specific medicine gelsemium.

GELSEMIUM. By THE EDITOR.

I was called to treat a case of painful menstruation and decided to try gelsemium. The case was spasmodic with labor-like pains and the passage of clots. She described the pain as unbearable, more so than labor pain. I gave her ten drops of specific gelsemium. After fifteen minutes, as the pain was no better, I gave her ten more drops. This afforded some relief. After fifteen minutes, the pain still continuing, I gave her a third dose of ten drops. After this the pain ceased entirely, and did not return.

GELSEMIUM. By Joseph Adolphus, M.D., Atlanta, Ga. (*American Medical Journal*, 1893, p. 1.) Abstracted.

Gelsemium is a powerful sedative to the motor tract. It allays undue sympathetic excitement. In this way it relieves convulsions from irritation of the mucous membrane of the bowels. It allays irritation of the bladder, and retention of urine in women. It relieves the agonizing pain of uterine colic, and spasmodic stricture of the urethra. Large doses are necessary. In combination with lobelia it arrests puerperal convulsions. In neuralgia of the trifacial nerve it often relieves when other means fail. In painful menstruation, pulse hard, skin dry, headache severe, weight in pelvis and back, if bowels are gently moved, gelsemium cures. It will reduce the hard, full pulse of pneumonia and strengthen the feeble pulse of continued fever. It will force a decided remission in the remittent fever of the south and west, when quinine will break up the fever. Gelsemium with capsicum will arrest menorrhagia, constipation being overcome. In the opening stage of sthenic pneumonia with annoying cough and pleuritic pain, gelsemium, in my experience, offers the safest and surest relief. It is undoubtedly a safe and reliable antipyretic in pneumonia, pleurisy, rheumatism, child bed fever and is curative, not causing depression as do the coal tar antipyretics. It stimulates the vasomotor centers; lowers exalted blood pressure caused by irritation of spinal centers, acting as a sedative. It dilates the splanchnic vascular areas, and opens a vast sluiceway through which congested and engorged areas are relieved. It stimulates the intrinsic ganglia of the heart, and the respiratory and cardiac centers. It dilates the arterioles of the skin. I have cured irritable bladder, cystitis, dysmenorrhea, spinal congestion, after pains, ovarian and intestinal neuralgia-the most violent and rebellious cases-with large doses of gelsemium. It has cured the most inveterate forms of facial neuralgia. It is a puzzling question to decide the dose; often the largest doses are required, even across the line of toxicity. I doubt if it ever caused death. I have seen the most fearful puerperal convulsions cured with gelsemium, given hypodermically in doses of thirty drops repeated at short intervals. Some patients bear large doses, others do not. It is our sheet-anchor in grippe, and controls the severest symptoms. With acetate of ammonium it certainly relieves the restlessness and sleeplessness of typhoid fever.

It may be combined with strophanthus for the weak heart, gtt. one-fourth or one-fifth German tincture, with two or three drops of gelsemium. I have used gelsemium to allay the itching of eczema with decided results. Its action as a soother is improved by combination with passiflora.

ITCHING IN SKIN AFFECTIONS. Bulkley (*Buffalo Med. and Surg. Jour.* 1882), reports the successful use of gelsemium in these cases. He begins with ten drops of the tincture; and, if in half an hour there is no relief, he gives twelve or fifteen drops, and so on until one or two drachms have been reached in two hours.

PHYTOLACCA. By M. M. Hamlin, M.D., St. Louis, Mo. (*National Eclectic M. A. Tr.*, 1904, p. 80.) Abstracted.

I want to commend this grand old remedy. It is one of the best we have. It will be found especially valuable in the treatment of scarlatina. I use it with aconite almost wholly in this disease. I have had a reasonable experience with the disease and the drug, and have not lost a case. I have not had those sequelae of this disease that so often follows, such as abscess of the glands, and deafness. I give it at the beginning of the disease. I give plenty.

I give twenty, thirty or forty drops in a four-ounce mixture, with a child up to six years of age. It will not be necessary to do as my good allopathic friend was doing not long since: Bathe the little fellow in cold water every three hours to keep the temperature down. I was later called to lance an abscess. If you give phytolacca you will not have that to do. I have found it a splendid remedy in sore throat. When you suspect diphtheria, don't forget phytolacca and minute doses of aconite. My great difficulty has been that we get too homeopathic in regard to the dose of a great many of our remedies, and when we think a remedy is indicated we give ten, fifteen or twenty drops in a four-ounce mixture, and the patient does not improve, and we conclude we have made a mistake and look for another remedy instead of increasing the dose.

SYPHILIS. By V. A. Baker, M.D., Adrian, Mich. (*National Eclectic M. A. T.*, 1904, p. 81). Abstracted.

For secondary and tertiary syphilis the compound tincture of lobelia with phytolacca is as near a specific as we have found. In sore throat and conditions of that sort I add aconite and glycerine with a drop of wintergreen, directing the patient to keep a vial in his vest pocket and touch his tongue to it frequently~ I have had a great many cases of sore throat, quinsy, etc., and they have always been broken up or arrested by this treatment. As to the combined lobelia, you can do a world of good with it. Press it until they feel the trembling effect. I have had cases that had been under mercury and iodides for years and have succeeded in curing or modifying them so that they had no further trouble while under my observation.

APOCYNUM CANNABINUM. By William P. Best, M.D., Indianapolis, Ind. (*National Eclectic M. A. Trans.*, 1904, p. 89). Abstracted.

Apocynum is a mild, unirritating, yet positive diuretic, producing a copious excretion of limpid urine, unmarked by any untoward symptoms, unless given in large doses. This hydrogogue action is not alone noticeable from increased renal secretion. In doses of from two to four drops, the discharges from the bowels grow thin, watery and frequent, but the effect is not unpleasant, nor debilitating. Personal experience with apocynum has not caused me to discontinue its administration because of harsh effects. The influence of specific apocynum is doses of from one to five drops every two to four hours first makes itself manifest in the changed character of the pulse, when it is given for edematous conditions due to cardiac debility.

In advanced age, where the whole physical system is weak and relaxed tissues flabby, the entire circulatory apparatus showing the subnormal tonicity, pulse weak, the heart embarrassed by increasing effort to propel the blood through relaxed vessels, beating irregularly and rapidly, but unable to keep up sufficient movement of the blood to cause free excretion and avoid edema of parts far removed from it, we have a clinical picture not uncommon. Such conditions follow attacks of la grippe (the genuine article) in some patients, and, in such cases apocynum alone, or associated with such remedies as conditions specifically demand, will not disappoint you nor your patient, if the case is amenable to treatment.

Results far more than a physician feels justified in promising a patient or his friends have followed the use of apocynum. In two cases where the heart was laboring tumultuously, irregularly, and the radial Pulse almost imperceptible except for a third or fourth bounding pulsation, apocynum in doses of two to four drops restored the circulatory function where all other reported heart remedies had had fair trial and failed. In one of these cases the dropsy began as an edema of the feet and legs, following a neglected case of la grippe. Extending upwards it gradually involved the abdomen and thoracic cavities until the patient could no longer rest in the recumbent posture. He had apocynum alternated with digitalis, the latter having failed alone. The result was a surprise to all. He improved rapidly. He had been sick two years, and, though fifty years old, he has since enjoyed good health.

The other case was a man, seventy-five years old, who for five years had an irritable heart and a cough of many years duration. During convalescence from an attack of pneumonia, marked edema of the feet and legs developed. Digitalis and crataegus relieved the more urgent heart symptoms, but the edema remained until apocynum was added. Now, for three years, he has enjoyed a fair degree of health.

In the case of an old soldier, attacked with acute congestion of the liver, followed by edema of the left foot and leg, with an ill-defined heart affection. Lloyd's distillate of apocynum was given in doses of thirty drops every three or four hours, which relieved all the symptoms.

A case of edema of the leg, following an attack of acute arthritis, was cured with apocynum and an occasional dose of macrotys to relieve pain. The limb was bandaged from the ankle to the hips, and an elastic stocking worn.

Apocynum was advised by the late Dr. W. F. Curryer in meningitis to remove the exudate which is so disastrous in this affection.

In pleuritic effusion, where aspiration seems to be demanded, apocynum will safely and rapidly remove the effusion, while digitalis given for the same purpose while removing the liquid has resulted in fatal heart exhaustion.

DISCUSSION.

DR. SHERMAN: I find it takes two or three days to get much effect in these cases of edema, etc., and two or three weeks to get good results.

DR. KRAUSI: The indiscriminate use of apocynum in heart difficulty does more harm than good. The only condition in which apocynum is the ideal remedy in heart difficulty, and this is usually accompanied by dropsy in some form or other, is where there is pre-existing hypertrophy or dilatation and the compensation is disappearing. In those cases of pleuritic effusion where digitalis is given after over twenty-four hours there is a diminution of the amount of urea and that is what causes death. The urea is diminished from one-sixth to one-fifteenth. The dose of apocynum should not be enough to cause catharsis, as it is then toxic and affords no permanent relief.

DR. BEST: The distilled apocynum which I use, made by Lloyd Bros., according to the direction of Prof Jerome Keys, of Omaha, Neb., is as clear as water and has no acrid taste or cathartic effect.

DR. WINTER: In cerebro-spinal meningitis there is an effusion or dropsical condition which apocynum relieves quickly.

DR. SCHAEFFER:; Apocynum is most effective in old cases of drunkenness. It will settle the stomach and straighten out the delirium quicker than anything I know.

VERBASCUM THAPSUS. By J. F. B. Quinlan, M.D. (*Dublin Jour. Med. Sci.*, 1884). Abstracted.

From time immemorial the Irish peasantry have regarded the mullein plant as an unfailing cure for consumption. It is prepared by taking 100 grammes of the fresh leaves and one litre of fresh cow's milk. This is brought to a boil and allowed to stand ten minutes. The hot fluid is filtered, slightly sweetened and taken warm, the whole quantity, two or three times a day.

The results in 127 cases treated were: (1) Increase of weight in the early and pretubercular stage of pulmonary consumption; (2) relief of cough in the advanced stage; (3) phthisical diarrhea completely obviated; (4) and all symptoms improved except night sweats, where atropine sulphate was effective.

The dried leaves, smoked in a pipe, has a great effect in relieving irritation in the respiratory passages, spasmodic cough and coughs in general.

The following case of early and undoubted pulmonary consumption is reported cured, and is typical of fifty other cases cured:

CASE 1. Helen S., aged twenty, single, governess, suffered eighteen months previous to admission with inflammation of the left lung. Her health fell away, she coughed, became emaciated and catamenia ceased.

On admission detected slight dullness over the right clavicle, and stethoscopic evidence of early consumption. Weighed ninety pounds. Soon after beginning the mullein treatment the catamenia returned, and after six weeks she had increased to 120 pounds with evident recovery.

While the best results are obtained with the green leaves, excellent results may be produced by the dried leaves also. By cultivation under glass the mullein can be had fresh during the winter.

CANCER. By John M. Scudder, M.D. (*Eclectic Medical Journal* 1870, p. 140). Abstracted.

It may be remarked to commence with, that curing cancer in general is a humbug. I do not know that it is exactly an Eclectic humbug, though we have had considerable to do with it. It is well that we understand clearly, that there is a certain stage of cancerous disease, which, when passed, renders the disease incurable. And in the severer forms, as fungus hematoides the disease is not curable at any stage. When the system becomes infected producing degeneration of the blood and tissues, the patient will die sooner or later.

"Chloride of zinc paste" is in common use, made after the formula of, Prof. Newton, by mixing the deliquescent salt with powdered hydrastis. " While this will remove non-malignant superficial growths, cure some obstinate ulcers of the skin, and some mildly malignant, it has little influence upon true cancer. It will hardly be denied that I had opportunity to see it thoroughly tried. Of five cases under treatment in this way by Prof. Newton, when I succeeded to his practice, the treatment extending over from one month to more than a year, not one is living, indeed they all died before the expiration of the third year. Of sixteen cases of true cancer of which I have the full history, and some of which I treated in this way, not one is living.

CORRESPONDENCE.

M. Firestein, Ph.G., M.D., Burlington, Vt., writes, March 19, 1912:

"I was called to a case of angina pectoris on the 9th inst. The patient was a man about forty years old. Four physicians had preceded me. Dyspnea and precordial distress were marked. Thanks to your able *resume* of our Eclectic practice, I gave him at once thirty minims of tincture of lobelia, and directed the dose to be repeated every half hour until relieved.

The next day I found him able to resume his work as teacher in a Hebrew school, and by the third day he had recovered.

"I recall the case of a lady, aged thirty-four, who had suffered from asthma four years. I found her in great distress, and immediately gave her a teaspoonful of tincture of lobelia, and directed it to be repeated every half hour, gradually reducing the dose. In addition I prescribed: \mathcal{R} Ammo. brom., tinct. lobelia, aa 3iij; sp. eth. comp., 5i; syr. acacia, \mathfrak{z} ijss. M. S. A teaspoonful every hour. After ten days she was able to be out of bed and was greatly improved. She continued to take the remedies for four months, when treatment was discontinued. I saw her a year afterwards and she reported that she had remained free from attacks up to that time."

A. J. Crance, M.D., Pasadena, Cal., writes, March 21, 1912:

"I have looked over the March report with interest. Lobelia in Eclectic practice is an old stand-by, and to turn down the remedy along lines of its special uses in certain conditions is to acknowledge defeat; however, personally I do not hold the enthusiasm for it that I had along years of my earlier career in medicine, and if I were to employ it in asthmatic paroxysms exclusively I would feel within myself that full justice to my patients was not given. I have never seen it give the speedy relief attributed to it, as expressed by some physicians, and, on the other hand, have witnessed complete failures in all manner of doses. It is not in a class with morphia hypodermically to give prompt relief in asthmatic paroxysms, and as subsequent treatment, kali iodide, or other iodine carrying compound, will afford all the secretion from the respiratory mucous surfaces that can possibly be induced by the lobelia. In true diphtheria, lobelia and sanguinaria should hold a third rate place. I contend that the attributed cures by these drugs in this disease are very much more often for alleged diphtheria than the true disease as verified by the culture exudate.

We cannot clinically demonstrate diphtheria to a certainty without it, and unless we are positive of our ground a sense of false security and faith in the use of lobelia or sanguinaria will be the cause of losing our patient by death in this disease when the typical case presents itself. I feel that the physician withholding antitoxin in good-sized doses and early in suspicious diphtheria cases is guilty of malpractice. The exudate throat, if not diphtheria, will under general medical treatment recover, the antitoxin being no hindrance to the process of cure. It is wise and safe either way, and we owe it to our patient as a security measure until a culture of the exudate verifies the presence or absence of the Klebs-Loeffler bacilli.

"To depend on cactus in failing heart ensuing in the course of severe pneumonia, is taking long odds on the venture. I never knew of cactus being of any merit as a heart stimulant in the crisis of disease. The fact of the matter is that its action is so feeble at best that the imagination must be lengthened to attribute any effect from it whatever in any dosage. We all know that the ordinary average case of pneumonia under suitable hygienic measures will get well, medicine or no medicine, therefore it is hardly fair of anyone drug to claim curative merits for it on the strength of its having been employed. It is these cases that demonstrate such a wide range of treatments without the positive action of any drug in certain pathological states."

R. B. Taylor, A.B., M.D., Columbus, O., writes, March 22, 1912:

"Dr. Holmes is one of a fast vanishing class of noblemen who are able to prepare their own medicines, and who live in very close touch with nature, both in the plant and animal world. By the way, he is authority on orange grafting and culture. His faith in gelsemium can be no other for one who has used it understandingly. The more I employ it the freer I use it.

"Dr. Watkins' paper is quite characteristic of the doctor. But you would have found him a constant user of the drugs he mentions in his paper had you known him. I have heard him talk along this very line on more than one occasion just to provoke discussion. I do not believe the paper is a fair representation either of the doctor or of Eclectic ideas of remedies.

"Berberis aquifolium is a standby in syphilis with me. I use it in conjunction with classical antisypilitic treatment."

E. Mather, M.D., Detroit, Mich., writes, March 18, 1912:

"Veratrum viride is indicated in congestion of the base of the brain, chest, spine and stomach. I have found that the subjects for it are full blooded or plethoric, with pulse full, strong and frequent, with the carotids pulsating forcibly; and in convulsive conditions indicating great vascular excitement; in sthenic fever and inflammation with rapid heart action; also in congestive apoplexy with very hot head, thick speech, slow pulse, blood shot eyes; and in those cases of acute rheumatism with very high fever, hard, rapid pulse, and pain in all the joints and muscles.

"I have also used veratrum viride in malarial fever, inflammation of the liver, inflammation of the bladder, acute gonorrhoea, nephritis, etc.

"I prefer to give it in small doses repeated often."

HYDRASTIS CANADENSIS. By William Phillips, M.D., Jackson, O. (*Materia Medica Reports*, January, 1907).

Much has been written in the years gone by concerning this valuable remedy, yet I doubt if its therapeutic value in many diseases has been called to notice.

There is no drug in the materia medica that holds a higher position in the estimation of the profession of all schools of medicine than the preparations of hydrastis.

I use two preparations of the drug for everyday use. The sulphate of hydrastin made by the W. S. Merrell Chemical Co., and the alcoholic tincture or specific medicine. The first I prepare by adding one part of the drug to nine parts of sugar of milk, and triturate thoroughly. The dose is one to three grains.

A fine tincture can be made as follows: Take of prime green roots, gathered in the fall, eight ounces; grind to a coarse powder, then put it into a percolator and cover it with the following: Alcohol, 98 per cent., ℥viiij; glycerin, ℥iv; water, ℥iv. Let it stand ten days, draw off and set aside; place the residue in a press and add the fluid to the first obtained, which should measure one pint. Filter, and you will have a tincture of a rich golden color. This will mix with water, making a nice clear solution. Dose, one to five drops. In many cases five to ten drops to four ounces of water acts well in diseases of children.

Hydrastis has such an extensive field of usefulness that there are few of the many diseased conditions in which it may not be admissible. Generally speaking, hydrastis is indicated in chronic conditions; in corpulent patients with feeble capillary circulation; skin cool, soft and flabby; tongue pale, broad, full and indented by the teeth. In gastric catarrh with a feeling of weight and fullness, tenderness on pressure, together with eructations after eating; headache, with feeling of goneness in the region of the stomach, the following prescription will cure, with careful regulation of the diet: ℞ Tinct. nux vomica, gtt. x; tinct. hydrastis, ℥ij; water, ℥iv. M. S. A teaspoonful every three hours.

I usually include hydrastis in treating cases of jaundice when due to catarrh of the bile ducts, together with enlargement of the liver. The appetite is poor, the tongue broad, pale, with yellow coating. The prescription for this condition will read as follows: ℞ Tinct. chionanthus, ℥ij; tinct. hydrastis, ℥ij; tinct. podophyllum, ℥j; water, ad ℥iv. M. S. A teaspoonful every three hours.

We have no better remedy in the treatment of Bright's disease. In interstitial nephritis it is a remedy of the utmost importance. If Bright's disease is brought about by defective metabolism, which I am led to believe, then we can readily understand why hydrastis would prove a potent remedy. The dose usually is five drops in half a glass of water every three hours. I use tincture of alstonia constricta with the hydrastis in most cases, one to five 'drops of the former and five drops of the latter, in half a glass of water every three hours.

Ulceration of the stomach is cured by a strict regulation of the diet, according to the needs of the patient, and the following prescription: ℞ Sulphate of hydrastin (first decimal trituration), ℥j; bismuth subnitrate, ℥iij. Mix. Make into twenty powders and give one powder every three hours.

In hemorrhage from the bowels in typhoid fever I depend on the sulphate of hydrastin, one to three grams of the first decimal trituration, every one or two hours, until bleeding stops.

HYDRASTIS. By the Editor.

Hydrastis, so far as my experience extends, is the most certain of the bitter tonics to improve the appetite and digestion. SCUDDER, "Diseases of Children," page 5.

Hydrastis canadensis has long been used in this country as a pure bitter in atonic dyspepsia.

The root of hydrastis contains berberine and hydrastine, both of which are believed to have vasa-constrictor action on relaxed mucous membranes, thus alleviating congestive states.

Prof. Schatz, of Rostock, Germany, was the first to bring hydrastis prominently before the medical public as a uterine tonic. He contrasts it with ergot, which it resembles in its action, but he finds it efficient in cases where ergot is powerless. In menorrhagia from whatever cause; in hemorrhage due to metritis and endometritis, to myoma, to incomplete involution of the puerperal uterus, he has found hydrastis invaluable. Dose, twenty drops during the menstrual period, four times a day, and from one to two weeks before menstruation sets in, especially the congestive form. Prof. Slavansky found that the alkaloids have an ecboic effect on pregnant bitches.

R. W. Wilcox reports fifty cases of uterine hemorrhage treated with hydrastis. In three cases of uterine myomata, in which he gave Hydrastis for metrorrhagia, the flow was speedily checked. Persistent use of hydrastis for months was followed by considerable reduction of the uterine cavity and the volume of the uterus. Wilcox concludes that hydrastis arrests the bleeding from fibro-myomata by the production of anemia of the uterine tissues and refers to the physiological experiments of Mays, which showed "that hydrastis increases blood-pressure while causing vasomotor constriction, cardiac inhibition, and anemia of the alimentary mucous membrane."

Mays also observed contraction even of the body and horns of the uterus.

Fellmar (1885) found that hydrastis caused uterine contraction and anemia of the organ. In seven cases of hemorrhagic endometritis, five being cases of endometritis fungosa, marked benefit was noted under the use of hydrastis. Wilcox remarks that "in endometritis fungosa we have in hydrastis a sovereign remedy, even when curetting has failed to arrest the bleeding." Sixteen cases of subinvolution of the uterus were treated satisfactorily with hydrastis. Five cases of climacteric hemorrhage were also benefited by the same drug, also nine cases of pelvic inflammation, and three of congenital antelexion. Dose, twenty drops fluid extract, three or four times a day. *Medical Record*, June 25, 1887, p. 712.

LOBELIA INFLATA. By the Editor.

Croup.-In mucous croup with tenacious secretion lobelia affords relief. It should be given in sufficiently large doses to relax the larynx and so remove obstruction to the respiration; and should be repeated in small doses every hour to overcome the inflammatory condition, and improve the character of the secretion, making it less tenacious, and overcoming the engorgement of the parts. The dose may be carried to nausea or even emesis with good effect.

Lead Colic.-Inject twenty grains of powdered lobelia seed, in infusion, into the bowel to relieve pain and eliminate poison. HAGGARD.

Infantile Colic.-Lobelia will relieve pain and induce sleep. PORTER.

A tentative dose may be given, but even five drops of the tincture will do no harm. Enough should be given to relax the spasm.

Convulsions.-In obstinate convulsions give lobelia in large doses. In puerperal convulsions lobelia is not resorted to so often as is veratrum viride, but it is said to have cured when other means had failed.

Case reported by Dr. E. M. Hoover.

Mrs. A, aged twenty-one, large and well nourished, the mother of two children. Saw the case in consultation.

The doctor in attendance arrived at 3 o'clock A.M. Found she had given birth to a male child. He removed the afterbirth. She had two hard convulsions before the baby was born, was unconscious when the child was born, and had remained so up to that time-2 o'clock P.M. She had hard convulsions every fifteen minutes for twelve hours. She had not passed urine since the baby was born, and this was drawn off-half a pint of urine. A half-teaspoonful of Merrell's green tincture of gelsemium was injected hypodermically and repeated in half an hour. The convulsions became harder. As a *dernier ressort* a teaspoonful of Lloyd's specific lobelia, in a cup of warm water, was injected per rectum. After this injection she had no more convulsions. It completely relaxed her and she was on the borderland of lobelia poisoning. The effect of the drug on the respiration could be noticed, and "she vomited the worst looking stuff I ever saw." She was ordered enemata of Epsom salt every hour till the bowels moved. The alvine discharges showed an engorged condition of the bowels. Her temperature had been 105°, respiration 38, pulse 145, and death imminent. By 10 o'clock that night her temperature, breathing and pulse were normal, and next morning she became conscious and was as rational-as ever. She made a complete recovery to the astonishment of all.

Dropsy.-I take it for granted that the Thomsonians of a former day, who used lobelia as an emetic and relaxant freely, knew more of its value as a remedy than practitioners of our day who use it but little comparatively speaking. Worthy (1838) writes of lobelia as a restorative tonic: "When a patient has partially recovered from a continued fever, the exhalents are frequently so deranged, so morbidly affected in their functions that watery effusion takes place as a secondary disease. In this condition, and also in a great variety of diseases, the perfectly revolutionary power of lobelia cannot be appreciated by those who are not acquainted with its operation." Dr. Worthy does not say whether we are to get this effect from large and relaxing doses, but we may easily infer this to be the case.

Chronic Ague.-In conversation with Dr. Arnold, an Eclectic physician who practiced at Lockport, N.Y., when the Erie Canal was building, I was informed that he treated a case of inveterate ague successfully with occasional lobelia emetics, after all other means of cure had failed. This treatment was suggested by one of Thomson's agents who was traveling through the country selling "rights."

Erysipelas.-The saturated tincture of lobelia is a positive local remedy in erysipelas. In slight cases, simply bathing the parts once in three or four hours affords relief. In deep phlegmonous inflammation cover the parts with compresses wet with the saturated solution, and change often enough to keep moist. MARSTON.

Fever with Nausea and Vomiting.-In the fall of 1878 fever raged in Eastern Kansas, characterized by persistent nausea and vomiting that nothing would relieve. The Homeopathic law suggested lobelia and I gave it in fractions of a drop, but it did no good; then I gave one dose of ten drops and a swallow of water to cool the burning in the throat. This was kept down and stopped the vomiting and left a sense of ease and comfort, which radiated over the body. My rule was to give the big dose when the retching was violent, and the small dose in the other cases. After the vomiting ceased medicines were given for the fever which could not be retained before.

"Whenever I have been called to a case where there is great nausea, with or without vomiting; deathly sickness of the stomach, with accompanying pallor of the face, with spasmodic pain in the region of the solar plexus, I have not hesitated to give tincture of lobelia seed in doses of ten or fifteen drops.

"Tincture of lobelia seed is especially valuable for its soothing influence in relieving nausea and vomiting, and in allaying the associated distress. Its action is prompt in relieving pain, distress and anguish. The result makes one feel pleased with himself that he has selected a remedy that gives such satisfactory results. I have a special liking for it in some cases, but am not so much in love with it that I use it for everything." WELSCH.

Lobelia not an Irritant.-I have seen lobelia allay irritation of the stomach, liver, bladder, kidneys, uterus; in fact, of the whole viscera, and in twenty years, having used it in every form, I have never seen it produce irritation of any organ. I have injected the powdered seeds per anus every three hours for twenty-four hours in succession and it has produced no irritation of the rectum. SIMS.

Hysteria.-Mrs. E., before she was married, had an occasional attack of hysteria. She would take to her bed and when I would reach her she would be singing, crying or laughing by turns; and one could never tell what she would be doing next moment. She would roll and tumble about the bed, disarranging her bedding and her clothing, draw her knees up to her chin and kick as high as she could. I gave her large doses of lobelia and capsicum, enough to burn her insides out; then she would abuse me, call me "old lobelia," "hot stuff," etc., and become as quiet as a lamb. After she married, when threatened with spasms, I was sent for, and when I would direct lobelia and capsicum she would order her husband to "kick the old lobelia fool out of the yard," and dare me to come into the house. I added large doses of cypripedium to the former dose. She was always relieved by the treatment, and always scolded me afterwards. She disliked the treatment exceedingly, but always sent for me, as she, said that the treatment brought her out of the spells of hysteria quicker than any other. WELSCH.

G. W. Holmes, M.D., Sharpes, Fla., writes, March 12, 1912: "I have just finished your excellent March report on gelsemium, lobelia, asclepias, veratrum and Dr. Taylor's antitoxin. "Dr. V. A. Baker writes nicely. One knows that the old veteran is transforming results in the use of gelsemium into words of equal value.

"Gelsomina is the Spanish name for the home of one of our Chicago neighbors. The Riverside road is fragrant with the aroma of the yellow jasmine flowers. We have wreaths of these flowers, in addition to roses, on our dining-room table. 'Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.'

"The real value to the physician is the varied curative virtues so attractively portrayed in the opening article, and it is all true.

"Many years ago I was called to attend a brother of Dr. I. N. Smith, of Westerville, O., who was suffering from an attack of bilious colic. The agony was unendurable. Uncle Archie Smith, the father, was skillfully *t*, doing all that one could do with the domestic remedies useful in mild cases; finally we employed lobelia by enema. John described results: 'It is scattering it all over my abdomen;' and, in a few minutes, came the assurance: 'I am easier, but I feel sick at my stomach.'

"Pulverized charcoal and unground mustard seed were given in the effort to prevent a subsequent return. As I never was called again, I counted Long John Smith as one of my stayed-cured cases of colic. It is very effective, is lobelia, used by enema, in a wide range of cases.

"Dr. J. M. Scudder did not want to cause emesis as recorded in his article referred to. Possibly he did not wish his patient to get rid of his remedy so quickly. The flank and rear movement obviates this possibility, at least by the upper route.

"There is but one asclepias in common use. I am glad to note that it grows in land that has been cultivated and promises to reproduce itself, and be furnished at moderate prices, unlike the peerless hydrastis.

Veratrum viride in ulcers is a revelation. I have always employed constitutional remedies along with local in these cases.

"Diphtheria we are not meeting, except at rare intervals. I do hope that Dr. Taylor will continue to report all his cases in this line. I am one that needs 'line upon line' in this method of medication. Our old-school friends once were so confident that they were correct in the use of venesection, and over a long term of years, that I am distrustful, and will cross the old bridge until we have example on example."

CIMICIFUGA RACEMOSA. By Sir James Young Simpson (*London Medical Times, Chicago Medical Examiner*, 1861, p. 356).

The actaea, or cimicifuga racemosa, has long been spoken of as a remedy for rheumatism, and particularly in the more acute forms of the disease. In the edition of Gray's Supplement to the Pharmacopeia, published in 1821, you will find the use of it in rheumatism stated. Latterly it has been employed by some American physicians as the most valuable remedy in acute rheumatic fever. My very intelligent friend, Dr. Varis, of Rochelle, New York, told me two years ago, that since employing the tincture of actaea in rheumatic fever-and it is a very common disease in his district-he had seen the disease almost always cut short before the eighth or tenth day; the drug acting apparently as a simple antidote to the rheumatic poison, and curing without diuresis, diaphoresis, or any other discharge. The American physicians give a strong tincture of the root in acute rheumatism in doses of thirty to sixty drops every two, three or four hours. * * *

* I have found it, in my case, repeatedly cure an attack of lumbago with wonderful rapidity.

* * * But our American brethren have used actaea also extensively in chorea and other anomalous forms of nervous disease. However unlike rheumatism chorea may look to the superficial observer, yet the able investigations of Dr. Bigbie and other pathologists have shown, as you are aware, an analogy, if not an identity, between the blood poison which produces rheumatism and that which produces chorea. Dr. Physic and Dr. Jesse Young, about thirty years or more ago, recommended actaea strongly in chorea.

Latterly, Drs. Lindsay, Kirkbride, Otto and others, have published their experience in favor of the same drug in this disease. In a case of anomalous and severe chorea of long standing, which was under my care some months ago, the actaea was given with excellent effect. The patient had been previously treated, both in France and in this country, with zinc, iron, arsenic, and all the usual remedies applied in this malady. But I have made all this long episode regarding the actaea, not so much to speak of its use in the preceding diseases, as of its use in puerperal hypochondriasis and depression. A lady, the mother of several children, was twice the subject of the most painful mental despondency a month or two after delivery. On one of these occasions she was confined in London and had the advice of several eminent physicians; but the disease took a long and tiresome course, and seemed to defy entirely all remedies, and gradually and very slowly terminated. On the last occasion in which the attack occurred, this patient was confined under my care here, and went home to England some weeks subsequently, perfectly well. She returned, however, in about a month, to Edinburgh in the lowest possible state of depression, a perfect picture of mental misery; and unhappiness. I tried many plans to raise her out of this dark and gloomy state. All failed. At last, fancying from some of her symptoms and complaints that there might be a rheumatic element in the affection, I ordered her fifteen drops of the tincture of actaea twice a day. After taking one dose she refused to continue it, as the drug had a taste so similar to laudanum and as all opiates had made her worse. On being assured that there was no opiate in the medicine, she recommenced, without any faith, however, in the results, as she had in great measure lost faith in all remedial means. When I saw her next, some eight or ten days afterwards, she was altered and changed in a marvelous degree, but all for the better. On the third or fourth day, as she informed me, the cloud of misery which had been darkening her existence suddenly began to dissolve and dispel; and in a day or two more she felt perfectly herself again in gait, spirits and energy. But nothing would induce her to give up the actaea for six or eight weeks longer; and the last time she passed through Edinburgh she told me she had prescribed her own remedy to more than one melancholic subject with nearly as great success as she had in using it in her own case.

GELSEMIUM IN EPILEPSY. By Drs. A. W. Wiseman and W. L. Crump (*Journal Mat. Med.*, April, 1881, p. 121).

After recovery of a young woman from cerebro-spinal meningitis she had epileptic fits. Chloral, morphia and bromide of potassium having failed, , we gave her three drops every two hours of fluid extract of gelsemium, and , gradually increased the dose to nine drops.

Amendment in two days and. cure in one week. In a case of hystero-epilepsy and hemianesthesia gelsemium was pushed till fifty drops were given every two hours for days together with the effect of quelling the paroxysms.

GELSEMIUM IN DYSENTERY. By A. E. Colerick, M.D., Pacific Cal. (*California Medical Journal*, 1894, p. 537).

In my treatment of this disease I have found gelsemium to be the specific remedy. I usually begin with the minimum dose of the fluid extract or specific medicine and increase till some physiological effect is produced, then slow up and omit for a time. In a very bad case I gave thirty drops at a dose without bad effects. It, usually takes fourteen days to cure the epidemic form.

GELSEMIUM. By G. W. Holmes, M.D., Sharpes, Fla. (*Materia Medica Reports*, January, 1906).

I always employ gelsemium in rheumatism, especially lumbago; and would feel that I had lost a friend if I could not have it at hand at all times. I do not find the special sedatives of much value in fevers of the continued type, and of septic origin. Gelsemium is of little value here; time and confidence are lost when thus used. In some cases of delirium, with picking at the bed clothes, incident to continued fevers, gelsemium is of good value, and may be combined with *passiflora*.

On page 16 of your June report, reference is made to the utility of gelsemium in certain forms of irritation of the stomach—a peculiar gnawing pain and distress. The president of our local bank, influenced by his friends of the anti-tobacco persuasion, undertook to stop smoking. As a result, a persistent hiccough set in, which continued for three days. I was called to the case. I found some gastritis and fever. I gave gelsemium, assuring the anxious patient that the remedy would soon reduce the temperature, when the hiccough would stop. In four hours this came to pass. There was no return of the hiccough, but the reformer backslid, of course.

THE DOSE OF VERATRUM.

At the April, 1902, meeting the conclusion from the discussion of the dose of veratrum was to the effect that five to twenty drops to four ounces of water, a teaspoonful every hour, is too small, especially the first, to give satisfactory results as a sedative in inflammatory *fever*; that enough must be given to slow the pulse, or cause other physiologic effect, but not cause nausea or vomiting.

The dose of veratrum, as a stimulant, was also indefinite. Shall we give the fraction of a drop, or a drop, or five drops? The matter was referred for further discussion.

I have no doubt had recourse to the forceps, to effect speedy delivery, where relaxing doses of lobelia would have been better treatment. Prof. John M. Scudder taught that lobelia in these cases relaxed in the larger dose, while continued in smaller doses it stimulates uterine contractions.

LOBELIA INFLATA. By the Editor.

Inflammation.—In cases of external, local inflammation, lobelia, in whole or in part, as a poultice, produces the happiest results, and often renders speedy relief from pain and inflammation.—SIMMONS.

Labor.—Tedious labor from rigid as and perineum. Mrs. M., aged thirty-five, in labor thirty-six hours, child dead, parts rigid. Lobelia given to produce relaxation. She was delivered in about an hour. It was thought that she would die, and that her life was saved by lobelia. In these cases when lobelia is given to cause nausea the parts will relax.—BRANCH.

Measles.-I have a son, who, while convalescing from measles when a small boy, relapsed and continued to grow worse till all hopes of his living had vanished. His face livid, and in terrible anguish, he was writhing in the throes of death, as I thought, and as another doctor, who was at the moment present, thought, and as my wife and several neighbors present thought; all standing at the bed waiting when the last moment would come. With resources all exhausted I could endure the suspense no longer, and in despair, with but one thought, to ease the child of his misery as he passed into the beyond, turned to my case, poured a teaspoonful of lobelia, and without diluting it at all, gave it to him. In little more time than it takes to tell it, to the surprise of everyone present, he began to show signs of relief, and in ten minutes more was in what appeared to be a restful sleep. Not the least bit of nausea was produced, and from that moment he began an uninterrupted convalescence till his health was fully restored. He is to-day a rugged man, twenty-four years of age.-J. M. WELCH.

SCARLET FEVER. By Joseph Adolphus, M.D., Atlanta, Ga. (*Eclectic Medical Journal*, 1897, p. 382). Abstracted.

When I was a young man, living in Philadelphia, an epidemic of scarlet fever prevailed, characterized by extreme depression of all the organic functions of the economy, including the circulation and respiration. The success of the "reformed practice" was nothing less than triumphant, while the treatment of the allopaths was by such depressing measures that even the simple cases died.

Allopathic practice was by bleeding to control great irritation, congestion or inflammation; and antimonials, along with calomel, mercury and chalk, and blue pill. The idea of antipyretics was but dimly seen at that day; the chief thought was to subdue inflammation, bleeding being the chief means; even in typhus fever and smallpox, when the pulse ran high and the skin was very hot. For the throat, blisters and nitrate of silver solution, sixty grains to the ounce of water; while little food was allowed. All feeble children succumbed early to this devitalizing treatment. Hygiene was primitive; the hot, poorly ventilated rooms, with deprivation of food and water, increased the death-rate.

The treatment employed by the reformed physicians was the reverse of this; partly stimulant and partly tonic; the remedies, lobelia, myrrh, myrica cerifera, capsicum, xanthoxylum, sambucus canadensis, inner bark of the root, cypridium, and many other indigenous remedies.

Malignant scarlet fever is characterized by profound constitutional depression, including the nervous centers, and the powers of circulation and respiration, varying in different epidemics; but nearly all will recover under judicious treatment.

Our Eclectic fathers relied on treatment tending to sustain the heart and respiration; good, careful feeding, and other things that good sense suggested. The use of the cold bath in malignant scarlet fever by the Allopaths as a sort of *dernier ressort*, to lower the high temperature, is to be condemned as frequently causing death.

With the eruption out the inflammation of the skin is severe and respiration rapid; when the eruption is lagging, or has "struck in," the temperature is very high; may go as high as 107°, but recovery follows nevertheless.

Scarlet fever is a disease of high temperature, but we must not attempt to lower it by cold baths, and other direct means, or we will lose our patients; rather depend on careful feeding, nursing and hygiene.

Throat symptoms are most dangerous, but often too much is done. The poison spreads from the throat, the pulse becomes feeble and fluttering, second sound of the heart weak, as in a dynamic typhoid fever and smallpox temperature 106° P.M. and 105° A.M., and the nervous system apparently overwhelmed; with delirium, coma, extreme restlessness, muttering and the like.

With the throat symptoms severe, the eruption is congested, dark colored in patches, intervening skin livid or mottled purple; temperature 105° to 106° A rapid, shallow respiration is one of the worst symptoms attendant on this form of scarlet fever.

The discharge from the throat and nose becomes toxic, "putrid," rash scanty, the nervous system overwhelmed; the body gives out a characteristic odor, extremely offensive; the discharge is acrid and excoriates the skin and mucous membrane over which it flows.

The kidneys suffer; the uriniferous tubules and epithelial structures become congested with catarrhal inflammation of a low type and suppression of urine and dropsy.

In the treatment of scarlet fever the Eclectic fathers used lobelia largely, not as a vomit, but as a stimulant and tonic. It is a therapeutic fact that lobelia is a stimulant to the vasomotor system. After a lobelia puke, blood pressure rises in virtue of the physiological property of this remedy. Capsicum was also used freely; no other stimulant equals it; circulation, respiration, metabolism, all are aided by it.

Scarlet fever needs proper stimulants to carry the bad cases through. Myrrh is a good remedy; it keeps the blood leucocytes active and increases them. In all adynamic diseases their number is reduced, and their ameboid activities lessened. Our predecessors knew the value of the bark of the root of bayberry. It is a vasomotor stimulant. Under it blood pressure rises; following its action there is no depression. It is a strong tonic to mucous membranes. I have seen very bad cases, apparently hopeless, recover under bayberry, myrrh and capsicum. Together they make a *most* valuable stimulant; both stimulate the centers of the cord, of which there are several; one acts as a trophic center to the anatomical elements promoting constructive activity of the protoplasm.

Ailanthus glandulosa was discovered about forty years ago by an Eclectic physician, to be a specific in scarlet fever, smallpox and other adynamic fevers. That it is a specific in all the exanthematous diseases has been fully demonstrated. I have several times noted and proven *its* invaluable merits in "black" measles and "putrid" scarlet fever.

Quinine in small doses is not to be lost sight of in all adynamic fevers.

Sambucus canadensis as a diuretic in scarlet fever should be extensively known. It is indicated when the pathological condition of the kidneys is akin to that in the early stage of Bright's disease. It is a non-stimulating diuretic, a soothing tonic to the epithelia and tubules; combined with the lady slipper we have a remedy of prime value in malignant scarlet fever. Lady slipper was a remedy highly prized by the Eclectic fathers to promote restfulness and bring on sleep.

Return to the good things of the past; there is great good in them, and much joy to be derived from their use.

CORRESPONDENCE.

G. W. Holmes, M.D., Sharpes, Fla., writes, June 11, 1912:

"Dr. Harbert's estimate of the value of gelsemium in otitis and catarrhal troubles of the olfactory organs is well substantiated by the experience of practitioners in the general use of constitutional remedies in the treatment of local lesions when accompanied by increased temperature of the body.

That local remedies are often powerless to cure alone, while the indicated remedy makes sure work when associated with local treatment is a matter of common observation.

I have a case of malarial fever that illustrates to my mind a condition wherein gelsemium is not the indicated remedy. On the occasion of my third visit I was informed that the patient complained that his feet prickled, and seemed almost "asleep," to use a common term; also that he could not urinate. I raised him on his feet and the bladder acted. I found that he had these symptoms before, but had not mentioned the fact. I substituted belladonna, and returning in twenty-four hours found that he had none of the general nervous impairment and none of the lack of power over the bladder previously existing.

Cold extremities, as a rule, contraindicate gelsemium.

Dr. Crance is not going to be too sure of anything that might be misleading. He is a valuable asset to our association. Every once in a while we have a case reputed to be diphtheria in this section but without evidence that it is contagious. I am not familiar with the sporadic kind. Every very severe case of sore throat may be safely counted as diphtheria. The cases that the early Eclectics reported left little doubt as to the diagnosis. I always read doubting Thomas articles carefully. They make me feel that I, too, am mortal.

"I get the best action from larger doses of gelsemium than Dr. Harbert employs, more prompt action, but I agree the smaller the dose that does the required work the better. I would be quite lost without gelsemium in practice.

"This report, like all the others, is valuable to old fellows who will forget. In the sixth of the lobelia cases reported by Professor Scudder occur the words, "I happened to think." So our Jove came near nodding.

"Line upon line, precept upon precept, example upon example, are needed to keep me in line."

Dr. Crance writes of our May report: "I count Dr. Adolphus on gelsemium as specially good."

BOTROPHIS ACTAEOIDES (Fisher & Meyer); *Cimicifuga racemosa*, (Elliott) *Actae racemosa* (Linn). Tully's *Materia Medica*, ed. 1852.

Quotations and Abstracts. "Something has been known of this article from time immemorial. In the summer of 1810, my special attention was first turned to it, but I did not arrive at that knowledge of it which I suppose myself to possess at present, till 1815 or 1816, though I was more or less engaged in the investigation of its qualities the whole intervening time. Page 317.

A medical gentleman of Hartford, Conn., being himself subject to violent paroxysms of rheumatism acuta after certain exposures which he thought he could not well avoid, tried this medicine as found in the shops and of poor quality, upon himself, and found that one dose of half a fluid ounce uniformly arrested the paroxysms above mentioned. (Abstract, page 318.)

On another occasion, employing a preparation made by me in the same dose, he had such alarming symptoms that a physician stayed with him about twelve hours, it being feared he might not survive the night. In the morning, the morbid symptoms disappeared and he speedily recovered. That these morbid symptoms were caused by the drug was not suspected till at another time the same dose produced like effects. While a good preparation of this drug is thus shown not to be destitute of activity, a bad one may disappoint expectations. (Abstract, page 318.)

The actaea (*cimicifuga* is classed as one of these) as ecboolics, and as producing violent and palpitating action of the heart and arteries, would seem to effect parts of the nerve of chemical action, nutrition and reproduction more especially. Page 904.

"Ignatia and the five erethistic (irritant) strychni produce great 'restlessness and jactitation; violent neuralgic pains in various parts, and what it is the fashion to call vaguely enough, 'tumultuous action of the heart and arteries,' as a permanent part of their ultimate operative effects, when given in excessive and inordinate doses and quantities. All these ultimate effects are likewise produced by the actaea." Page 911.

Tully preferred the name *botrophis actaeoides*, meaning snake raceme, rather than *cimicifuga racemosa*, meaning to drive away bedbugs; or *macrotrys* (*macrotrys* is a wrong spelling), which means a large raceme. Page 938.

On page 940, he estimates *botrophis* as of decided efficacy in chorea, chronic rheumatism, and in inveterate and protracted podagra.

On page 1358, he cites a case of "rheumatagia," where he directed as large doses of botrophis as he thought the patient would bear, the dose being repeated till effective, which caused subtonic spasms, stupor of the lower extremities, explained elsewhere as like the numbing sensation caused by striking a nerve, as at the elbow; neuralgic pains in various parts; greatly disturbed action of the heart; more or less stupor of the whole body, and general rigidity. The remedy had to be discontinued for several days and then continued in greatly reduced doses.

He found the tinctures of the shops of poor quality, and directed a tincture to be made as follows: "The root should be collected in autumn immediately after the seed is ripe and the top has become more or less yellow and begun to decay. The root should be two or three years old.

"It is best when it grows on the border of a forest, where the soil is loose and composed mainly of decayed leaves. When taken out of the ground, the earth should be knocked from it, and when the outside is dry, it should be made as clean as possible with a brush. It should never be washed, as it injures it materially."

It should be carefully dried and reduced to a "much finer powder than usual for tinctures" and macerated two months in very strong alcohol, in the preparation of four ounces to the pint.

It will thus be seen that Tully had made extensive experiments with this plant and had employed it in the treatment of acute rheumatism as early as 1816, and for other purposes, for which he should be duly credited. According to my observation, no one interested in the development of the indigenous remedies did so much experimental work in that direction as Tully, and no one to whom so little credit has been given.

SMALLPOX. By Alexander Wilder, M.D. (ECLECTIC MEDICAL JOURNAL, 1856, page 25; abstract.)

Smallpox is an erysipelatous disorder and should be treated as we would treat malignant erysipelas. Special attention should be paid to preserving and promoting the vital energy. I know of no treatment original with Eclectics. Dr. J. J. G. Wilkinson, a Homeopathist, of London, England, employed hydrastis and veratrum viride in lotion, equal parts of Keith's tinctures, dropped into hot water and the patient sprayed with it. In confluent smallpox he dipped wet clothes in the preparation and applied it. If inflammation be intense he doubled the veratrum-a teaspoonful to a tumbler of water. As the inflammation subsided hydrastis only was used.

The diet should be nutritious and stimulating.

Internal treatment: Add gtt. xx Keith's hydrastis to twenty teaspoonfuls of water, and give a dessert spoonful every hour in the early stage and every two or three hours as it develops. When the fever and erysipelatous swelling of the skin recede, add to the above gtt. xxx veratrum viride and watch the effect. If faintness, very slow pulse, nausea, or great prostration ensue suspend the veratrum for a time. Baptisia is given where putrescence is marked.

"With these simple means," Dr. Wilkinson declares, "I have obtained results unparalleled in the treatment of smallpox."

He believes hydrastis kills the poison of the disease, and he gives it in drop doses twice a day when contagion is feared.

This treatment abridges the disease, subdues the fever and inflammation, arrests pustulation and secondary fever, does away with itching; there is little pitting, and only roughening of the skin where the face has been a bag of matter; there is no stench and the suffering is reduced to a minimum.

A decoction of cimicifuga has been employed to prevent attacks of smallpox with apparent success.

Dr. James Moore, Trenton, Ohio, found that lemon juice, diluted and taken freely, using two lemons in twenty minutes, cured a case of fully developed smallpox.

Dr. Edward Hine claims that cream of tartar, one ounce to a pint of water, drank at intervals when cold, will cure smallpox in three days.

If I were treating a patient I would combine the above methods. The disease is septic rather than infectious and will originate spontaneously in crowded and unwholesome places. Thorough ventilation and cleansing is, therefore, demanded in the treatment.

[Alexander Wilder, M.D., died September 18, 1908. He was our chief aid and contributor. He was a masterly writer and original thinker. While he wrote as a journalist, critic, historian, scientist and philosopher, his pride, his ambition was to own and edit a newspaper.]

HERPES ZOSTER. By J. C. Kilgour, M.D., New Richmond, Ohio. ECLECTIC MEDICAL JOURNAL, 1886, p. 78; extract.)

This disease may be cured by the internal use of rhus tox, first decimal dilution, fifteen drops in four ounces of water, a teaspoonful every two hours, without any local application, and in less time than by other treatment.

HYDRASTIS. By Prof. A. J. Howe, M.D. (ECLECTIC MEDICAL JOURNAL, 1886, p. 597.)

Prof. Howe, in a review of Lloyd's "Drugs and Medicines of North America," has these words: "As might be expected the Lloyd's have given extended space to hydrastis canadensis, and many know that I do not hold the remedy in the high esteem in which it is generally held, but I am free to admit that the agent is a potent peptic, as many bitter medicines are. What I ask is for a dyspepsia remediable with hydrastis that is not curable with nux. By experiment I can not ascertain that hydrastis exercises a specially healing effect upon abrasions of the mucous membranes. In other words, I think the medicine has been over praised by Eclectics."

Of cimicifuga, he says: "Cimicifuga has been a favorite remedy with , me in the treatment of catamenial disorders. I generally prescribe the medicine in alternation with Fowler's solution of arsenic, and in some cases where good effects are observed it might be difficult to determine which agent exercised the greater curative influence But when macrotys is administered alone in dysmenorrhea as a neurosis the remedy proves a powerful alleviator of pain, and it lessens the recurrence of too frequent menstrual periods and quickens the catamenial activity when too sluggish. It also increases the quantity when the flow is too scanty, and restrains it when too profuse. Thus macrotys is pre-eminently a regulator of menstrual activities."

HYDRASTIS. By U. O. Jones, M.D., West Jefferson, Ohio. (*Materia Medica Reports*, April, 1907; abstract.)

A person's health may be measured by the condition of his stomach. With the stomach in a normal condition, the whole body is 'normal. Whatever the complaint may be, we must first get the stomach in a healthy condition, or work with that end in view. There is no remedy that will meet these conditions or act more favorably than goldenseal.

In atonic dyspepsia with torpor of the liver, constipation and general debility, hydrastis is one of the best remedies we have ever used. In this condition my favorite prescription is, ℞ hydrastis, 3 iv; chionanthus, 3 i ; , neutralizing cordial, q.s. ad ℥ iv; m. s. A teaspoonful every three hours. I always get the most gratifying results from it, both to my patient and myself.

In nursing sore mouths I use the powdered hydrastis combined with bismuth sub. nit. I wash the mouth with an infusion of hydrastis, and then dust the powder over the diseased surface.

In vaginal leucorrhoea with abrasions of the cervix uteri I combine it with glycerin and apply this on a tampon.

In tonsillitis, during the acute stage, I employ the infusion as a gargle and also give it internally; in fact in all inflammations of mucous membranes it is efficient, as it is in atonic states of mucous surfaces.

As a tonic for the mucous membrane of the bladder hydrastis never fails to do its work.

HYDRASTIS IN GRANULATED LIDS. By F. P. Mitchell, M.D., Redding, Cal. (*California Medical Journal*, January, 1886, p. 15).

Miss W had been afflicted with sore eyes-granulated lids-for some time and had been treated by Dr. --- for three months, and received no benefit; in fact, became worse and had decided to try another doctor.

Knowing the beneficial influence of hydrastis on the mucous membranes as an astringent I concluded to give it a trial. I used the specific medicine full strength, one drop, applied with an ordinary dropper, morning and evening. On the evening of the second day the inflammation was considerably reduced, and a general improvement was noticeable, in fact she stated-I use her own words-"I believe, Doctor, they are about well."

I then gave her the necessary instruction to continue the treatment at home. That was the last I saw of my patient, but I learned that she entirely recovered, and was able to work as a dressmaker.

THE DOSE OF VERATRUM. By the Editor. (*Materia Medica Reports*, May, 1902.)

Having made special inquiry as to the efficiency in the treatment of acute diseases of the standard dose of specific veratrum, twenty drops to four ounces of water, a teaspoonful every hour, I received the following replies:

A. F. Stephens, M.D., St. Louis, Mo., writes: "It is my experience that the dose varies with the patient, and, in different persons. I can not get the desired results in all cases by giving the dose mentioned in your letter. I find that I get the best results by giving it in pretty good sized doses. I am in

the habit of beginning the treatment by using from half a drachm to a drachm to four ounces of water, and giving a teaspoonful of the mixture every two hours. If I do not get the result I am looking for in a few hours, which is a slowing of the pulse, and a softening of its volume, I add some more veratrum. I believe the dose must be enough to lessen the numbers of pulse beats in order to get the best results.

"Of course we must be governed by the patient as to the size of the dose, as some persons respond to treatment much quicker than others; in fact I have seen some who responded not at all. I do not believe in producing a profound effect by means of any remedy, but we certainly need in the treatment of pneumonia, a speedy response to our efforts."

E. B. Packer, M.D., Osage City, Kansas, writes: "Given a case where the pulse is rapid, and readily compressed, I would in all cases give aconite, but with a rapid pulse, full, strong and bounding, I would in all cases give veratrum in doses sufficient to meet the indications, which are decidedly varied. It is my observation that the patient must be taken into consideration in deciding the dose.

"Given an adult male of full body, heavy bone, muscular, and he will require much larger doses of veratrum to control the pulse than will be required in the case of an adult female of spare build, light complexion, and delicate physique.

"In the latter case from four to five drops in four ounces of water, a teaspoonful every hour might be sufficient, while in the former case I would probably prescribe forty or fifty drops in the same manner. In my own case I have frequently taken sixty or seventy drops of Lloyd's specific tincture in four ounces of water, a teaspoonful every hour.

"In puerperal convulsions I have injected forty drops of specific veratrum every fifteen minutes for three or four doses; and, if necessary, repeated it in an hour or two, with beneficial results.

"In cases where veratrum is indicated I would push the remedy until the result was obtained, regardless of dose, as it is one that I regard as very positive and unchangeable in its action."

William Collins Hatch, M.D., New Sharon, Me., writes: "In writing of the use of veratrum in pneumonia I tried to make clear the point that sthenia and not asthenia was my principal guide in prescribing the agent."

AESCULUS IN SPINAL WEAKNESS. By Sarah C. Harris, M.D. (*Medical Investigator*, 1885). Abstract.

Although this patient's history is one of acute rheumatism, yet the present symptoms described, viz., weakness in back and hip joint, general weakness and lassitude, weakness and pain across the small of the back (rather low down), and hips; on stooping down hips give way, cannot stoop to pick up anything, feels as if the back would break, etc., are all markedly the symptoms of resculus hippocastinum, and I would suggest a fair trial of this remedy in the 2x trituration. If this cures, as it ought to, it will prove the present condition to be one of blind internal piles.

In my case book I find the following: Miss D., aged twenty-five, teacher in high school. Pain in nape of the neck and sacral region, frontal headache, pain in the eyeballs, chilliness, severe pain in region of right ovary with tenderness to the touch, abdomen bloated; not able to sit up to have the bed made without fainting. Abscess in right axilla, and again in right breast (lanced), occasional numbness of the extremities, vertigo, feeling of great weakness, shooting pains in the bowels and pain in the stomach. Appetite fairly good most of the time, and symptoms not aggravated when appetite impaired, no discharge from the vagina or evidence of piles; fever, which was attributed to the abscess.

Many remedies and methods of treatment were employed without material relief, when she was put on resculus: alcohol, ℥ ss; resculus, gtt. x. Of this I put ten drops in a half glass of water, and gave a teaspoonful three times a day. On the fourth day she was able to sit up most of the time, and in a month was well. (ED.)

Headache. Mrs. C. had headache with nausea, pain on left side of the forehead, and in the left eyeball and down the back of the neck. Lobelia gtt in water, ℥ ijx, a teaspoonful every fifteen minutes. Headache relieved in an hour. (ED.)

Spasms in Children. One or two drops of the oil of lobelia every two minutes until emesis will promptly control spasms. 1. J. M. Goss.

TIC DOULOUREUX. (Thomson's *Materia Medica*, Ed. 1841, p. 822.)

"A young lady had been severely affected with tic douloureux for upward of a year, so that at times she could not take rest day or night. We commenced our treatment by giving her composition to create an action of the system, and bathing her feet with a stimulating liniment to take the pressure from the head. The second day she took the vapor both, and afterwards four or five emetic pills (composed of lobelia seed, cypripedium, and capsicum, made into a pill mass with oil of pennyroyal and extract of peach leaves), which sickened her and caused slight vomiting; then put a stimulating plaster on the cheek, which counteracted the constringent effect the cold air would naturally produce while taking the warm medicine, besides relaxing the muscles so as to abate the pain. For four or five of the first days and nights she was constantly afflicted with the most intense pain in the cheek.

We then administered a full course of medicine, and followed up the baths every day with bathing the feet and warm medicine internally until the ninth day, when she returned home, free from pain, and has not since, we learn, been affected with the least symptom of tic douloureux." (ED.)

WITCH HAZEL. By A. J. Howe, M.D. (*Eclectic Medical Journal*, 1872, p. 71). Abstracted.

I esteem witch hazel of special value in uterine hemorrhage. A few cases will illustrate:

Case 1. Mrs. K. was delivered by a midwife and continued to flow more or less profusely for several days. I was then called to take charge of the case. I found the uterus larger than it should be; and an exhibition of bright blood.

I prescribed hamamelis and in a few days the hemorrhage ceased. The effect of the medicine was prompt, restraining the flow in three hours.

Case II. Mrs. T. had a "chill" on Thanksgiving Day and miscarried that night. She was supposed to be two months advanced in pregnancy. Three days from the time of the "chill" I was summoned in haste to see the patient, who was reported "flooding." Upon arriving at the bedside I found her bleeding profusely. A digital examination revealed the fact that a placental mass was still retained within the uterus. I usually employed a tampon in such cases, but in this instance I decided to try the virtues of hamamelis, and the agent promptly arrested the hemorrhage. In two days the placenta, the size of a hen's egg, passed without pain or loss of blood.

Case III. A former patient visiting New York was taken with uterine hemorrhage. A physician was called, but his prescriptions doing no good, the husband telegraphed to me this: "What will arrest uterine hemorrhage?" I replied as follows: "Give a strong preparation of witch hazel." In a few days I learned the medicine acted "like a charm."

A variety of cases of hemorrhage have yielded to this remedy. Mr. R. a short time ago had bleeding from the lungs for several days, and his medical attendants were unsuccessful in arresting the hemorrhage. Upon being called to take charge of the case I prescribed hamamelis, and in less than a day the medicine had the desired effect.

Mrs. T. had suffered from hemorrhages from the rectum, supposed to arise from internal piles. Pond's Extract ended the trouble.

These cases will serve to show in what kind of hemorrhages I have found the agent valuable.

GELSEMIUM. By J. R. Borland, M.D., Franklin, Pa. (*Materia Medica Reports*, April, 1906.)

In regard to gelsemium I have something to say. I have used Merrell's tincture about fifty years in fevers where the indications point to it. I always carry it in my obstetric case, and in protracted labors with rigid os I give a teaspoonful, and if there is no result I repeat the dose in thirty minutes. The second dose seldom fails to bring the desired results, although the patient sometimes says, "I can't see well" I never knew any harm to result. It causes relaxation of the circular muscles of the os and the longitudinal muscles have free play and are enabled to do their work in the expulsion of the fetus. This is my explanation of the action of the remedy in these cases.

Prof. William Paine recommended Keith's gelsemium in the treatment of dysentery, and I know from personal experience that it will afford relief in these cases.

Many years ago I had a patient, a girl seventeen years old, who had uremic convulsions. No remedies that I employed did any good until I administered two drachms of tincture of gelsemium per rectum, and in an hour one drachm more. She had no more convulsions after the second dose. Her urine was albuminous. A few months thereafter she married, and in due time became pregnant, anasarca supervening. She had a miscarriage and died a few days thereafter.

Some years ago I had a case, a girl about seventeen years old, who had mania from uterine trouble. She acted exactly like a person affected with puerperal mania. She had been sick some three weeks when I was called. She was very abusive, using the most vile language, although when in health she was as modest as any girl. She had to be kept in a straightjacket, and would take no medicine.

I blistered the back of her head, and, as she would drink large quantities of milk, I had her take a teaspoonful of Merrell's tincture of gelsemium in the milk, which she did not detect; and, remarkable as it may seem, she got on an average of one ounce of the medicine every twenty-four hours for two weeks, when she showed signs of returning sanity. She made a good recovery. That was twenty two years ago and she is well to-day.

I have frequently combined Keith's gelsemium with other indicated remedies in rectal suppositories, and used them in cystitis with excellent results. One administered at bedtime will relieve chordee, and in strangury they afford most marked relief.

Gelsemium is a fine remedy in hysteria in combination with hyoscyamus or valerian. I look on gelsemium as one of the most valuable remedies we possess.

Dr. G. W. Holmes writes (*Materia Medica Reports*, April, 1906):

"I have had three accidents from overdoses of gelsemium in thirty-eight years of professional experience with this remedy. One was a case of chronic malarial infection, which had existed for a year, and quinine had lost its effect. The overdose of gelsemium, together with a lobelia emetic, caused a shock that cured him promptly. No more chills."

Dr. A. F. Stephens writes (*Materia Medica Reports*, April, 1902): "I have been reading the reports with much pleasure, but have not felt that I could add materially to the notes on gelsemium. I might relate a case, which I had last summer. The case was that of a child which had whooping cough. It developed a meningeal infection, which terminated in convulsions. These were persistent and tonic. I did all I could with antispasmodics, but got no results. I then resorted to gelsemium, hypodermically, in doses of ten drops (the child being about one year old), with the result that the spasms were checked for twenty-four hours; they then returned and continued in spite of all I could do until the baby died. I have sometimes thought had I resorted to the injections of gelsemium earlier it might have arrested the severe meningeal inflammation which caused the child's death. I do not know if it would. No ill effects followed the dose given."

Dr. A. P. Hauss writes (*Materia Medica Reports*, April, 1906): "I think of gelsemium as one of the most valuable of our remedies. I have recently treated a case of tetanus successfully with this remedy. This is the second case I have cured with specific gelsemium. In tetanus it must be given in full doses until you get some physiological effect, such as drooping of the eyelids, double vision, etc., then the trismus is under control"

LOBELIA INFLATA. By Percy Lee Templeton, M.D., Montpelier, Vt. (*Materia Medica Reports*, May, 1902.)

Lobelia is the remedy on which I rely wholly in spasmodic croup. I never consider it worth while to visit the patient. My formula is quite palatable: R Wintergreen essence (one part oil to fifteen parts alcohol) ℥ij ; tincture of lobelia herb. (lobelia ℥iv, dilute with alcohol to make one pint); simple syrup aa ℥ijss; color with Burnetts' fruit red, and filter. From two to ten drops, repeated according to the urgency of the case, will do all that anything under the heavens will do for spasmodic croup; aconite or belladonna are not in it with this remedy. Ten minutes of lobelia will make an entire family lighthearted.

Lobelia is my expectorant in all lung troubles, excepting when relaxation is contraindicated. Many cases of insomnia, caused by tension of the nervous system, are best relieved by lobelia. I could recount a number of experiences in cases of suppression of urine where an emetic of lobelia caused a complete restoration of the function of the kidneys. I will never concede that lobelia is a dangerous remedy. It is neither narcotic nor poisonous.

LOBELIA INFLATA. By A. F. Stephens, M.D., St. Louis, Mo. (*Materia Medica Reports*, May, 1902.)

I do not know much about lobelia, but here is a little of which I am moderately certain.

The principal uses I have made of lobelia have been in bronchial affections, where there is excessive secretion of mucus—a relaxed condition of the mucous membrane. In these cases it is the stimulant dose that we desire, hence the prescription I use is about as follows: R Specific lobelia, gtt. x-xx; glycerine, ℥j; water, q.s. ad ℥iv; mix. Sig., one teaspoonful every two or three hours.

In excessive action of the mucous glands of the pharynx and larynx the remedy will be found of much benefit; hence I use it in catarrhal and mucus croup with excellent effect. In these cases the child's throat is filled with the secretion. It rattles and coughs, but fails to clear the throat.

Here a few doses of lobelia arrests the excessive secretion of mucus, quiets the little one, and the mother can lie down and go to sleep.

I believe that the benefit derived from stillingia liniment is largely due to the oil of lobelia as an ingredient. I have never been able to determine just how far the oil of cajeput is responsible for the good effects of the above combination.

Lobelia has done much for me in the treatment of infantile colic. Here I give it in doses of one or two drops in a little warm water, and repeat it if necessary, although it is seldom that I have to administer a second dose. Not long ago I had a mother tell me that she gave her babies a drop every day during the first few weeks of their lives for the purpose, as she said, of preventing colic. I said, "Good! You will do to trust. No Winslow's syrup about you."

I use lobelia in cardiac palpitation due to gastric influences, and get excellent results. If the stomach contains anything that ought not to be there, the remedy should be given to emesis, and then in smaller doses afterwards. If angina accompany the disturbance the dose must be of good dimension to obtain the desired relaxing effect.

I will confess that I have avoided the use of the remedy wherever possible to do so on account of its disagreeable effect on the mucous membranes. I frequently use the combination known as emetic powder externally in cases of pneumonia, bronchitis, etc. Spread on a larded cloth and applied to the chest over the affected lung, it has seemed at times to be of service, though I have not much faith in local applications to the skin for the relief of diseases of the internal organs of the body.

CALENDULA OFFICINALIS. By G. H. Chapman, M.D. (*Michigan Medical News*, 1879; abstract.)

Tincture of calendula diluted with two parts of distilled water applied to fresh wounds on surgeon's lint and the lint kept saturated with the lotion, will effectively control pain, suppuration and inflammation, provided the wound has been previously cleansed of all foreign matter and properly adjusted. As the lint becomes dry it must be moistened again with the diluted tincture.

Case I.-Injury of thumb and fingers from cogwheel, the whole of the palmar surface of the thumb from the tip of the nail to the middle of the first phalanx was crushed and torn off, without, however, denuding the bone of periosteum. The second and third fingers were also crushed, so that a portion of the articulating end of the terminal phalanx was removed from each finger while dressing. The fingers were dressed on splints and the dressing applied, and the thumb treated in like manner. The patient was reminded that success depended on the faithfulness with which the treatment was followed on his part.

The fingers healed in two weeks with no impairment of motion in the joints, and in eight weeks the thumb had so far recovered as to allow the patient to pursue his ordinary occupation (carpenter) with no inconvenience, and wearing no dressing except a cot.

Case 2.-A man, weighing 150 pounds, was filing an upright mill saw in the mill loft, when the board on which he stood gave way, and he fell so that one of the saw-teeth entered about the middle of the forearm, between the radius and ulna, sustaining his weight until the mill hands rushed to his assistance and lifted him from his painful situation.

The wound was of a ragged, irregular shape, about six inches long; the radial artery, anterior interosseous artery. and nerve were exposed to view, though all were intact. The wound was cleansed with tincture of calendula one part, water three parts, stitches carefully adjusted and dressed with calendula as in the former case. It healed kindly by first intention, and there was no pain or swelling after the first twenty-four hours. Calendula may be used in like manner in amputations, removal of tumors, etc., and as an injection after confinement where there is any laceration of tissue, using tincture of calendula, one part, to distilled water, three parts.

STRAMONIUM IN THREATENED ABORTION. By L. H. Sensing, M.D. Gallaway, Tenn. (*Eclectic Medical Journal*, 1879, p. 168; abstract.)

I employ a tincture made from two ounces of fresh stramonium seed to one pint of diluted alcohol; macerate two weeks and filter.

Case I.-Mrs. A. G., aged twenty-eight, pregnant the third time. At the fifth month of gestation she was seized with intermittent pains, resembling labor pains, discharging small clots of blood; severe pain in lumbar region; os uteri dilated to the extent of admitting tip of index finger; everything indicating a speedy labor. I diagnosed the case as a threatened abortion. Prescribed \mathcal{R} Tinct. stramonium, gtt. xx; water \mathfrak{z} iv; mix. Sig., a teaspoonful every hour. Applied a black mustard cataplasm to sacral region, to remain twenty minutes, and reapply if not relieved within an hour. Next morning I found her greatly relieved; discharge had disappeared, and os uteri had contracted to normal size. She went to full term and brought forth a healthy boy baby.

Case 2.-Mrs. G. T., in eighth month of pregnancy; had pains like natural labor after doing a large washing and lifting heavy tubs. Troubled with nausea. Prescribed \mathcal{R} Tincture stramonium, gtt. x; water, \mathfrak{z} iv; mix. Sig., a teaspoonful every hour with small dose of chloral hydrate. She was wholly relieved in eight hours, and went to full term, giving birth to a son.

Case 3.-Mrs. A. S., fourth month of pregnancy. Had aborted four times at the fourth month, and was now threatened. She had tried every thing recommended. On hearing the history, I thought it useless to try to prevent abortion, but, notwithstanding, I decided to try stramonium.

I gave her one drop every hour and stayed with her twelve hours. Ordered in my absence one drop every two hours. I returned in six hours and found her completely relieved. She went to full term.

The second case suggests stramonium in the nausea and vomiting of pregnancy. What has been your experience with stramonium in threatened abortion, and will it relieve nausea as well? The recent death of a relative from this cause leads to the question, What shall we do in these cases?

Mrs. M., aged thirty-five, three months advanced in pregnancy and vomiting everything. She was also troubled with difficult breathing from a weak heart; had a chronic cough following an attack of pleurisy, and one lung was supposed to be tubercular. Treatment had been somewhat but not wholly neglected, being governed by the popular notion that the ills of pregnancy are to be suffered in silence. Owing to the difficult breathing, chiefly, she called a physician. Under his treatment her mouth

became sore, similar to that caused by calomel in the old time, and, as she could not swallow, she was fed through a tube passed into her stomach by way of her nose. A specialist was called in consultation, and an instrumental abortion decided on. This was done under morphine on Friday, and the following Monday she died. The period of treatment was about three weeks. I have no details of the case, but it seems to me that an operation on one so weakened by starvation, and in a general way so depressed, was not warranted.

In the treatment of the nausea and vomiting of pregnancy, I have found that potassium bromide is an efficient remedy. The grains are dissolved in water and taken in divided doses or in one dose, as the case may demand. The dose is repeated as required.

[I would like the reader's opinion of the case as reported, and suggestions as to the treatment of these cases.-EDITOR.]

CORRESPONDENCE. Dr. G. W. Holmes writes, October 10, 1912: "The September report is, like all the others, well written, and recalls much that is useful to the practicing physician."

"When in classical terms you note that macrotys improves the general circulation, I note what my preceptor did to meet this condition. 'Macrotys,' he said, 'is good for those habitually troubled with cold hands and feet.'

This is just the reverse of gelsemium, which should never be given in this condition.

"Dr. J. C. Kilgour has not had the stubborn cases of herpes zoster that I have seen. It is a neuritis, and reminds one of the red neuralgia or erythromelalgia, which I described in an article read at the Chattanooga meeting of the National Eclectic Medical Association.

"Before the eruption appears, especially in the aged, there is a puzzling pain, difficult to define, until the appearance of the vesicles. Before the eruption appears, we could say we had a case of intercostal neuralgia to deal with were the parts not so tender to the touch. But from start to finish it is one of those troubles that needs a proper name-neuritis of the underlying nerves. The preceding and aftermath of pain in the aged is something that no author on this disease has touched on as it deserves. They do not die of anything else while they have this neuritis, after the eruption has disappeared, but it is one of the most intractable diseases I have encountered, as the shock of the intense pain seems to swallow up the recuperative powers in the aged. I have had cases where the intercostal nerves never lost their sensitiveness to touch; nor, indeed, do any of the nerves involved. Time and care are always most important factors in effecting cures, but Dr. Kilgour is right in claiming more prompt cures in young patients." .

[Dr. Holmes encloses a letter with an ancient label, smoke-stained, as if dug from the ruins of Pompeii, on which is written: "Liatris. Button snakeroot. To aid digestion and regulate the action of the kidneys: Dose: 10 to 20 drops in one-fourth glass of water." With this label is a letter from a brother in Pittsburgh, requesting that another bottle of the medicine be sent as his family had found that it afforded great relief in backache. Dr. Holmes employs liatris in those cases where hydrastis is indicated, and he believes it easily takes the place of this expensive medicine. It is abundant in the pine woods about his Florida home. He adds: "It beats apocynum in some cases of dropsy."-EDITOR.]

GELSEMIUM. By Charles L. Harding, M.D., Bellevue, O. (*Materia Medica Reports*, December, 1905.)

I pass to the therapeutic action of the drug which is varied and the effects very certain, where well indicated; while many times it affords marked relief in diseases where it is not, strictly speaking, very clearly indicated by the usual train of indicating symptoms. As an antipyretic gelsemium has no equal in the slight ailments of childhood in which the temperature goes up very rapidly, accompanied by flushing of the face so characteristic of disease of a febrile character in children. One of these diseases which we are called upon to treat is catarrhal fever. In this disease we will almost always find gelsemium our most valuable agent. While many physicians prefer to give it in combination with aconite or veratrum, it is very seldom necessary to employ these remedies, the gelsemium fulfilling all the demands of a sedative.

As an antispasmodic in the convulsions of children gelsemium may be given alone or in combination with passiflora, the bromides, valerian, etc., with the most pleasing results. In these conditions the dose must be larger than when employed as a simple sedative, but will vary with the age of the child and the effects produced. After the required relaxation has taken place, the dose should be lessened.

In fevers of an intermittent or remittent type, where the patient has an idiosyncrasy that forbids quinine, gelsemium often performs the work of an antiperiodic as well, and sometimes even better than quinine.

In neuralgia of the fifth nerve especially, and in all forms of neuralgia to a greater or less extent, gelsemium is a very effective remedy. In ovarian neuralgia there is no better remedy than a good-sized dose of gelsemium, while the smaller dose relieves dysmenorrhea. In irritation of the bladder or any part of the urinary tract gelsemium will afford relief.

In cerebro-spinal meningitis gelsemium is often the best remedy, being well indicated in the majority of cases.

In mania, delirium tremens, hysteria, and in many forms of insomnia, gelsemium will find a place in our treatment, and if specifically indicated will not disappoint us.

If the heart is weak, gelsemium is contraindicated. In these cases it should not be given in large doses at all, but when the face is flushed, the eyes bright, pupils contracted, head hot, with restlessness and indisposition to sleep, it is safe and reliable. When the urine is passed in small quantity and with difficulty, and a sense of irritation in the urinary tract, it will be found one of our most certain and satisfactory medicines.

HYDRASTIS CANADENSIS. By Ralph B. Taylor, M.D., Columbus, O. (*Materia Medica Reports*, February, 1907.)

Personally I have a great fondness for hydrastis, and regret exceedingly its threatened disappearance from our flora. Certain conditions yield to it as to no other remedy. Its field seems to be mucous membranes. I recall one patient who had gone the usual rounds suffering from cancrum oris, which was finally cured by this remedy. The specific hydrastis has never failed in this disease according to my experience. I usually combine it with some alkali, as such seems to be indicated.

Passive hemorrhage from the uterus occasionally yields promptly to hydrastis. Recently I had a case of purpura hemorrhagica, with hemorrhage from the bladder. The hemorrhage yielded to injections of a weak solution of hydrastis. This patient ultimately died of anemia, but there was no return of the bladder symptoms.

HYDRASTIS CANADENSIS.

Taking the current record there are two views as to the action of hydrastis: First, that it increases blood pressure, slowing the heart's action; and, second, that it paralyzes the vascular system. Of its action on the uterus, there are two views: First, that it is a direct stimulant to the muscular and cardiac nerves; and, second, a stimulant of the central nervous system.

In order to get at the truth, Serdtseff experimented on frogs and warm-blooded animals with hydrastine. Small doses caused slowing of the heart's movements, owing to a stimulation of the inhibitory apparatus, both peripheral and central. Small doses always increased blood pressure, while by large doses it was lowered. These differences depended on the state of the vasomotor center. Small doses were not followed by convulsions, and did not paralyze either respiration or the heart. He thinks those observers who found that hydrastine paralyzed the vascular system must have given larger doses. He found that hydrastine caused the rhythmic contractions of the uterus to be increased in strength, number and duration. It acts indirectly through the intervention of the central nervous system, probably by way of the vasomotors. It does not act on the neuromuscular apparatus of the uterus.

Serdtsseff concludes from the first of his experiments with hydrastine on frogs and warm-blooded animals that it should be given in those cases of uterine hemorrhage where, from one cause or another, it is unwise to await strong contractions of the uterine muscles, and where in consequence it is of the greatest importance to attack the bleeding through the vessels of the uterus. He performed sixty-two experiments on frogs, and fifty-seven on warm-blooded animals. -*Medical News*, April 25, 1891, p. 468.

VERATRUM VIRIDE. By William Collins Hatch, M.D., New Sharon, Me. (*Materia Medica Reports*, April, 1902.) Abstracted.

We have made our own tincture of veratrum, finding it thoroughly reliable, but now we find the specific medicine satisfactory. We have had two cases of poisoning where we prescribed the tincture in doses of eight drops, every three hours, until the fever was reduced; with the characteristic vomiting of frothy matter, with distressing nausea, face pale, skin cold and clammy, bathed in a profuse perspiration. This was relieved by a dose of laudanum and heat to the extremities. In each case the disease was aborted.

The drug, however, in large doses will not cause fatal poisoning, as it will be rejected by vomiting; even a tumblerful of the tincture swallowed has proved harmless.

A toxic effect is avoided by giving veratrum in water, a drop to a teaspoonful, at intervals of twenty, thirty or sixty minutes, as the case may demand; the full therapeutic effect being thus obtained without nausea or any unpleasant effects.

Veratrum is a remedy for sthenic conditions, strictly speaking, a fact which must never be neglected. In sthenic forms of erysipelas, with great swelling and in duration, the inflamed surface presenting a dark livid hue with little tendency to either vesication or suppuration, two to four drachms of specific veratrum, to four ounces of water, may be applied to the inflamed surface by wetting small pieces of cloth, of one thickness only, and changing as often as they become dry. For internal use, thirty to forty drops of specific veratrum to four ounces of water, in teaspoonful doses as required, has given good results. The dose must be graduated to avoid causing nausea.

Pneumonia in the aged is asthenic and veratrum should not be given.

In rheumatic fever, scarlet fever and measles, of a sthenic character veratrum has proved of much utility.

In small doses veratrum is alterative and capable of improving the appetite.

VERATRUM IN PNEUMONIA. By A. F. Stephens, M.D., St. Louis, Mo (*Materia Medica Reports.*)

I consider veratrum viride the basic remedy in this disease, around which all others must be grouped. It is plain to be seen why this is so, when we consider the mechanical effect upon the heart caused by pulmonary obstruction to the free flow of blood through the lungs. I might state it something like this: As is the opposition to the free passage of blood through the pulmonary vessels, so is the indication for veratrum. This opposition causes, in the great majority of cases, that "full and bounding pulse," the cardinal indication for this remedy; hence, it is my first remedy in pneumonia. I begin its administration at the outset and continue it to the termination of the trouble. The dose at first is usually, for an adult, thirty to sixty minims to four ounces of water, a teaspoonful every two hours. This dose will not nauseate, and it will hold the heart steady, giving as perfect oxygenation as can be had under the circumstances. As the difficulty subsides, which is in from six to ten days, the remedy is lessened in amount, and when the temperature and pulse reach the normal the medicine is discontinued.

I have been very successful in the treatment of pneumonia, and I have followed this plan for seventeen years.

If veratrum alone were used in pneumonia, the death rate, which is now high, would sink almost to zero.

HYDRASTIS CANADENSIS. By P. F. Bullington, M.D., Chico, California. (*Materia Medica Reports*, March, 1907. Abstracted.)

The greater part of the good resulting from hydrastis is due to its tonic effect upon the system.

Its effects are more marked upon the mucous membranes and glandular system than upon other portions of the body.

As a remedy for stomach troubles, acute or chronic, resulting from atony we have none better,

In all ulcerated and hemorrhagic conditions of the mucous membranes, resulting from capillary congestion, hydrastis is one of our best remedies.

In chronic malaria, hydrastis combined with gelsemium and bryonia, will relieve often when quinine has failed.

In night-sweats of pulmonary consumption, or following typhoid fever, pneumonia, grippe or rheumatism, hydrastis is a reliable remedy.

Locally, hydrastis is a good remedy. I often use it as a gargle in diphtheria and tonsillitis, with good results.

In simple conjunctivitis, gtt. x. sp. med, to the ounce of water, dropped into the eye every two or three hours often cures in a short time. In gonorrhoea an injection of hydrastis is preferable to the silver salts.

Constipation-Hughes, of England, says that he knows of no remedy so generally beneficial in simple constipation as hydrastis. It is especially a remedy for this condition in children. The following case is characteristic. Child, a year old, constipated from birth; cathartics and tepid water enemata had failed. Tincture of hydrastis, gtt. ij. was given twice a day. In a few days the difficulty was overcome, and had not returned after a year. If the stools delay a day a single dose is sufficient to restore the bowels to a normal condition; at the same time the appetite, digestion and assimilation of the child was improved. (*Eclectic Medical Journal*, 1875, p. 275.)

PROFESSIONAL NEUROSIS AND WRITER'S CRAMP.-Case 1. Patient a pianist, had suffered from lassitude, wandering pains and weakness of both arms, more especially the right, the symptoms being so severe as to prevent his following his occupation for the last two years. Cold water and galvanism to the spine had afforded him only slight relief. The patient was put upon gelsemium, eight drops three times a day, and the symptoms rapidly vanished.

Case II. Dr. H., organist and composer, aged sixty, of bilo-sanguine temperament, slight build and highly strung nervous organization, had a troublesome cramp of both hands and one foot, coming on while practicing the organ or piano. The first attack came on six years previously, when he was run down from mental anxiety and overwork, at which time there was a chronic catarrhal dyspepsia and inability to sleep. As his general health improved; the attacks of cramp, which occurred four or five times a week 1 when practicing, and in the right hand when writing, gradually ceased, and he was well for more than three years.

In 1879, a favorite daughter being seriously ill, and he himself being overworked, he was again subject to the cramps, the special symptoms being as follows: "Within ten or fifteen minutes after sitting down to the instrument some feeling of pain and stiffness manifests itself in the flexor muscles of the forearm and gradually spreads to the fingers, and whilst evident at first only in florid passages, increases so much as to impair the execution of even the simplest composition. The right hand suffers most, then the left, and frequently during pedaling, where the left foot should be crossed over the right, this movement becomes almost impracticable." The attacks recurred four or five times a week. Mrc. sol. was given for a week for the gastric trouble, and then he received, gels. 3x, one drop three times a day. The frequency and duration of the cramps gradually diminished, and in ten weeks had ceased altogether. One or two slight relapses occurring since were relieved by a renewal of the old prescription.

Case III. Mr. X., aged thirty-five, professional flute player, of small physique and bilious temperament, complained, October, 1884, of stiffness and cramp in the middle fingers of both hands when fingering. The symptoms had been noticeable for four years past and had increased somewhat of late. The stiffness and cramp of the middle fingers were accompanied by the sensation of swelling, and deep-seated dull pain down the center of each forearm over the median nerve, which was somewhat sensitive to pressure.

Cutaneous sensibility was unimpaired, the superficial muscles of the forearm and hand responded freely to electric stimuli; reflex irritability was apparently unaltered, and no tremors were apparent in any of the muscles even after continuous effort. Patellar reflex and ankle clonus was normal; gait normal.

Gelsemium ix, one drop three times a day, was ordered, with liberal diet and rest. Within a week slight improvement was observed, and was very marked in three weeks, and in eight weeks he declared himself well.

After six months he still continued well, with very slight relapse relieved by the medicine.-J. B. Blakely in *Homeopathic Review*, August, 1885.

LOBELIA INFLATA. By THE EDITOR.

Nervous Tremors.-After a hard and protracted labor the woman will complain of being cold and chilly and ask to have additional clothing put on, even tucked close to her back and limbs. She may tremble and shake as if in a severe ague chill, her teeth chattering, while she complains of being most uncomfortable. It would seem that she can not be warmed by the additional clothing. In such cases ten or twelve drops of tincture of lobelia seed, followed by a few sips of water, will quiet the woman in a very few moments, when she will ask to be relieved of the extra clothing, and say she is comfortable, all the appearance of tremor having disappeared, and with very little, if any, nausea or distress having been induced.-WELCH.

Neuralgia.-A middle-aged woman, domestic, was attacked by severe pain in the stomach, which moved, sometimes, to the left side and again to the right and into the back, and of such severe and unremitting character, that it seemed the patient could not endure them long and live. Three hypodermic injections of 1-4 gr. morphia and 1-150 atropia were given during the night, but only mitigated the pain and made it bearable for an hour or two after each injection, when it was evident that something must be done or she would die from the agony of it. I then gave her gtt. x. sp. lobelia and repeated it in twenty minutes, and then gave five drops. The pain was completely and permanently relieved, although some smothering sensation was complained of for a few hours afterwards. KILGOUR.

Ophthalmia.-In catarrhal ophthalmia a strong decoction of lobelia combined with mucilage of slippery elm bark is one of the most soothing applications we can make, and often subdues the inflammation and secures permanent relief.-SIMMONS.

Pneumonia.-In the early stage of this disease the adrenergic action of lobelia has proved curative. The remedy should be given in small and frequently repeated doses so as to act upon the circulation; and as emesis is not desired it should be incident to its administration rather than the end sought. Complete relaxation and not continued retching is the result to be obtained.

Some physicians favor giving lobelia to effect resolution at the commencement of the attack, and depend on veratrum to reduce the pulse.

Prof. I. J. M. Goss relates that this plan was a favorite with Prof. L. D. Ford of the Augusta, Ga., Medical College, in 1843. "It relaxes the stricture of the thoracic muscles, relieves the dyspnoea and acts as an expectorant."

Prof. Goss favored a combination. He says: "In the treatment of pneumonia add ten or fifteen drops of oil of lobelia to an ounce of fluid extract of *Asclepias tuberosa*, and twenty drops of tincture of veratrum, giving one drachm of the mixture every hour till the system is relaxed and the action of the heart is controlled; then, lessening the dose and prolonging the interval will control the disease as promptly as any remedy I have ever tried.

"Combined with ipecac it will remove the tough, vitiated phlegm which coats the gastric surface at the commencement of catarrh, bronchitis, pneumonia, pleuritis and fevers. Given at the beginning of these acute diseases this combination not only removes the morbid contents of the stomach, and relaxes the cutaneous exhalants, promoting diaphoresis, but also controls the excited circulation. In pneumonia the patient is kept under its sedative influence for the first two or three days of the attack, and it frequently removes all traces of the disease."

Infantile Pneumonia.-In threatened pneumonia the value of the emetic powder applied on a larded cloth so as to cover the entire chest, is conceded. I have seen the most striking results from it in the pneumonia of infants and young children. The quick pulse, the rapid respiration, the fever, the cough, all subside very soon after the plaster is applied. Dr. W. H. Russell testifies as to its value in the adult: "I was stricken," he writes, "with pneumonia from which I recovered, but after twelve months again had symptoms of the disease-dyspnoea, cough, wheezing, and congestion of the respiratory organs. Applied compound powder of lobelia on a larded cloth. In

a short time I felt relieved, and could breathe easier. I believe it saved me from another attack of pneumonia."

Poisoning.-That lobelia is an antidote to the bites of poisonous serpents was an established belief of the Thomsonians. Worthy, writing in 1838 (Practice, p. 516), says: "The test of experience has afforded ample evidence that lobelia must be regarded as decidedly the most powerful antidote to poisons heretofore known to the profession. Examples in the South are too numerous for quotation here where lobelia has produced immediate restoration from the bite of the rattlesnake, copperhead, moccasin, and other poisonous reptiles. In all cases of poisoning the strongest preparations of lobelia should be given with an unsparing hand. Six to ten times the ordinary emetic may be required to produce the desired effect.

The following cases are reported by Dr. O. S. Laws.

Case I. Man poisoned by eating cow parsnips. The cramping pain was terrible. He was brought home apparently dead, but on lobelia being administered he revived and eventually recovered. As he began to improve before he was able to swallow, but while the medicine was being poured into his mouth, it was thought to antidote the poison which had not been ejected from the stomach.

Case II. An old soldier had a hole in the sternum from which pus oozed constantly and blood poisoning from this source was supposed to be the cause of the spasm. He was treated with specific lobelia 3 j. in half a teacupful of warm water; a teaspoonful every five minutes, till the spasms and terrible grinding of the teeth ceased. He lived thirty days but had no more spasms.

Dr. Laws calls attention to the belief of the older doctors, that lobelia is not only non-toxic, but is a general antidote to all poisons, internal and external.

Dr. W. Sims takes the ground that lobelia is the most valuable antidote in the world for the bites of poisonous serpents and insects.

There is no doubt a truth here for wide application could we "observingly distill it out". Certain remedies are antiseptic or tend to overcome the tendency to sepsis though not antidotes to any poisons by laboratory tests. Their action is probably by raising the natural antiseptic powers of the organism. It is thought, or possibly demonstrable, that the liver is a destroyer of noxious properties in the blood, and remedies that stimulate this function become antiseptics.

In general, the long line of tonics, restoratives and alteratives act by raising the resisting power of the system to the inroads of noxious germs and tend to destroy them when present by improving the quality of the secretions.

ILLITERACY OF SAMUEL THOMSON. Dr. F. W. Abbott, Taunton, Mass., writes, February 26, 1902, of Samuel Thomson, that he regards him as an, original genius and a really great man. As to his illiteracy, he is possessed of one of his letters in his own handwriting, and in its execution it will compare favorably with that of most physicians who are classed as educated.

CIMICIFUGA RACEMOSA. By W. Leming, M.D., Lexington, Ky. (*Materia Medica Reports*, January, 1909.)

Cimicifuga acts through the nervous system as a stimulant to nervous tissue, slowing the heart, increasing arterial tension and improving the circulation, removing muscular aching and nervous irritability, promoting the excretion of retained material. It is typically a uterine remedy and acts best in diseases associated with uterine congestion and pain. In chronic rheumatic pains of muscular tissue from improper excretion, or in acute muscular congestion from exposure to bad weather, it is the remedy, if used with the indicated synergist.

It is used in chorea, hypochondriasis, digestive troubles, bladder and prostate wrongs, uterine ailments, and whenever muscle is at fault.

To summarize: If muscle is involved, think of macrotys; if there are associated uterine symptoms, it is all the more indicated, especially if there is marked irritability. Now, if there is muscular aching with evidence of poor circulation and improper excretion, macrotys is the remedy.

GELSEMIUM. By J. I. Allison, M.D., Bloomington, Tenn. (*Materia Medica Reports*, March, 1906.) Abstract.

Gelsemium is, in my experience, of little or no value when there is no muscular contraction or nerve irritation. The most marked effect of the remedy is to lower tension and thereby permit a free and equal circulation of the blood. Given for this purpose it relieves pain and exerts a powerfully curative influence. It thus relieves the pain of lumbago, facial and intercostal neuralgia, and pain of every kind due to the above condition.

In retention of urine gelsemium is especially valuable, when this is due to spasm, and is a sovereign remedy in all diseases of a spasmodic nature.

As to the dose, I find that recommended by the immortal Scudder too small. It may do with some patients, and in some localities, but not here in the South in my practice.

I give eight, fifteen, or even twenty drops of the specific medicine to an adult or until I get relief or some physiological effect from the drug. I then continue the remedy in doses sufficient to keep the patient somewhat under its influence; usually gtt. xv to xx; water, ℥ iv; a teaspoonful every hour. I always discontinue the drug when the condition calling for it has passed away.

I regard gelsemium as one of the most valuable remedies we possess, and I always carry it in my medicine case. It is a steam engine, so to say, acting with power and rapidity. In the wild delirium of fever it will often afford relief and is a sure remedy for restlessness and nervousness incident to febrile complaints where the pulse is rapid; the effect is to procure a smoothing and restful sleep.

GELSEMIUM. By I. J. M. Goss, M.D. (*Chicago Medical Times*, 1884-1885, p. 401.) Abstract.

We need not look for drooped lids from three-minim doses of gelsemium. I frequently give thirty and forty minims, with only slight drooping of the lids, languor, slowing of the pulse, double vision, amblyopia and feebleness of muscular movements. It acts well in many cases of facial neuralgia without being pushed to its physiological effects. The tincture should be made from the bark of the freshly dug root, as when dried it is nearly or wholly worthless. I have used gelsemium for thirty years. In inter-mittent and remittent fever I have used it very frequently to prepare the system for the antiperiodic. I can thus procure a remission or intermission, after which I have found that quinia Or cinchonidia act with much more efficiency. I usually give twenty or thirty drops at a dose, and seldom repeat it in fever, as that quantity will produce the desired effect, that is, a complete intermission or remission. In many cases of reflex uterine and ovarian difficulties, I have found small doses, three to five drops every two or three hours, sufficient to afford relief. In rigid os uteri in labor a full dose of twenty-five or thirty drops relaxes quickly and facilitates parturition. It is of special benefit in all affections of a nervous, excitable and hysterical character in women. It is a valuable remedy in fevers of children. It is, with other remedies, valuable in overcoming that irritable state of the nerve centers consequent upon anism in either male or female subjects. In spasms it gives as quick relief as any remedy we have except lobelia, and is often preferable to it, especially where there is fever, or an excited circulation. In cases of intense congestion of the brain, with headache, this is the remedy, given in doses of two or three drops every hour, for a few hours, till thirty drops have been taken. Headache that commences in the spinal column and spreads gradually over the head, or headache with vertigo, may be relieved by gelsemium. It is a valuable remedy in ptosis and inflammatory affections of the eye. It has a fine effect in some cases of irritability of the sexual system, as in spermatorrhea without erection. It is often beneficial in nocturnal emissions. In the acute stage of

gonorrhoea, associated with aconite, it acts well in doses of three or four drops every two hours. In dysmenorrhoea, with vertigo and headache, gelsemium in warm tea will often give relief. In ovarian neuralgia five drops of gelsemium and one drop of aconite every three hours will always give satisfactory results. It is one of our best remedies for after pains. It also aids in preventing puerperal convulsions, indicated by flushed face, and dullness of expression.

In the irritable condition incident to teething in children, a half drop to one drop of tincture of gelsemium given every three hours often quiets the irritable condition, prevents spasm and controls the sympathetic fever.

ACUTE INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATISM. By J. F. Johnson, M.D., Pontiac, Ill. (*Eclectic Medical Journal*, 1886, p. 116.) Abstracted.

Case. Mrs. E., aged forty-three. Pain in elbow and wrist; severe aching between the shoulders, up the back of the neck, and towards the left shoulder; arm hot, red and swollen. Felt as if bruised at first. Face bright red, pupils contracted, scalp tender, with extreme restlessness; tongue coated with a white fur; pulse 110, full, throbbing; deep-seated aching in the bones; urine scanty, of great density and very high colored; appetite impaired; constipated; temperature 104°; profuse, sour perspiration. Having the specific indications for sticta, viz., aching pain between the shoulders, extending up the back of the head, including shoulder, large and small points of the arm, and also indications for gelsemium, I prescribed ℞ Sticta pul. gtt. xxv.; water, ℥ iv., M. S.; a teaspoonful every hour; and ℞ Gelsemium, 3 ss; water, ℥ iv. M. A teaspoonful alternating with the former, and as the symptoms improve, an hour apart. This prescription was made at midnight, and at nine next morning she was almost entirely free from pain and soreness.

Following the above and to eliminate *materies morbi*, she had salicylate of soda, citrate of potash and podophyllin.

Discharged patient on the sixth day.

PHYSIOLOGICAL ACTION OF HYDRASTIS. By J. A. Jeancon, M.D., (*Eclectic Medical Journal*, 1886, p. 265.) Abstract.

Lloyds' hydrastis, which is the drug freed from berberine, is a clear liquid, and has a direct and positive action on both healthy and diseased mucous membranes, as demonstrated by my experiments. It matters not whether the epithelial covering is intact or exfoliated, its action is always direct upon the muscular structure and its parenchyma and the blood vessels.

Muscular contraction always ensues when it is either locally applied, Or when that tissue is acted on through the blood.

When locally applied the result of the action of hydrastis is far more perceptible in mucous membranes than in the skin. I conceive it due to the difference of absorbing capacity of the epidermic cells and the epithelium of the mucous membrane, the latter exceeding the former. The mucous structures first become pale and afterward red. This is due to vascular contraction taking place, followed by anemia, and subsequently by dilatation and hyperemia. It can be used for a long time upon the healthy or diseased tissue without any detriment to their functions. It diminishes the quantity of blood in the membrane to which it is applied. The subsequent dilatation of the vessels is moderate. The result: (1) Vascular contraction, temporary anemia, and consequently diminution of secretion from the glandular organs, the epithelium remaining intact; (2) contraction of the muscular elements of the mucous membrane, which empties the veins and prevents congestion which would otherwise follow dilatation. Hence the action might be considered regulatory of the glandular activity and muscular contractility, both necessary to the normal healthy function of the mucous membranes all over the body.

LOBELIA INFLATA. By the EDITOR. (*Materia Medica Reports*, 1902.)

One of the most important uses of lobelia is for its effect on nutrition. This is the result of a direct influence on the sympathetic nervous system. It improves innervation and thereby increases the activity of all the vegetative functions. Dose, one or two drops of the tincture every two or three hours.-I. J. M. Goss.

Lobelia is one of the most powerful, vital stimulants in the materia medica. It strengthens the circulation, improves innervation, and by its influence on the sympathetic nervous system gives increased activity to all the vegetative functions. These influences come from minute doses-one drop or less. ℞ Tr. lobelia, gtt. x-xx; water, ℥ iv. M. S. A teaspoonful every one or two hours. JOHN M. SCUDDER.

Stricture of the Urethra. Mr. J., aged forty, had a chronic gleet with stricture of the urethra following gonorrhoea, which became worse and worse until he could only pass a drop of urine at a time. Several physicians had failed to pass sounds. After trying two weeks to pass sounds without success, I applied twenty drops of lobelia to the urethra, leaving it there five minutes. A No. 10 sound could now be passed. without difficulty. This treatment was continued for three weeks, when I could pass a No. 24 sound. The gleet had disappeared, and he could pass urine normally. He has remained well for two years. This treatment has been repeated in a number of cases with success. BOSKOWITZ.

Tetanus. Oil of lobelia is valuable in tetanus and some other extreme cases, as it is easy to introduce enough on the tongue to relax the whole system immediately. JOHN KING.

Tic Doloureux. In the following case at two different times the infraorbital nerve has been operated upon. At another time a portion of the superior maxillary bone was taken away and the maxillary nerve divided. The last two operations succeeded in relieving him for about one year each. At the time of treatment he was suffering from spasmodic pain in the infra-orbital foramen and spasmodic contraction of the muscles of that side of the face. The pain and contractions were very severe and persisted in spite of treatment. There was very little soreness in the face and no superficial evidence of inflammation, no bulging of the eyes, or symptoms of ulcer, or disease of the antrum. Patient strong and robust, and had no previous sickness excepting as described. In the way of treatment he had chloroform hypodermically, gelsemium till he staggered, camphor, chloral, the tissue remedies, counter irritation, electricity, antikamnia, caffeine, etc., but these were of no avail though given in frequent doses. At this stage of the case the idea occurred to relax him thoroughly with lobelia, which was done, and, as a result, the pain disappeared and did not return. He said that the remedy was worse than the disease. It is true that a toxic dose of lobelia is terrible. Specific lobelia was employed. J. B. DAVIS.

CORRESPONDENCE.

William Phillips, M.D., Jackson, O., writes, August 19, 1912: "Your request that I give my experiences with hydrastis canadensis in the treatment of Bright's disease has been received. "I advanced the idea several years ago that Bright's disease is constitutional with a local manifestation in the kidneys, as much so as tuberculosis with local conditions in the lungs.

"It is useless to direct our treatment entirely to the kidneys when the conditions leading to Bright's disease are constitutional.

Defective metabolism is the forerunner of this disease in the majority of cases. I have observed in a few instances where Bright's disease is hereditary. I have a family in mind where the father died of Bright's disease, also one son, while two other members of the family have the disease.

"To overcome the defects of gastro-intestinal digestion, as well as assimilation, I use hydrastis. The indications in Bright's disease, in the incipient stage, are a pale tongue, pasty coat at the base, offensive breath, atonic condition of the system, flabby muscles, inactive bowels, headache, dizziness, sometimes nausea and vomiting. The patient fags easily and is drowsy and

inactive. Five to ten drops of a good tincture of hydrastis, taken before meals in two tablespoonfuls of water, is the usual dose. This must be persisted in for months.

"The use of pure soft water, buttermilk, eggs, fish and fowl is recommended, but pork in any form is prohibited. Eschew alcoholics and tobacco. Give the patient a good rubbing each morning with a towel wrung out of a strong salt water. Poor circulation in the skin throws the blood on the internal organs, thereby bringing on congestion, in which process the kidneys suffer most."

G. W. Holmes, M.D., Sharpes, Fla., writes, July 27, 1912: "I have just finished reading the August report. Your selection of articles and your on pneumonia are especially interesting and valuable.

"Our last United States Census and report on Vital Statistics claims that improved hygiene and feeding had reduced the number as well as the mortality of all acute diseases except bronchitis and pneumonia. Owing to the prevalence of la grippe, the catarrhal form was greatly increased in number, and in both forms the mortality was greater than known in previous decades.

"The importance of a healthy perspiratory action in warding off pulmonary diseases can not be overestimated, and this is also true as to the treatment, especially in those cases that arise from the arrest of perspiration.

"The cause of pneumonia, which you describe in your well-written article in the *Eclectic Review* as due to arrested secretion of the skin, and the restoration of perspiration as essential to a cure, are well taken. To restore the perspiration where its suppression is the prime cause of the trouble is our main hope of arresting the disease in its incipency.

"In order to effect normal secretion we must reduce the heart's action. Prof. Howe emphasized this point. The indicated special sedative is suggested at once as necessary to the successful treatment of the case.

Dr. G. W. Holmes, Sharpes, Fla., writes:

"When I am called to treat a severe burn I begin by stimulating the skin both for its local and constitutional effect. In severe and fatal burns and scalds there is gastro-intestinal irritation, just as in thoracic troubles inflammation follows the partial suppression of the function of the skin.

"When we consider that if one-sixth of the cutaneous surface is destroyed death follows inevitably, the importance of securing a healthy condition of the skin cannot be overestimated.

"How shall we treat our cases of pneumonia so as to promote a normal perspiration? Jaborandi produces a perspiration, but it is apt to be profuse. I prefer the milder action of *asclepias tuberosa* as the effect is more nearly normal.

"I am prone to attacks of pleurisy and when la grippe seizes me pleurisy is very liable to follow. In the treatment I also apply the two-gallon jug filled with hot water to the chest as of the utmost value. It does not need renewing often if it is well wrapped.

CONCERNING THE DOSE OF HYDRASTIS. By THE EDITOR.

Dr. Mitchell's case of granulated lids, as well as the investigations of Jeancon and others, suggest a query as to the dose of hydrastis, which is often overlooked. We do not think of hydrastis as a poison, but laboratory experiments show that, taken in a sufficient quantity, it destroys life. I consider it demonstrated that with all those remedies which are poisonous in large doses we get a different action according to the size of the dose, the action of the small dose being the reverse of the large dose in a number, if not all, cases.

We easily think of a small dose of opium as a stimulant, and a large one as a narcotic, but we do not always think of applying this principle in selecting the dose of hydrastis.

Recently, in a case of menorrhagia, I directed twenty drops of specific hydrastis, to be taken at one dose, and to be repeated so as to regulate the discharge of blood. This treatment controlled

the excessive flow.

This patient was forty-six years old and approaching the menopause. The action of hydrastis in this case was to contract the terminal arteries, and to do this the dose must be large, even more than twenty drops at a time.

In a case of acute conjunctivitis with injected conjunctiva, lachrymation, intolerance of light, etc., I applied, as an experiment, one drop of Merrell's hydrastis, undiluted, to the eye. It caused some pain for a time, but was followed by marked relief of the inflammation. I count this also as the effect of a large dose in contracting the terminal vessels.

In a case of postpartum hemorrhage, where a fatal termination of the case threatened, I asked the nurse to bring me a piece of ice, which she did promptly. This I passed into the uterus and the hemorrhage stopped immediately. Here the terminal vessels were contracted on the principle that cold (ice) contracts, while a moderate temperature relaxes them.

As a restorative in cases of general debility the small dose of hydrastis is employed, as the large dose (ten drops), repeated hourly, acts as an irritant to the spinal cord producing a sensation intensely disagreeable to the patient without securing the end sought.

Dr. Ralph B. Taylor writes, September 6, 1912: "Perusing your August report, my mind was centered upon the talks on lobelia. I have had some very interesting experiences with the hypodermic use of lobelia, which I will relate, and you may use them if you like:

Case 1.-Mina P., aged three years and ten months, was taken with headache and high fever. I was called in thirty-six hours and found the temperature $103 \frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ F.; child dull and depressed by a poison from some source. After thirty-six hours of treatment, with no response, the distended condition of the abdomen caused me to fear that I had overlooked some serious abdominal lesion. Called counsel, who felt sure that the cause of all the trouble was a slight pneumonia of one lung. The brain symptoms became pronounced; pupils irregularly dilated. Did spinal puncture; fluid clear. Smear from throat showed Loeffler bacilli. Gave 3,000 units antitoxin, which had no effect.

Case grew rapidly worse. I finally concluded we would have a funeral, as I did not think she would live over night. At 5: 00 P. M. I administered about forty minims of specific lobelia, hypodermically, and at 9: 00 P. M. considered her slightly improved, and repeated the dose. This was in the evening, from which time recovery was rapid. My other treatment was the same as that generally pursued by Eclectics.

Case 2.-My second case was one of mania a potu. Patient wildly delirious; could scarcely keep him in bed; had slept none for three nights, Gave lobelia, 3 j, hypodermically, which quieted him, and he slept some; and when repeated in eight hours had a decided calming influence. In the evening gave the same large dose, 3 j, and he slept all night, and is back to work seemingly as well as before the attack.

"There is a condition in which the hypodermic use of lobelia is the remedy, but I can not describe it except that there is a complete loss of recuperative power. Some months back I intubated a case of diphtheritic croup, which had been kept on hypodermic lobelia for ten days. Intubation with 4,000 units of antitoxin had him on his feet in forty-eight hours. This was a sthenic case; no loss of power here. The boy was full of fight and vigor, and lobelia was not the remedy."

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