

The GLEANER

(A Publication of the Lloyd Laboratory)

Therapeutic Editor, A. F. STEPHENS, M.D.

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



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THE GLEANER is not a subscription publication. It is devoted mainly to problems that are of interest to physicians employing pharmaceutical preparations that are connected with the vegetable kingdom. It is designed for the members of the medical and pharmaceutical professions whose names are registered at their request, or at the request of some physician who is familiar with our publication.

Respectfully,

LLOYD BROTHERS, PHARMACISTS, INC.

THE GLEANER

Cincinnati, Ohio, February, 1925

Number 24

EDITORIAL.

THE MAN OUTSIDE

By A. F. Stephens, M.D.

Recently we noticed a printed tribute to "The Doctor," that we believe was intended for the man outside, not for the worker in the laboratory. The latter, indeed, seldom comes into actual contact with sufferers, unless it be animals on his table. Let us then give our praise to the men who take upon themselves the difficult task of directly battling with disease. Away from their kind, they struggle on alone, face to face with stubborn things, depending solely upon their own resources.

We believe that much of the real knowledge of disease and its treatment is possessed by these men who, in recent years, are, by the "elite," thoughtlessly dubbed as "ignoramuses," possessing little sense, less knowledge and no judgment. Regardless, therefore, of their qualifications or desires, they are too often bidden to drop that which they know to be effective, from actual experience at the bedside, and to turn to whatever mess is set before them. It matters not if a remedy has been established by physicians of exceptional experience and successfully used for a lifetime by a legion of other practicing physicians, if it does not fit in with "laboratory findings," it is condemned as worthless. If the physician continues to use what he knows to be of service, to the neglect of an experimental something, he becomes an "ignoramus."

Such arrogance, on the part of anyone, is colossal. A state of mind such as this is asinine. To place the stamp of disapproval upon all things not originating with one's self, is but egotistical bombast. Every man has something worth while, it may be one thing, it may be another. To cast a doubt upon the ability of another, is unworthy any man. To assume a superiority which straightway condemns established usage, without knowledge as to facts, is neither good form nor good sense. Doctors graduating from institutions of repute, are presumed to be capable of making their own selection of remedial agents. As a rule, they have been long in contact with conditions that exist, in fact, and they are better qualified to judge as to what is best, than are those who gain their knowledge only from the laboratory. They are quite capable of doing their own thinking, and will do this, instead of taking their conclusions second hand, "canned." They are full-grown men, and will not, without a protest, be relegated to the kindergarten class.

As we have said before, all men have in themselves something worth while, and should have a respectful hearing. We need the laboratory worker, we need the theorist. We need every man who works and thinks. We may even need the man who, for reasons satisfactory to himself, strays from the beaten path, seeking to discover better things in the byways. None of us need imagine ourselves to be the repository of all knowledge.

It has ever been the policy of physicians of our section in medicine to accept that which is good, from whatever source it may come. All we ask is, Is it good? Will it do the work? To make it personal, let us ask ourselves, "Why should I reject anything before I am acquainted with it?" If, for example, the ostracized drugs Echinacea, Gossypium, Cactus, Helonias, Aletris, and the like, will do certain things (and we know for a fact that they will), is it not a foolish act on my part to reject these drugs, on the assertion of someone who knows nothing whatever concerning their clinical action? What if a drug will not poison a cat, a rat, or a guinea pig? Does that prove anything regarding its therapeutic action? A nice juicy steak will not poison any man, yet it helps to sustain life.

A glass of water is absolutely non-toxic, yet it is necessary to the existence of whatever lives. Leave the physician free to select his own remedies. Let him seek for knowledge everywhere, discarding the irrational, the unreasonable, from whatever source it comes. Let us get the best there is, relying upon our own best judgment, and let us not permit the medical politician to force us into his narrow rut, lest by doing so, he thrust our patients into untimely graves.

FROM THE LABORATORY STAFF

The definition given by Lord Beaconsfield of a "practical man" as "a man who practices the errors of his forefathers," might be used by one inclined to criticise the foregoing, to which a reply from a classic author of times gone by whose name is loved by young and old, might well be given. Read AEsop's story of the dissatisfied frogs who wanted a king and prayed to Jupiter for one more active than a log of wood. In the end they got one who served them quite effectively.

Do we not sometimes create, by imagination, a thing that has no existence other than in imagination and then nurse it into what seems to us to be a living reality? Someone unknown to us, through no fault of our own, may be nursing some apparent slight or unintentional neglect that increasingly breeds estrangement. We are led to these remarks by a desire, incapable of gratification, in which we wish to thank a friend who has courteously presented us with a beautiful booklet concerning San Bernardino, California, and who was considerate enough to place therein a number of beautiful photographs of California scenes. Not only this but here and there through the booklet are penned notes indicative of the donor's acquaintance with our ideals, and which are designed for our personal gratification. Yet, notwithstanding this considerate interest, neither address nor card of this unknown friend is to be found in its pages. The beautiful remembrance must rest unacknowledged. A word by postal, the name of the sender by pen on the margin, would have permitted us the gratification of expressing our thanks to our as yet unknown friend, who is probably perplexed over our neglect.

Let this serve as a text for cases of a similar nature, among which may be included unanswered (unanswerable) communications from those who ask questions or who write on divers subjects of interest, but forget to sign their names. Such letters often concern problems of importance, but the desired information cannot be given, by reason of faulty post-office address.

When a writer fails to sign his name, as is often the case, one may imagine the annoyance of him who desires to serve the person he cannot reach. Especially -exasperating is it when such services require simply the writing of a letter, that by oversight of the questioner cannot be accomplished. In such cases the growing impatience of the inquirer, who should receive a prompt reply, is to be appreciated. He waits and waits, but there is no reply.

In some cases writers are provoked over protracted delays that are necessary. Questions that may finally be answered by a line, often require much time in research. We have on many occasions, as a necessity of the subject, spent days in library research, on others have made protracted experiments, fruitless in the end, and received before the research was completed very sharp criticisms of our seeming neglect.

It is well to bear such facts in mind and in cases where delay follows a letter requiring an answer, to drop a second card, making sure that in this the post-office address and writer's name is plainly given. If the first letter miscarried, or is defective in address or other particular, a kindness has been shown the recipient in the second communication: if there is delayed research it enables one to reply accordingly.

Newspaper Medication.-If all newspaper advice concerning what to do, and what not to do, in the direction of ailments were as balanced as the articles appearing in the Cincinnati Commercial Tribune from the pen of Dr. C. A. L. Reed, the world of readers would have no cause to regret listening to "newspaper medication" advice.

Especially does this apply to what not to do, where self-medication results in the reader's delaying to secure proper medical service until too late.

By "proper medical service" we do not mean heroic dosing of powerful drugs, but balanced treatment, which includes needed medicines as well as advice from one qualified to give it concerning sanitary methods, and, bodily care against indiscretions in living processes. In this, the crusading cry of the "Fathers," based on the Biblical command "Be thou clean," applies now, as directly as it did in times gone by, to those who needed, literally, such advice. But to our text concerning improper newspaper intrusion in medicating directions.

Before us lies a print commending a prescription that can be of possible service to physicians, only, concerning an agent that should be employed even by physicians with the utmost caution, where every facility for emergency care is at hand. The announced "Discovery" heralds widely to anyone who can read, the use of most energetic poisons as applicable to sufferers with whom no reckless experimentation should be attempted. This subject is so important that the writer of this editorial hesitates, in the GLEANER, even to name the treatment suggested and the poisons used, To this it may be added that possibly the good old processes of country physicians are all-sufficient to accomplish all that is claimed for this "Discovery," excepting the danger of death, which we take it may become the chief problem with parties who may follow the highly vaunted newspaper-advertised "Discovery."

"There still remains a need for the general practitioner, which no specialist or hospital can fully satisfy."-New York Times.

This is put very mildly, indeed. One might infer that the country physician is permitted to ply his calling merely as an occasional convenience, where there is "no specialist or hospital" to "fully satisfy."

In the opinion of the writer of this GLEANER editorial, if either party is to be annihilated or suppressed, the order should be reversed. But in our opinion, there is a real place for both, if they attend to their own affairs. Each has a field the other cannot fully occupy, and each should be an inspiration to the other, the two, together, constituting a balanced force for caring for the health of the people.

The man who either discredits the family physician because he has no million-dollar laboratory behind him, or who underrates the specialist who is fully equipped for special service through schooling and laboratory facilities, wrongs both of these servants of the people. He comes perilously near to joining hands with the reckless newspaper man, who knows as much too little as the "upper ten" (the laboratory fanatics) know too much. "Put Yourself in His Place," was, years ago, a familiar motto. Possibly it might be well for the ultra-enthusiastic laboratory expert to acquaint himself with the needs of people afar from a million-dollar institution.

A recent labored editorial from a journal of national importance, under the title "The Doctor of the Future," introduces a problem that is beginning to appeal to men who are willing to stop "politicizing," and who desire to think concerning problems of real importance to our people. The editorial under consideration may present something new to a multitude of readers, but in one sense, at least, its statements are not new to thoughtful physicians, regardless of school or of section, to wit, "Cleanliness is next to Godliness." Be that as it may, we are pleased to learn that at last the problem of cleanliness, as an essential feature in disease prevention, as well as in the line of a corrective agent, is increasingly becoming recognized as of material consequence. As a lightning rod may silently deplete a storm cloud and save a home, although no flash is evident, so cleanliness may even avert an epidemic from a home, where otherwise death would enter.

Let us extract from the Cincinnati Post, October 27, a brief reference to this "Added Course," which was so forcibly taught, years ago, by "The Old Seven." "Courses Added.

A new course of training in the 'Social Aspects of Preventive Medicine,' has been organized at the University of Cincinnati. Subjects will include the relation of poverty, bad housing conditions, congestion, and delinquency to health."

It might be added to the foregoing that the title "Be Thou Clean," has more than once been used for leading articles contributed by this writer.

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Comment on a very interesting article from the pen of Dr. M. R. Dinkelspiel* on the subject "Indiscriminate Tonsillectomy," may seem out of the province of this department of the GLEANER. However, as the Doctor maintains that "indiscriminate" anything that touches health and medication should be avoided, we consider ourselves justified. In this connection, we believe it proper to state that the man best versed in tonsil care, is not the "indiscriminate" faddist. The accomplished surgeon knows his "business," he studies the problem, and treats in a balanced way. He excises an affected organ, when necessary, but if possible he saves it by proper treatment. He may have a great reputation as an expert operator, but if facts were known, he has no less a reputation in helping persons intent on getting "cut" to avoid unnecessary surgery, where proper regulation of living methods and simple medication is all that is needed. To him by reason of knowledge gained by experience, the motto "Be Thou Temperate in all Things," stands supreme.

The introduction of our old friend Thuja" (a favorite with Professor A. J. Howe, M.D.), by Dr. Dinkelspiel, in his process of treatment, will please most of our readers. If possible, they should secure a copy of his entire article.*

* * * * *

"Life-Giving Herbs" seem to appeal to correspondents of the New York Times as "disease cures" and "youth restorers." Might not one ask, Is this anything new? Who knows of a person not dependent for existence on vegetation, or not dependent on the vital principle of vegetation, under whatever name applied? From Biblical times have we read, "The leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations." Strange, is it not, that such axioms should be either forgotten or need discussion? And by the way, if the unnamed 'herbs of India,' that this correspondent mentions are so important, might it not be well to turn to the Arabian Nights, in which the herbs of Arabia, the land of charm, are so wonderfully extolled?

In connection with this subject, it might be stated that one of the problems with which the staff of the GLEANER has to contend is that of being compelled to reply regretfully to physician questioners, "We cannot name the plant yielding the fragrant root or leaf sent us." Sometimes the origin enables us to surmise, sometimes even to confidently identify, but often we are compelled to admit that we do not know the material enclosed.

The following, from the New York Times, is highly illustrative: "One of the plants is like a small variety of box, one has fan-shaped leaves and one, from which she makes a daily drink, 'that washes the system free of its poisons and accumulations,' is just a cluster of brown stems. She would not sell me any, pleading that they are rare and hard to get, and that the yogi who supplies her will not send any for sale. She does not know their names, they come from India, Persia, . and Afghanistan."

Readers of the GLEANER will perhaps remember a like problem, presented in GLEANER 8, by a physician friend. We reproduce it, as follows:

"Question: A certain 'beauty doctor' in Paris says of an herb called 'theka,' native of India, 'The Indian women keep themselves slender and thin through its use. It cures the most obstinate cases of overweight.' What can you tell me of this plant?"

"Reply: It was only after considerable search among many volumes in the Lloyd Library that we were enabled to identify the substance called 'theka' with the well-known teak tree, *Tectona grandis*.

*Address, by M. R. Dinkelspiel, M.D., Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

While a number of writers mention 'teak,' but one, so far as we have yet found, gives it under the name 'theka,' and that but obscurely, this name appearing in Drury's Useful Plants of India, merely as the Malay name for the tree known to us as 'teak.'

Dymock's Materia Medica is the recognized authority on Indian plants, but this work does not give the name 'theka' in any place, nor does it mention the peculiar qualities claimed for it. It is of course possible that teak may possess these virtues, but from the obscure name chosen in referring to it, instead of the one by which it is so commonly known, and from the fact that those familiar with the plants of India do not refer to this quality, we do not place much credence in the statement."

* * * * *

Medical Center Needs \$4,000,000. Very modest is the aim of this "Medical Center," as reported in current print! Only four million dollars wanted, in connection with their two million "Building Fund." If one could be sure the investment would result in the teachings of established medicine, by qualified physicians, the project might appeal more directly to many who view with alarm the abandoning of the great rural population of our country, in behalf of "Institutions," worthy in their views and locations, but seemingly incapable of comprehending conditions outside the confines of a city.

Turn to GLEANER 23, page 766, and read the following:-our County is as large as the State of Connecticut," followed by the statement that only five doctors are left in that area. A subsequent letter from this physician states, "There are now only three doctors left in this county. There are not (and never have been) any 'irregular' doctors." The GLEANER is of the opinion that more than one physician seeking consultation with a brother practitioner might write in a similar manner. Might it not be well to devote a part of that \$4,000,000 to the care of localities such as this, supplying not laboratory experts but physicians who know how to practice medicine?

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In connection with the above, it may not be out of place for us to quote from a letter from a layman, appealing to us for a remedy he had formerly taken under directions of a physician, but which he is not now able to procure. He says, "I know I am feeling better since I began to use this medicine, and I don't want to get out of it if I can help it. We have no doctor in this part of the country, and I am twenty-four miles from the nearest town." .

* * * * *

Occasionally a physician asks us to supply the trade with ampuled concentrates of Specific Medicines, or with capsules of materials that we furnish only in bulk, as for example, Asepsin. Let us touch this subject lightly, because there are many sides to the problem. That which now appeals, is the fact that many physicians, and pharmacists as well, while they view with equanimity the increase due to divided amounts, yet fail to comprehend that others cannot well pay the "overhead" expense attached thereto.

For example, Asepsin, capsuled or tabuled, at the price of one dollar per hundred, four grains each, might not appear expensive, but yet would make an ounce of Asepsin cost four dollars, the price now charged being one dollar and twenty-five cents. This price, \$1.25, may even seem exorbitant to the pharmacist or physician who without a murmur would pay four dollars for the same material in tablet or ampule form. This is not an exaggerated view, because as high as \$5.00 to \$35.00 is paid, cheerfully, for a modicum of medicines or material less well established than is Asepsin.

But neglecting the question of increased cost to the consumer, the chief objection that we see to putting Asepsin in tablet form, lies in the fact that the pressure necessary to putting a powder into tablet form, might so crush the particles of Asepsin as to render them difficult of solution. Should this occur, the undissolved particles might lodge in some fold or cranny of the stomach, and there prove a source of irritation. This, however, is a question that can be solved only by direct experimentation with tablets made from this substance, and so far as we know, this has not as yet been successfully accomplished.

* * * * *

And yet, there is an argument in favor of divided doses of certain hermetically sealed products, that must not be overlooked. Many preparations, in bulk, decompose after the container is opened, sometimes even producing harmful by-products as time passes. This, under certain conditions, may be overcome by the use of air-tight tubes.

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The medical and pharmaceutical professions are now thinking in a more balanced way than formerly concerning the subject of medicines and their cost. They are beginning to comprehend more generally that the art of pharmacy is not a rule of thumb "business" that may be conducted by anyone, anywhere, who is capable of having a label printed, and who uses as a slogan the motto of the imitator, "Just as good, and cheaper."

Before us lies a letter from a physician who, without intending so to do, asks us to be responsible for untoward effects that may follow the hypodermic use of plant preparations used subcutaneously by other physicians. GLEANER 23 expresses our views on this subject. This we reproduce, as follows:

"We have no reason for changing our views concerning hypodermic intrusion on the use of preparations established in internal use. In exceptional cases, or in emergency necessities, such as intense pain demanding morphine or codeine, or in unbearable agony such as accompanies gravel of the kidney or bladder, where Gelbia is commended, urgency, all will concede, requires quick relief. Even then oral medication may be preferable after the initial injection. In our opinion, it would be well if many others would consider the problem in the balanced manner of our correspondent."

In connection with this problem may we not ask, what is the use of torturing the sick, hypodermically, in direction where a century of applied experience by thousands of physicians, and continuous observation of the effects of remedial agents, orally administered, has established both the unquestioned service of a medicine, and the harmlessness of its administration? The writer of this editorial would strenuously object to any physician injecting into the veins of a member of his family, other than as an emergency remedy, plant preparations whose therapeutic uses have been established on oral experience. Why should not this argument apply with other persons, as well?

* * * * *

Consider the End Reaction. This is an axiom in chemical research, which applies to medicine as well. What have been the many end reactions with such substances as 606? Probably the numbers of people blinded or otherwise distressed by the use of this arsenical compound would astonish everyone, could the record be published. If the graveyards of the world could speak, the voices therefrom might be both loud and clear. The ghost of the physician of times gone by, now so harshly condemned for his "bleeding, blistering and salivating processes, might perhaps ask, "What did I ever do that can be compared with some of the modern fads and fancies?" But to our text. Please do not ask us to assume any responsibility whatever in hypodermic directions, where plant preparations of our laboratory, prepared for oral administration as thus established by a century of use, are employed hypodermically.

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The emphasis we place upon this subject, might lead one to imagine that deaths by certain agents unmentioned, due to the hypodermic use of one or more of our laboratory products, have been reported. This is not the case. If deaths have resulted from this cause, we do not know of them. Not one has been so reported. But what we do know is, that our plant preparations have been established internally, by unimpeachable authorities, which includes many thousands of practicing physicians. Believing that reckless hypodermic experimentation is unnecessary, and may even be harmful, we propose to make our position clear.

* * * * *

Somewhat in line with the problem of "divided doses," be these in capsule, pill, or tablet form, is the question asked by a physician of extensive practice, who uses the Specific Medicines satisfactorily, and is desirous of tableting a formula he has long employed in grippe.

This physician writes, "I had ten thousand tablets made, and cannot get any results." To this he adds, "I have used the formula for years (Specific Medicines), and am sorry if tablets will not answer, as it is results I am after. "

* * * * *

This suggests the question, "Does not the desire for 'results' apply to every remedial agent used by physicians?" Our laboratory force, at any rate, accepts that every bottle of whatever is therein made, may somewhere save a life, if the physician gets what he should have. The man who, to sell his wares, employs the slogan, "Just as good and cheaper," may thereby put a few extra cents into his pocket, but through his process physicians may put a few patients into their graves.

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Concerning Laboratory Processes. We take it other medicine makers, as well as ourselves, are continually confronted with questions from persons who do not distinguish between processes and constituents. Nor do they comprehend that the processes of a manufacturing establishment are more precious than the stock of materials in hand. To put it plainly, in our opinion the expense of establishing a perfect process far outclasses the inventory value of the item, when stock is taken. Years ago, a manufacturing chemist was reported to have paid ten thousand dollars for a process improvement on his method of making a very well-known preparation that for decades had been with him a specialty. Even this amount is small, as contrasted with processes employed in making some products used by people generally. An experienced professor of chemistry, discussing the above statement, cited a case where over half a million dollars were paid by a manufacturer for an improved process of producing a staple used by the people. Governments are business establishments, and are ever seeking new processes in connection with explosives and related products. The processes, no less than the products, are kept in strict secrecy, awaiting a time of need.

* * * * *

As we write, comes an announcement from the Department of Health, Ottawa, Canada, recording regulations governing medicines. From it we abstract a most vital sentence, as follows:-

"The following shall apply to the labeling of any drug which is manufactured, sold, or offered for sale. The following shall be printed in easily legible type with distinct visibility:

"A complete list of the medicinal ingredients contained therein, employing for this purpose the names by which these ingredients are commonly known.

"The label must not represent that the preparation is a cure for any disease, or bear any device or statement whereby the purchaser may be deceived as to the character of the article. "

In this connection we will state that the house of Lloyd Brothers has for decades drawn the line between a remedy used to "cure" a disease, and a remedy employed in the "treatment" of that disease. As a further remark we may add that the discriminating physician is thereby made the judge as to when, and where, a therapeutic agent is to be employed.

GLEANINGS AND COMMENTS

LITHIUM BENZOATE SOLUTION AND VESICARIA (Contributed)

I have read with much pleasure in GLEANER 23 Dr. Webster's article on Lithium Benzoate, and am much pleased to find this old and apparently nearly forgotten remedy coming to life again. During the past twenty-five years of my practice, I, too, have had much experience with Benzoate of Lithium, which I have used extensively in gall-bladder trouble, also in renal colic and renal calculus, but I have found the most important indications for its use in nephritic conditions. Here it will probably do more good when the cells are not too much broken down, than any other remedy I have ever used. It certainly acts wonderfully in eliminating the albumen, and with care on the patient's part (and a practically salt-free diet), avoiding meats of all kinds, I have found it almost a specific.

Benzoate of Lithium is also very beneficial in all cases of highly acid urine. It can be used in connection with the indicated remedy in chronic and acute cystitis and frequent urination, as well as in diabetes insipidus. In nephritic conditions, I use it in connection with some good preparation of Vesicaria. This is another nearly forgotten remedy, but I feel sure that if the profession were -fully aware of the curative power of Vesicaria, used in connection with Benzoate of Lithium in the acute stages of albuminaria, together with a proper diet, they would find it wonderfully effective in the treatment of the various stages of Bright's disease, especially when the indications for its use are properly diagnosed.

Comment: The physician contributing the above item has long been known to us, personally and professionally, and it gives us pleasure to present his testimony in favor of two remedies that were favorites in the olden time, in treatment of kidney and urinary troubles, but are now well-nigh forgotten. Vesicaria is prepared from the fruit of the *Physalis Alkekengi*, and under the name "Fructus Alkekengi," it was a favorite in German pharmacy.

THE GRAPEVINE IN DROPSY

(Contributed)

Referring to your inquiry on this subject in GLEANER 23, I will say that if you have a copy of Dr. Gunn's Family Physician, you will find that he reports a case (if my memory is correct it was dropsy), treated with grapevine root ashes. Dr. Gunn was a Cincinnati physician following the Civil War, and had his office on Sixth Street, near Vine. There were several editions of his work, but the one to which I had access must have been issued sometime during the '70's. I started reading this as a kid, and particularly remember this case because there were on my father's premises two long arbors of grapevines, and I proposed converting into ashes the roots and vines, with a view to curing all the dropsy in the State. This proposition was promptly vetoed by my father, on the ground that grape wine was good for some kinds of indigestion, a good flavoring agent in the kitchen, a good vehicle for some kinds of medicines, and that it did not come amiss in entertaining friends, and besides, that it was mentioned in the Bible. Furthermore, if my recollection is correct, Dr. Gunn was called to Louisville, Ky., in consultation on this case after it had passed to a serious stage, and effected a cure by means of the grapevine ashes.

DIGITALIS AND APOCYNUM COMBINED

(Contributed)

GLEANER 23 has the question, "Will Digitalis assist or counteract the action of Apocynum?" I have recently treated a bad case of dropsy and valvular insufficiency in a woman of 67. On my first visit I found her tormented by constant nausea and frequent vomiting. The dropsy had advanced to the waist, and she could not sleep in bed, being compelled to rest in a large chair. There was loud rattling in the lungs, and an annoying and exhausting cough. For the catarrhal condition of the lungs I prescribed Antimonium tartaricum, third decimal trituration, and for the vomiting and the rapid, irregular heart, Specific Medicine Digitalis, gtt. xv in water ℥iv, a teaspoonful of the mixture every hour. The catarrhal condition of the lungs was relieved, and the cough ceased. The Digitalis relieved the vomiting, but the dropsy increased. For this condition I now prescribed Specific Medicine Apocynum gtt. xv in water ℥iv, teaspoonful doses of the mixture being given every two hours, in alternation with the former prescription of Digitalis, now to be given every two hours. Rapid improvement followed.

Digitalis acts upon the heart and kidneys, and controls deathly nausea and vomiting. These were the chief symptoms in this case that called for Digitalis. Apocynum acts specifically upon an inactive liver, and the two drugs are complementary. I never like to mix two or more drugs in one prescription, for when thus given, we do not know what chemical reaction takes place in the system or the mixture.

SPECIFIC MEDICINE APOCYNUM

A Question of Pharmacy

Question: Recently I purchased a small stock of the Specific Medicines, Apocynum among the number. In dispensing this, 3 ss to 3i in ℥iv of water, I notice that in a day or two there is a flocculent precipitate, resembling what is commonly called "mother" in vinegar, that will not remix with the menstruum on agitation. Is this the common behavior of this and other of the Specific Medicines?

Reply: The precipitate that gradually forms is due to the fact that in the water, the constituents of the drug tend gradually to rearrange themselves, and to become insoluble. Should this occur, the patient should be directed to stir the mixture carefully before taking each dose, that the full therapeutic value of the medicine may be received.

APOCYNUM CANNABINUM

Question: I am sending specimen of a milk weed growing near here, which is used by many people as a digestant and general tonic, also for rheumatism. Will you kindly tell me its name?

Reply: This is Apocynum cannabinum, the official species of the plant, from the root of which we make Specific Medicine Apocynum. Its common names are Canadian Hemp and Bitter Root. It is also known, locally, as Indian Hemp" because of the use of the fibrous bark by the American Indians, but this name has led to much confusion and should never be applied to it. The medicinal uses of this plant are as given upon the label following:

Specific Medicine Apocynum, Colloidum

Indications: Edema of cellular tissue, especially swelling of the feet. Use: A prominent remedy in dropsy; a remedy in some cases of menorrhagia, and in rheumatism and neuralgia, when the indications named are present.'

Dose: ℞ Sp. Med. Apocynum, gtt. x to 3i.
 Water, ℥iv.

Misc.

Sig.: A teaspoonful of the dilution every three hours.

Specific Medicine Apocynum is the only clean preparation of Apocynum known to us that carries its full qualities, minim to grain, and will not change. It mixes clear with water, syrup, glycerin, alcohol, and all neutral liquids that mix clear with water. It is nearly odorless, bitter, and of a brilliant amber color. Apocynum does not depend for its value on anyone alkaloid, glucosid, resin, oil, or other constituent, but on complex indifferent organic bodies, that resist isolation by reason of their readiness to dissociate.

This is a remedy in dropsy. The special indication for it in other cases is fullness of cellular tissue, edema. It is a prominent remedy in rheumatism, rheumatic neuralgia, disease of joints, disease of mucous membranes, and always characterized by atony of the sympathetic nervous system, the special indications above named being present. It is a true specific for that atonic condition of the blood vessels that permits exudation, causing dropsy.

Valuable in many troubles incident to women, indicated by a full relaxed uterus, with watery menstrual flow or watery leucorrhea. It is never the remedy for active conditions, but in that atonic state which permits free exudation from the blood vessels, indicated by the flabby and infiltrated tissues, it is a positive remedy. The relief experienced in painful affections of the heart, associated with edema, and the irritable heart of the smoker, point to apocynum as a decided cardiac sedative and tonic.-Felter.

SPONGIA FOR COLDS

(Contributed)

I have for years been using Spongia for coughs and colds, and also in some cases of goitre, and have had good results. I am sending you the Poultry Doctor, published by Boericke & Tafel, giving the Homeopathic indications for this remedy, which is much used in treatment of ailing fowls.

The druggists in this section sell quite a lot of it for this purpose. The indications for the use of *Spongia*, according to the volume* placed in our hands by our physician correspondent, are as follows:-

Spongia Tosta. Headache in back part of the head. Membranous croup, suffocating attacks, barking cough. Thick, offensive, viscous mucus. Laryngismus stridulus. Inflammation of the larynx, trachea and bronchia. Chronic cough, violent attacks, brought up small, hard tubercle. Asthma. Wheezing, laboring breath.-Herpes.

BOLDO, GREEN LEAF PREPARATION

Question: In 1911 from the pharmacy of J. T. Millikin, of St. Louis, I procured a fluid extract of Boldo, made from the green leaves. This I continued to use with much success in treatment of liver involvement until after the death of Mr. Millikin, when the supply became exhausted. This preparation was introduced in that year from Africa by a returning missionary who brought it for a friend with Bright's disease, who fully recovered under its use. This man was a friend of Mr. Millikin, who after this demonstration of its virtues arranged for securing a supply from the country from which it was first obtained. The preparation is now made from the dried leaves, and does not give the same effect. Can you make or procure for me any preparation of this green-leaf Boldo?

Reply: Some years ago, we discontinued the making of Boldo preparations, because of the uncertainty regarding the crude drug supply. We remember very well Mr. J. T. Millikin and his admirable pharmacy, and it interests us much to note his connection with the introduction into this country of the Boldo preparation made from the green leaves.

CACTUS, ALONE OR COMBINED WITH CRATAEGUS

(Contributed)

I have found Cactus exceptionally valuable in correcting intermittent pulse from cardiac atonicity. For instance, a boy of thirteen, emulating a vigorous older brother in strenuous athletic sports, became greatly prostrated, pulse feeble, slow\ irregular, dropping every fourth or fifth beat. Thirty minims of Specific Medicine Cactus in four ounces of water, teaspoonful doses four times daily, soon restored cardiac conditions to normal. Another patient, Mrs. C., aged sixty, in weak, physical condition, subjected to nervous strain, developed irregular heart action, dropping pulse beats at longer or shorter intervals. Cactus with Crataegus in the usual small dosage speedily corrected the condition.

I have also found Cactus valuable in organic valve affections with faulty innervation. Mrs. J., mitral incompetence, dilatation, with failing compensation, had frequent attacks, 'especially on retiring, of rapid and irregular heart action, with dyspnea. I put her on Cactus, reinforced by Crataegus and Convallaria. Result, a remarkable improvement in cardiac action, and freedom from the distressing nightly attacks, when death seemed impending. Laboratory provings on animals in health may show cactus to be one of the inert drugs. Clinical provings demonstrate indisputably its marked therapeutic value.

Comments: When "Cactus" was first supplied to physicians in 1867, with the original "Specific Medicine Cactus" label, the drug employed in our establishment (and species yet employed) was obtained from a greenhouse near Cincinnati under the name "Cactus grandiflorus." This was the so-called "Night Blooming Cereus," always popular when in bloom by reason of its showy flowers. This plant is native to Mexico, from which it was obtained by horticulturalists as a showy blossom plant. The name "Cactus grandiflorus," under which it became established, was applied to it by florists. but so far as we know, the museum type, as named by Linnaeus *Cactus grandiflorus*, is not now, nor has it ever been by us, employed. Since 1867, our original label "Cactus" has never been changed, nor has there ever been any drug preparation supplied by us under that name other than that from the Mexican species. *

*The Poultry Doctor. Boericke & Tafel, Philadelphia, 1891.

*By authority of Dr. J. N. Rose, of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., this species is named *Selenicereus spinulosus*.

SPECIFIC MEDICINE CACTUS

Supplemental to our Drug Treatise on Cactus (sent free to physicians, on application), we present the following by Professor H. W. Felter, M.D., as of exceptional interest to our physician friends.

It appeared in the pages of the E. M. Journal in 1912.-Ed. The form of Cactus employed by Eclectic physicians is Specific Medicine Cactus, a beautiful green alcoholic preparation made from the green stems of Mexican Cactus grandiflorus. A form of the remedy prepared from cactus flowers is valued by some, but is little employed as compared with the green stem preparation, which is a fully representative medicine.

Cactus is primarily a nerve remedy, acting secondarily upon the heart, and to a lesser extent upon the blood vessels. It acts upon the circulatory mechanism by impressing the intra-cardiac ganglia and accelerator nerves, through its control over the great cardiac plexus of the sympathetic. It appears to interfere little, if any, with the inhibitory centers, nor does it very greatly impress the vasomotor control. Unlike Digitalis, it shortens the ventricular diastole, quickening the pulse and thereby, rather than by vasomotor effects, increases blood pressure. Besides this action on the circulatory nervous apparatus, it stimulates the spinal nerve centers and gives increased tone to the nervous structures. Clinically, it is the ideal remedy for heart weakness due to enervation, and for the control of nervous depression. The experience of Eclectic physicians, whose interest, centering largely in drug medication, has made them competent observers, shows that the chief value of Cactus lies in its power to control the nervous element and all that depends upon it in functional disorders of the heart, and that for organic troubles of that organ it is less valuable, but it is extremely useful in controlling the nervous phenomena naturally dependent upon such disorders, and in such as can be ameliorated, by increasing the nutrition of the heart muscle. While curative in the majority of functional cardiac disorders, it is chiefly palliative in structural wrongs of the heart, and must not be expected to repair damaged valves, enlarge stenotic contractures, constrict expanded rings (only relatively), and repair degenerated heart muscle. However, its control over the action of the organ tends to better many of these conditions, through the increased nutrition it affords, and thus it makes these torments of life bearable. On the other hand, old school physicians look upon Cactus as being of as much value for organic as for functional cardiac disorders.

The effects of Cactus are nutritional, and quite permanent. It increases nutrition of the cardiac muscle, augments the contractile power, and regulates irregular movements. In this day, when Cactus has been assailed by laboratory workers as devoid of therapeutic powers, we are glad to place our endorsement upon the statement of Professor R. W. Wilcox when he says: "Cactus has a sphere of action entirely its own, not however replacing other remedies for cardiac disease, though it is useful in many cases where these drugs are not only dangerous, but absolutely contraindicated. Failures to obtain results depend upon the fact that many adulterated specimens are found in the shops, or upon the use of inert, dried material. If made from the green plant, as it should always be, the preparation is of a peculiar green color. Cactus is the only known remedy which will quicken a slow heart. It deserves better recognition in cases of this kind, though few, indeed, present themselves, for in such it oftentimes yields brilliant results." (Pharmacology and Materia Medica.)

The chief uses for Cactus are: (1) As a cardiac governor in functional disorders where weakness due to nervous impairment is marked and in organic heart disease as a palliative remedy to control the nervous phases and to increase the muscle-tonus of the heart; (2) in depressed conditions of the nervous system with weak heart and poor brain circulation, interfering largely with all the body functions. The specific indications for Cactus are: (1) Impaired heart action, whether feeble, violent, or irregular; (2) heart weakness, functional in character and dependent upon abuse of other functions; (3) cardiac disorders, with nervousness, precordial oppression, anxiety, and apprehension of danger or death; (4) tobacco heart; (5) "army heart;" heart-tire and other forms of muscular cardiac weakness, due to lowered innervation and muscle fatigue; (6) sense of constriction as if a band were around the heart region or any other part of the body;

(7) dyspnea, with cardiac palpitation; (8) marked mental depression, with precordial oppression, sense of weight and constriction, difficult breathing and hypochondria.

1. As a Cardiac Remedy. Cactus will slow a fast heart due to nervous or cardiac weakness, and will likewise stimulate a slow heart, due to over-stimulation of the sympathetic, or to muscular degeneration, to increased action. It seems to matter little whether the heart action be feeble, violent, or irregular, provided the underlying cause is lack of innervation, associated with mental depression. In excitable or nervous individuals it relieves because of its therapeutic tendency to promote normal rhythmic action of the heart muscle. Thus we find Cactus of the utmost importance in the treatment of functional cardiac irregularities, as pain and palpitation, whether purely nervous or due to excesses, exhaustion, or dyspeptic association. In the latter instance, it is of course only of relative importance, for the gastric disturbance demands primary attention. We find it of great usefulness in cardiac dyspnea, rhythmic intermission, spasm of the heart muscle, heart stitches (pseudo-angina pectoris), all of these associated with the sense of constriction. In true angina pectoris it sometimes relieves, and is especially valuable in cardiac neuralgia and rheumatism when associated with marked enervation. It is of the utmost importance, and this point we would strongly emphasize, in the heart weakness following typhoid fever, pneumonia, la grippe, and other exhausting diseases, when valvular incompetency threatens, the heart muscle is impaired, and the nerve force is low. It is especially useful in the cardiac exhaustion following in the wake of excesses-the toper's heart, the smoker's heart, the heart worn from sexual exhaustion, masturbation, and the muscle exhaustion from bicycle riding, or the soldier on long marches, and the brain worker, and of the fretted heart of worry and sorrow, and the disordered heart of the tea or coffee victim., It sustains the heart during fevers, in endocarditis and in pericarditis. Though not curative in the following, it alleviates and gives nerve strength and comfort; fatty degeneration, aortic and mitral regurgitation and valvular insufficiency. It is universally agreed upon that it acts unfavorably in mitral stenosis. Persistent subnormal temperature has been corrected by Cactus, and it relieves the unpleasant palpitations in Graves' disease. Cactus gives more blood to the organs by improving the heart action, hence the nutrition of the nerve centers of the whole body is reinforced, and better health results. However, remember that it is only relatively useful in structural heart disease, but that it is yet most serviceable.

2. In the Neuroses. Cactus is a leader in functional nerve disorders, with depression. It acts much like Pulsatilla, their indications being closely similar. If nervousness be associated with cardiac symptoms, Cactus is all the more efficient. It increases the blood supply, and hence the nutrition of that organ and the nerve tissues. In our opinion, the greatest value of Cactus as a remedial agent lies in its power to control the nervous element of cardiac, as well as other forms of diseases. Cactus improves innervation, and is thus the logical remedy for enervation. Gloomy thoughts, despondency, melancholia, tendency to view life darkly, apprehension of impending danger or death, fear of insanity, irascibility, vague fears and extreme sensitiveness, frequently fade away under the use of Cactus. A very common and direct indication is that already noted-a sense of a band-like or vise-like constriction in any part of the body. Cactus is one of the very best agents with which to combat the nervous exhaustion consequent upon excesses of tobacco, tea, coffee, liquor, and venery, brain-tire, brain-fog, weakness from overwork, and nervous exhaustion from hemorrhage. Few agents are more satisfying in meeting the needs of the woman at the menopause, in those distressing phenomena. that make life a burden-nervous oppression, headache at the vertex, heart palpitation, dyspnea upon the least exertion, hot flashes, cerebral fullness and outbursts of emotion and temper. During the active menstrual life of woman, Cactus relieves many of the neurotic symptoms, when due to enervation and association with irregular action of the heart, or due to menorrhagia. For menstrual headache, with pressure at the top of the head, it is most serviceable. For the nervous weakness of the aged, Cactus is unexcelled, and in the only case of Raynaud's disease in which we obtained satisfactory results, Cactus alone was used, with the result of keeping the circulation of the fingers free from vasomotor spasms. No neurasthenic should be given up without a thorough trial of Cactus. It has recently been praised in epilepsy. The dose of Specific Medicine Cactus is from the fraction of a drop, to ten drops.

It is promptly absorbed, for the action begins in a few minutes after it is thrown under the skin of an animal. It affects the system and causes tetanic convulsions in one-half the time necessary for the official fluid extract to produce an impression, and it has about twice the strength of the latter. (See note.)

GENITO-URINARY DISEASES-(BY PROF. WM. JUDKINS).

For Ulcerated Cervix.-Saturate a tampon of absorbent cotton with the solution, full strength, and apply every third day through a speculum, allowing it to remain in situ, 24 hours. During the interval, use an injection of one ounce of Lloyd's Hydrastis in a pint of warm water, morning and evening.

In Leucorrhoea.-Inject a solution of one or two ounces of Lloyd's Hydrastis in a pint of water, two or three times daily.

For Chancroids and Chancres.-Apply with a cotton mop, full strength. Immediate benefits will result.

In Gonorrhoea,-Dissolve one grain each of acetate of zinc and acetate of lead in a mixture of seven drachms of water and one drachm of Lloyd's Hydrastis. Use as an injection. Acute and chronic cases yield in a short time, compared with former modes of treatment.

THROAT DISEASES-(Uses in Throat, Ear, and Eye, By PROF. ROBERT SATTLER.) In simple Catarrhal and Granular Pharyngitis, Rhinitis, also in the more acute ulcerative or aphthous varieties of catarrhal inflammation of the pharynx, tonsils and retro-pharynx. Mix one ounce of Lloyd's Hydrastis with four or six ounces of water, and use as a spray; or mix one ounce with two ounces of mucilage of Acacia and five ounces of water, and use as a gargle and wash; in warm weather, add a few drops of Carbolic Acid to preserve the mixture.

In Subacute and Chronic Naso-Pharyngeal Catarrh, the above spray application has a most beneficent effect, where the mucous membrane is dry and parched, and the secretions are altered in quality and quantity. In the hypertrophic form of this troublesome affection, with profuse discharge, and thickening of the mucous lining of the nose and retro-pharynx, it may be used in stronger solution, equal parts of Lloyd's Hydrastis and water, or even stronger.

In many cases, astringent or antiseptic remedies may be combined with the spray or gargle, among the best (antiseptic) being the addition of from four to six grains of sulpho-carbolate of soda or zinc to each fluid ounce of the spray liquid; and the best astringent combination being-Lloyd's Hydrastis, one fluid ounce; Aqueous fluid extract of Pinus Canadensis, half fluid ounce; distilled water, six and a half fluid ounces. Mix.

EYE DISEASES-Catarrhal and Purulent Conjunctivitis, in their various forms. A useful, cleansing, and soothing remedy is Lloyd's Hydrastis, half a fluid ounce; water, eleven fluid ounces; use as a wash and to bathe the eye.

EAR DISEASES-Chronic Otitis Media Purulenta, in some forms, with profuse Mucopurulent Discharge. Half an ounce of Lloyd's Hydrastis to six or eight ounces of water; or One ounce of Lloyd's Hydrastis, four ounces of creosote water, and five ounces of water.

Use either of the above, as a wash by syringe, or drop ten or fifteen drops into the ear after syringing, twice a day. In some cases combination with salts of zinc is desirable.

INTERNALLY-In Atonic Dyspepsia, in Anorexia and in Fermentative Dyspepsia.-Under proper dietetic restrictions, give before each meal, a teaspoonful of the following mixture: Sp. Med. Nux Vomica, gtt. xx; Podophyllum, 3ss; Lloyd's Hydrastis, ℥j; Distilled Water, ℥j. Some forms of Dyspepsia are immediately relieved.

In Chronic Gastritis and Gastric Catarrh.-Give 10-drop doses of Lloyd's Hydrastis three times a day, in a little water.

In the Vomiting of Pregnancy.-Give 20 to 40 drops of Lloyd's Hydrastis in a little water an hour before rising.

In Malarial Troubles.-Associate Lloyd's Hydrastis with quinine or cinchonidia. You can cure intermittents with a third less quinine, and avoid cinchonism.

The following will be found reliable: Quinine, ʒss; Lloyd's Hydrastis, ʒss; Elix. Simplex, q. s. to make ℥iv. A teaspoonful every two or three hours.

In Convalescing, it is a good tonic, in doses of from 5 to 20 drops in water or milk, three times a day. It acts kindly on the intestinal mucous membrane, and is strongly indicated in imperfect recoveries from diarrhea, dysentery, etc.

NOTE.-Lloyd's Hydrastis, when diluted, may develop an organic growth in a few weeks' time from fungoid air germs; hence only enough should be diluted to last for a week or two. The toxic action mentioned by Professor Bartholow was, years ago, overcome by us by reducing the proportion of the poisonous alkaloid hydrastine which constituted the irritating constituent.

SOME VALUABLE REMEDIES

(Contributed)

Thanks for GLEANER 16, just received. I find in it much valuable information, especially in the paragraphs on Gelbia. If this proves to be a perfect substitute for Morphine, it will certainly be a God-send to us Homeopaths and Eclectics who so bitterly detest the almost universal use of that drug.

I am also much interested in the articles on Veratrum. As you know, there are two varieties of this drug, Veratrum viride, which I presume is the one used by the Eclectics. This I have used in croupal pneumonia of children and in erysipelas, also in heart troubles and eczema. But Veratrum album acts largely on the diseases of the alimentary canal, in gastritis, and cholera morbus, and, in small doses, in cholera. The patient will often break into a cold sweat, especially of the head, and in such cases will often weaken very rapidly.

In Calendula, the old-fashioned double marigold, we have a grand remedy for all cuts, bruises and open sores. Fresh cuts and bruises yield under its influence. The Homeopaths have used it for many years.

Comment: We make no preparation from Veratrum album, which is now but little used. Specific Medicine Veratrum is made, as our correspondent infers, from Veratrum viride. Its uses are discussed in our Drug Treatises on Veratrum. sent free to physicians, on application.

It is nowhere affirmed that Gelbia is a "complete" substitute for Morphine. It has been found, however, so to alleviate the pains for which Morphine is so frequently administered, as to minimize the use of that dangerous narcotic. This is especially true in the relief it affords from the pain of renal calculus, and the sufferer need have no fear of forming a habit ten-fold worse than the trouble for which the Morphine is too often administered.

Gelbia's field of influence is as described on the label following, and in literature that we will take pleasure in mailing to physicians requesting the same. We consider "Gelbia" to be an emergency remedy of value and continue it in our hypodermic list.

GELBIA

A Compound Representing Subculoyd Gelsemium, I Part, and Subculoyd Lobelia, 3 Parts
For Hypodermic Use A Subculoyd used in treatment of spasm of any part of the urinary tract-as in the passage of a renal calculus, or the very acute forms of cystitis and urethritis. It facilitates the passage of a renal calculus and relieves the pain in a remarkable manner. The dose injection is 20 to 30 minims. It can be repeated every few minutes until drooping of the upper eyelids develops.-Welbourn.

SUBCULOYD LOBELIA IN TETANUS

(Contributed)

I am sure I have helped save several lives with Subculoyd Lobelia. I will report but one case, as I don't wish to bother you. This was a boy, sixteen, who had had lockjaw for three days when I first saw him. The spasms were beginning to crush out the heart's action, and he looked as if he were dying.

I told the attending physician I had never used this remedy in tetanus, but it could do no harm, as it seemed to me there was no chance of recovery, and the patient would die soon. He was given syringeful doses of the remedy, nearly a bottle being given during the night. In the morning he was still living and circulation was better. After a few more doses he came out O. K., and is now a big, strapping six-footer. I have never had any ill effects from the use of Subculoyd Lobelia in any patient.

Comment: Subculoyd Lobelia is continued in our list of plant hypodermics. Continued reports support our correspondent's experience. We consider Subculoyd Lobelia an established standard.

POTATO PARINGS AS A PARACITICIDE (Contributed)

In looking over some old papers lately, I found my old formula for destroying lice of all kinds, either head, body, or pubis lice, by means of potato parings. Boil a quart of the parings of mature potatoes in three pints of water in a covered vessel for an hour and a half, and when cool, drain off the water. Thoroughly wet the scalp and hair with the solution. It does the work.

Comment: An acrid alkaloid, solnine, is found in both potato peelings and the young sprouts. This is especially abundant if potatoes are allowed to sprout in a dark cellar. In the year 1894, the writer of this comment made a study of this alkaloid, describing and illustrating it in the American Journal of Pharmacy.

DEWEES' PODOPHYLLUM LAXATIVE

Question: Please send me literature on Elixir of Podophyllum, which seems to be replacing Cascara in treatment of chronic constipation.

Reply: This remedy, improved under the name "Dewees Laxative," was perfected and introduced by us at the request of Dr. N. M. Dewees, who had long used in his practice a preparation made by himself from the drug. From Articles that Interest Physicians, No. 91, we reproduce the following condensed report of its uses, written at our request by Dr. Dewees:

The following case reports will best illustrate my use of this medicine. In each case there were strong indications for Podophyllum. Professor Locke said of this remedy, "Its action reaches every part of the body," and in my experience this statement comes nearer being true of Podophyllum than of any other remedy with which I am acquainted.

Case 1. Mrs. D., aged 52, stoutly built, complained of spells of sick headache, occurring every two or three weeks. During these seizures, quantities of gall were vomited. After quieting the stomach with small doses of Specific Medicine Colocynth (gtt. iii to v in $\frac{3}{4}$ iv of water, giving the mixture in teaspoonful doses, as desired), Podophyllum was prescribed, to be taken 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. For a year there was no recurrence of the seizures. She was then supplied with more of the medicine, to be taken as before, and had no more trouble of this kind for more than two years, when she ran out of the medicine. As I had moved away, another physician was called. She continued to grow worse and an operation for gall stones was decided upon. This resulted fatally.

Case 2. A case parallel to the above. Mrs. M., aged 46, has had attacks of bilious vomiting every few weeks for fifteen years, but without constipation. Podophyllum Laxative was prescribed three times a week, after a while once a week. As long as she uses the medicine, she has no trouble.

Case 3. A lady 85 years of age. Had been troubled with burning of the feet for years, to such an extent that in order to sleep she was forced to put them from under the cover. Podophyllum Laxative was prescribed, at night, in the usual dose. After the bowels had moved, the medicine was to be taken once or twice a week, as needed. Relief was prompt, and the trouble has not recurred.

Case 4. Burning of feet at night, as in case 3. Treatment the same, and with the same results.

Case 5. Mrs. H., aged 48. Pain in feet toward evening. Patient complained that her feet "gave out," and pained her when she had to be on them at her work during the day. Prompt relief from the remedy, administered as before.

Case 6. Mr. H., mill worker, aged 56. Complained of pain in the feet, ankles, and shin, and sometimes in the right knee. Had been forced to quit work, and had been treated by many physicians without relief. Prompt and permanent relief followed the administration of this remedy.

Case 7. John W., aged 78, an old soldier suffering from a very severe attack of dysentery, accompanied by sickening, griping pains in the bowels, with frequent desire to go to stool, and passing nothing but mucus and blood; was very dizzy. Elixir of Podophyllum was given every six hours until the bowels acted freely, then less often. I never gave medicine with better results than in this case.

Case 8. Charles c., aged 24, mill worker. Had been sick about a week. Complained of nausea and vomiting, some fever, severe pains in the knees, ankles, and feet, no swelling. Skin very yellow, but after a thorough examination I decided there was no structural lesion of the liver. I prescribed Podophyllum Laxative three times a day. The next day there was no nausea and the patient was free from pain. The third morning I found him at table, eating his breakfast. The bowels had moved twice. His skin was much lighter in color, and he was much improved in every way. He was instructed to leave off the medicine for two days, then to take a teaspoonful every other night for a week. In a week's time he was able to go to work again and has not lost a day since.

Children recovering from eruptive diseases often reach a stage where convalescence ceases. There is no fever, but the little patient will not take food. The abdomen is full, the upper lip is swollen, the mucous membrane of the under side of the lip looks almost like a blister. We have all had such cases. Here, the restorative is Podophyllum, in small doses.

When indicated, I have given Podophyllum to patients, without inconvenience, where the stomach was so irritable that no sweets nor starchy foods could be taken without great distress from souring. When there are acid accumulations in the stomach and bowels and you wish to give this medicine, do not give Bicarbonate of Soda first, as Podophyllum will not act kindly in the presence of carbon dioxide. In such cases, give magnesium oxide, in full doses, for a day or two.

Contra Indication. One of Dr. Scudder's indications for podophyllum was, a moist tongue. In some cases where the mouth and tongue look moist, this medicine makes the tongue, mouth, throat, and esophagus sore. This does not often happen, but it has given me a good deal of trouble. I thought the cause must be an idiosyncrasy of the patient, but found it was due to a certain condition of the structures. There are times when the secretion of the salivary glands is scanty, and the mucous structures are partly denuded of their epithelium. In this condition, the Podophyllum sets up an inflammation that is anything but pleasant. A close inspection of the tongue will show whether this medicine may or may not be given. If in doubt, try the secretion of the tongue with blue litmus paper. If acid, do not give this remedy until that condition is corrected.

Indications for Dewees' Laxative. Here may be placed all of Dr. Scudder's indications for Podophyllum, namely, full face, full, oppressed pulse, full tongue, with yellowish coating, and dizziness. To these may be added, as follows:

Burning of the feet in the aged.

Tiring of the feet toward evening.

Pain of the feet without apparent cause.

Paroxysms of unbearable itching of the feet or any part of the body, especially in the case of the drunkard when sobering up*

Morning sickness of the pregnant woman.

Recurring sick headache.

Recurring attacks of vomiting of bilious matter.

Contra-Indications. Acid accumulation in stomach and bowels.

Empty appearance of abdomen and tissues.

Pinched appearance of face, tongue contracted, pointed, eroded mucous membrane, looks thin; when the secretions of tongue or mouth are acid; dry tongue. +

*Here give magnesium oxide first.

+In diabetes mel. we have an exception. Here the mucus is scanty, as well as the saliva, and the secretions are not acid. Here I give Specific Medicine Fragrant Sumach with the Laxative. Together, they have done more for me in this disease than all other remedies I have tried.

Recently a physician came to me for treatment. About a week before he had knocked the skin from the knuckle of his index finger, and the wound did not heal. It was now scabbed, dry and inflamed. The arm hurt to the shoulder; the lymphatics of the axilla were swollen and tender, the head ached, he had fever, tongue full, mouth not normally moist, fullness in the region of the liver, and constipation. Preparing a solution of Bicarbonate of Sodium, I told him to rinse his mouth with it, spit it out and next swallow a little. Immediately after, he was given a dose of Podophyllum, with directions to repeat the dose in the same way, once or twice a day, as needed.

The wound was dressed with Mayer's Ointment, and he was given the following prescription:

R̄ Sp. Med. Veratrum,	gtt. xxx
Sp. Med. Phytolacca,	3ss
Sp. Med. Echinacea,	3i

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture every hour till fever sub sided, then every three hours.

The doctor was well satisfied with the results.

In Gallstone Diathesis. In this condition I consider Podophyllum almost a specific. One patient, a railroad conductor, 54 years old, gave a history of gallstone colic for a period of more than ten years, the last occurring about six weeks before coming to me. These attacks recurred at intervals of from two to six months, being more severe as the intervals between the attacks was lengthened. Patient was thin in flesh, skin sallow. A dose of Podophyllum Laxative at bedtime until the bowels acted freely was prescribed, then it was to be given less often, and finally only often enough to keep the bowels healthfully active. Since beginning this treatment, he has not had a symptom of this old complaint. He now takes the remedy at bedtime once or twice a week.

The other case, a mill worker, has had attacks of gallstone colic for years, and was almost persuaded to have an operation, in hopes of permanent relief. He has been taking the remedy as in the former case, and with the same results.

Patients should be instructed not to give this medicine to others, as people are apt to do. It may cause serious trouble when given indiscreetly to others, as some of my own patients have found out. The results may be altogether too lively for comfort. But I am convinced that Podophyllum, when indicated, is as safe as it is sure, and as pleasant in its action as any drug we have.

The indications for Dewees' Podophyllum Laxative are as given upon the label, as follows:-

DEWEES' PODOPHYLLUM LAXATIVE

By N. M. Dewees, M.D.

Use: Habitual Constipation. In small doses a gentle laxative, in large doses a reliable cathartic; devoid of the griping qualities of Podophyllum resin, but possessed of the alterative qualities of Podophyllum root. Also in diabetes mellitus. Indications: Fullness of face, change in pigment (liver spots), white of eye yellow, yellowish coat of tongue, bitter taste in mouth, pain in ischiatic notches; to increase gastric and intestinal secretion, to influence the pancreas; tired feeling when rest and refreshment do not follow sleep; burning of feet, pain in ankles and feet on standing; pain and fullness in region of liver; pain in left shoulder-blade; dizziness or blindness from stooping; hemorrhoids from portal engorgement; morning sickness of pregnancy. Especially recommended in diabetes mellitus.

Indications for Children, Constipation, clay-colored stools, fullness of bowels (pot belly), fullness of upper lip; as a restorative.

Dose: (For Adults). One teaspoonful once, twice or three times a day, on empty stomach.

Avoid anything sour directly before or after taking this agent.

Dose: (For Children). To three months, 1 to 3 drops, in milk, every three hours; three to six months, 3 to 5 drops every four hours; six to twelve months, 5 to 10 drops every five hours; one to five years, 10 to 20 drops every six hours.

With either children or adults the doses may safely be increased, when necessary.-Dewees.

In connection with the preceding article on Podophyllum Laxative, we take pleasure in reproducing, from GLEANER No. 3, long since out of print, the following, contributed at our request by the late Dr. N. M. Dewees, who himself had been a sufferer from diabetes mellitus, and gained much reputation by means of his successful treatment of that disorder.-Ed.

PODOPHYLLUM LAXATIVE* AND FRAGRANT SUMACH IN DIABETES

In the treatment of diabetes mellitus, there are usually three indications to meet: First, to free the blood of animal or glucose sugar; second, to check the excessive flow of urine, when that occurs; third, to sustain the patient's strength and weight. The treatment is, therefore, divided into medical and dietary.

Of the many drugs mentioned in connection with the treatment of this disease, but two have, in my hands, been of any material benefit. These are Fragrant Sumach and Podophyllum Laxative. The first, Fragrant Sumach, is indicated when the flow of urine is excessive, or when the quantity of urine passed in twenty-four hours is considerably above fifty-three ounces. In this condition, the patient usually complains of dry mouth and great thirst, drinking large quantities of water. Many have a disgust for light bread. For this condition give:

℞ Specific Medicine Fragrant Sumach, ʒiii to ʒi; Glycerin, q.s., ad ʒiv. Sig. Teaspoonful every three hours.

The smaller dose of Specific Medicine Fragrant Sumach (ʒiii to Glycerin ʒiv) is usually sufficient, but many times I have increased the quantity to the full dose (Fragrant Sumach, ʒi Glycerin ʒiii), and, if necessary to check the excessive flow of urine, would not hesitate to give one teaspoonful of the medicine in water every three hours.

In this disease there is a lack of harmony in the function of the glands concerned in the digestion and assimilation of the carbohydrates of the food. To re-establish this harmony, the very best remedy, in my judgment, is Podophyllum Laxative. If the patient is not constipated, one or two teaspoonfuls a day will be enough. If constipated, give a teaspoonful before meals, or more, if needed. When the bowels begin to act, lessen the amount of the remedy taken. This remedy has a most decided action upon the liver and pancreas, but does not sicken the stomach. It will rid the blood of sugar with surprising promptitude. It has done more for me in Addison's disease than any other remedy I have used. I have seen cases where an enormous amount of urine was voided in one night, a sample giving an almost black reaction with Fehling's sugar test. With the treatment outlined above, and without a restricted diet, I have seen this quantity of urine reduced to normal, and without a trace of sugar. I believe, however, that sugar and starch should, as much as possible, be kept out of the bill of fare. The indications and uses of Specific Medicine Fragrant Sumach are, as given on the label, as follows:

Specific Medicine Fragrant Sumach, Colloidum (Rhus Aromatica)

Specific Use: In renal and urinary affections; painful catarrhal maladies; diarrhea, with profuse and painful discharges; and in some hemorrhages.

Dose: ℞ Sp. Med. Rhus Aromatica, ʒss. to ʒj.
 Water, ʒiv.
 Misc.

Sig.: A teaspoonful every hour or two.

Colloidum Specific Medicine Fragrant Sumach is a remedy used in over-activity of the renal organ, in the absence of active inflammation, and for this purpose has attained a great reputation. Also in diabetes, insipidus and mellitus. The urine is pale, of high specific gravity, the patient debilitated, and there is thirst, chills, and constipation. Few remedies have been so successful in enuresis of children, with chronic urethral or vesical irritation and atony.

*Formerly called "Elixir of Podophyllum."

A peculiar form of debility calls for fragrant sumach. The indications in bedwetting, bowel disorders, and hemorrhagic troubles are, profuse stools, cool and sallow skin, small, feeble pulse, loss of flesh, trembling of the lower extremities, and a general sense of languor and lassitude.

Useful in chronic bronchitis, with profuse blood-streaked expectoration, passive hemorrhages from the bowels, and in chronic malarial hematuria.-Locke.

POLYGONUM-WATER PEPPER

Question: Please send me literature concerning Polygonum.

Reply: Much has been written in times gone by concerning this remedy, but other than the label, we have not as yet had anything regarding it in form for distribution. Thinking that others, as well as our correspondent, may be interested in this remedy, whose field, though narrow, is well defined, we are abstracting from the volumes at our command, briefly, as follows:

"Polygonum favors normal activity of the pelvic viscera, including the reproductive and urinary organs. In all diseases characterized by depression or torpor of these organs, it constitutes a stimulant of great value, and in congestion of the uterus and ovaries it is employed with gratifying results. It is a superior emmenagogue, and is especially indicated when the menses are arrested by cold. Water pepper is a very useful remedy in depression following the active stage of fevers and inflammation. It increases the capillary circulation, causing the skin soon to become warm and moist. It also includes within its curative range all wrongs from suppression of secretions from cold."-Fyfe. Specific Diagnosis and Medication.

"Water pepper is stimulant, diuretic, emmenagogue, antiseptic, diaphoretic and vesicant. Dr. Eberle found it very efficient in amenorrhea. He states that its use caused an increase of the heat of the body, with a kind of formication, with bearing down and sense of fullness in the pelvic region."-American Dispensatory.

"Polygonum is an excellent remedy where there is suppression of the lochia, and the patient complains of being chilly; give in dram doses in hot water, every half hour or hour, until the flow is freely established. It is good to relieve after-pains, in any condition, especially where there is a dragging, aching pain in the back and legs; here it gives almost certain relief.

"In acute cases of general cold, tonsillitis and quinsy, I use it in connection with such other remedies as phytolacca and macrotys. where there is an aching all over the entire body, it causes relaxation, perspiration and elimination from the kidneys. I recall one case in particular, an overworked young woman who had recovered from a very obstinate attack of nephritis. She frequently complained of aching in the back and limbs, with a severe cystitis; Polygonum always gave immediate relief.

"In cases of suppressed menstruation, I give it with Gossypium, Macrotys, and Pulsatilla, as indicated, beginning a few days before the expected period."-Eclectic Medical Journal, 1916.

"Polygonum (smartweed, water pepper), is an annual herb growing in ditches and low grounds in nearly all parts of the United States. There are at least thirty-eight species of Polygonum, possessing like medicinal properties, but differing in potency. The entire plant is used in medicine.

"The most prominent use of Smartweed is as an emmenagogue. For this purpose it was long ago highly praised by the celebrated Dr. Eberle, who reported, after using it in about twenty cases of amenorrhea, that he had not been as successful with any other remedy or method of treatment as with this. He found it to produce a feeling of warmth and a peculiar tingling through the system, slight aching pains in the hips and loins, and a sense of weight and tension within the pelvis, without ever purging or vomiting. He seldom found it necessary to continue the medicine more than six or seven days. The form used by him was a saturated tincture, and of this he gave a fluid dram, three times a day.

"In my father's family, Smartweed was the remedy for colds. If any of us had been chilled or 'taken cold,' a bowl of hot Smartweed tea at bedtime was supposed to bring us around all right the next morning, and as far as my memory serves me, it did so, quite effectually. My early ideas of medicinal drugs were derived very largely in such ways as this, from such herbs as 'boneset,' smartweed, tansy, scullcap, and a few bitter roots, barks, and herbs.

Our armamentarium was not very extensive, but the indications for each herb were pretty definitely laid out, in my mind at least, and for all minor purposes they served well their purpose."-J. M. French, M.D., in Journal of Therapeutics and Dietetics.

"On account of its diuretic action, Polygonum has been employed in treatment of gravel in the kidneys or bladder. It is also used in bronchitis and catarrhal disorders. It is good in certain forms of flatulent colic, when the pains are sharp and lancinating, with intermittent, severe griping pains, it is especially useful."-Ellingwood's Therapeutist, 1909.

Specific Medicine Polygonum is made from the whole plant of Polygon urn Hydropiper, common names Smartweed, Water Pepper. Its indications and uses are given briefly on the label following:

Specific Medicine Polygonum, Colloidum

Indications: A harsh, inactive skin, chilly sensations, and tensive pain in back and legs.

Use: As a stimulating diaphoretic, diuretic and emmenagogue. A certain remedy in suppression of perspiration or menstruation from cold.

Dose: ℞ Sp. Med. Polygonum, gtt. x to 3ij.
Water, ℥ iv.

Misc.

Sig.: A teaspoonful every one to three hours.

Specific Medicine Polygonum is a stimulant and anti-spasmodic, acting upon the female reproductive organs, the skin and urinary apparatus. In suppressed menstruation from cold, twenty to sixty drops in hot water every one or two hours will give good results. In hystero-epilepsy due to the same cause, given in the same way, it relieves the paroxysms and lengthens the interval of attacks. In urinary suppression due to cold it is equally efficient, while in flatulent colic, with griping, colicky pains, attended with watery stools, it was a favorite remedy with the earlier Eclectics. To secure prompt results, give in hot water.-Thomas.

CHIMAPHILA IN BED-WETTING.

To Clean Hypodermic Syringe.

(Contributed.)

For children who are constantly wetting the bed, try Specific Medicine Chimaphila. Give ten to fifteen drops of this remedy in a little water four times a day, and note the result. I have never seen a remedy that acts with such promptness in these cases as does chimaphila.

Many physicians have trouble with their glass hypodermic syringes. The plungers get stuck if not removed soon after using. When this happens cover the syringe with a mixture of one part glycerin to six or eight parts water, and boil for a few minutes. The piston will then move easily, and the syringe be as good as new.

EPIGAEA REPENS. TRAILING ARBUTUS.

Question: Has the enclosed plant any medical properties?

Reply: This plant is the Epigaea repens, common names Trailing Arbutus, Ground Laurel, Gravel Plant, Mountain Pink, and May Flower. The last name is applied to it especially in New England, where tradition has it that it was the "May Flower" of the Pilgrims.

This is the plant from which Specific Medicine Epigaea is made. Its medical properties are as given on the label following:

Specific Medicine Epigaea Colloidum.

Specific Use: A tonic or astringent diuretic, specifically adapted to chronic affections of the urinary apparatus, attended by irritation, an increased secretion of mucus, or by a purulent discharge.

Dose: Sp. Med. Epigaea, gtt. x to xxx in water, every two to six hours.

Specific Medicine Epigaea is wholly a diuretic, and exerts an influence on the urinary tract. Astringent in its action, it tends to check any excessive flow of urine, and restrains the formation of mucus and pus in inflammatory and ulcerated conditions of the urinary mucous membrane.

It renders the urine less irritating, and is a valuable remedy for vesical irritation, lithic acid gravel, vesical tenesmus, strangury, and other forms of dysuria due to irritation. It is also indicated in uric acid deposits, debilitated and relaxed membranes, and the voiding of bloody muco-pus.-Munk.

CAMPHOR FOR PROFUSE SWEATING.

(Contributed.)

For more than forty years I have used tincture of camphor, or camphor gum, in a number of cases, for profuse sweating from any cause, including "night sweats." For an adult I begin with a few drops of the tincture, say gtt. v, from one to three hours apart, increasing or decreasing in quantity or frequency of administration, as desired. If camphor gum is used, it must be given in very small quantity, as the gum is liable to cause convulsions through congestion. Should an overdose of camphor be taken, lobelia will serve well as an antidote.

ALETRIS AS A PARTUS PREPARATOR.

Question: Is Aletris Farinosa a partus preparator? If so, how does it compare with mitchella? What in your opinion is the best partus preparator? Can you give me a formula from which an aletris cordial may be made?

Reply: Aletris is classed as a uterine tonic, and as such it has long been employed to tone up the uterine muscle for the final act of gestation. Among the so-called preparatory agents for parturition may be mentioned macrotys, the two viburnums, and mitchella. These may be combined in any manner desired.

GEORGIA VELVET BEAN. MUCUNA UTILIS.

Question: I am sending specimens of a very prolific bean grown by farmers here in Georgia that I believe possesses some important chemical ingredients. The beans are from four to six inches long, and are excellent food for stock. When ground they make a good fertilizer, about half the strength of cottonseed meal. The beans are of two types, one with speckled and the other with grayish seeds. From the vines, and perhaps also from the beans, comes a dark brown, nearly black, watery medium that stains the clothes and skin black. Nothing will remove this from cloth, and it must "wear off" from the skin. I believe that this, mixed with other ingredients, would make a good ink, and probably an excellent dye, one that would be "fast."

Reply: Professor Aiken, to whom these specimens were referred, says of them as follows:

. "I think the two types of beans sent, one with speckled and the other with grayish seeds are the same, excepting that the seed pod and seeds of one are longer than the other. The plant is the *Mucuna utilis*, commonly known as the Georgia Velvet Bean. It is a native of India, and was introduced into the United States by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. (See Bulletin No. 60, Agricultural Station, Florida.) It is grown in Florida as an ornamental plant. The bean takes from 120 to 140 days to mature. The plant is said to be unexcelled as a soil improver."

Several varieties of *Mucuna* are mentioned in the American Dispensatory, but this species is not there included. We make no preparation of this plant, which, so far as we know, is not employed in medicine. Should any of our readers have any knowledge of its having been so used, it would please us much to receive its record.

SALIX NIGRA AMENTS. *

At this time I wish to speak not of the tonic and antiseptic properties of *salix nigra*, but of its usefulness as a sedative to the generative system. In this line I have had very good results from its use. Some physicians say they get no results from *salix nigra*. Possibly they refer to preparations made from the bark, which I have never used. I use only the Specific Medicine *Salix*, which is made from the fresh catkins of the black willow, and a tincture that I have prepared, myself, from the catkins gathered [here](#).

*From a paper contributed many years ago by Dr. John Fearn.

Both these preparations have given me excellent results.

I use the remedy in cases of acute gonorrhoea with much erotic trouble, also in cases of chordee with irritation. Here I have given the Specific Medicine Salix in doses of from 30 to 60 drops on retiring, repeating if needed, at midnight or towards morning. In these cases nothing has given me better results. The remedy answers the purpose, robs night of its terrors, and leaves no unpleasant after results in its train. In cases of excessive venereal desire, amounting even to satyriasis, I would use this remedy first. I have seen it control this condition in an exceedingly satisfactory manner. It can be given where the bromides have always been considered appropriate, and it can be used where the bromides would be very inappropriate, and there is no bad reflex effect on the brain or nervous system.

To illustrate its use I will give the following case report. For some time past I have had under my care a married lady, long past middle life. She had been very sick with a complication of troubles of the stomach, heart and kidneys. Her husband stated that she often complained of sexual irritation at night, awakening with sensations as though in the sexual embrace, and this was so often repeated and followed by such ill feelings that her life was made miserable.

An examination revealed but little that was abnormal, excepting that the mobility of the uterus was interfered with as a result of inflammation and plastic adhesions. As the bowels were a little constipated, and it took but little to move them, I made my prescription as follows:

R \bar{x} Sp. Med. Salix Nigra Aments, ʒiv.
Syr. Rhei et Pot., ad, ʒvi.

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful every three hours, by day.

Up to this time the results have been most gratifying, and I trust they will be permanent. In this and another like case, the origin of the trouble was evidently central, there being no local trouble recognizable. But the remedy has proven equally successful in cases where the trouble was local, as well as where it was central in the cord and nervous system.

The indications and uses for Specific Medicine Salix Nigra Aments are as given on the label following:-

Specific Medicine Salix Nigra Aments.

Indications: An irritable condition of the genito-urinary organs of either sex.

Uses: As a sexual sedative of the highest order, it quickly relieves and permanently allays cystitis, ovaritis, prostatitis, spermatorrhea, etc., and is of great benefit in nocturnal emissions.

Dose: Gtt. x to ʒi in a little water three times a day. This preparation represents the virtues of the fresh aments or catkins of black willow, and is one of the most positive of the sedative tonics to the reproductive apparatus of both male and female. To moderate sexual passions and undue sexual excitement, due largely to sexual hyperesthesia, no other remedy equals it. Local irritation points to its selection rather than those mental phases which are often at the root of sexual derangements. Thus it becomes a very valuable agent in troubles resulting from masturbation and other local causes of disturbances. With these conditions it is a remedy for spermatorrhea, nymphomania, erotomania, and satyriasis. It is particularly valuable after one has been unsuccessfully subjected to the prolonged action of the bromides. In ovarian irritation, with excitability, pain, and hyperesthesia on slight pressure, and in ovarian congestion, with similar conditions, it has proved a serviceable remedy. Scudder (Ford).

PLANTAGO MAJOR.

Plantago, the common "plantain" found as a "weed" nearly everywhere, occupies a minor field in medicine. but is much prized by those familiar with its qualities. It is very helpful in facial neuralgia in which the submaxillary nerves are involved, and in such cases is beneficial in toothache. Since we have comparatively little concerning plantago in a form for general distribution, we believe our readers will welcome extracts from standard publications. From the Eclectic Medical Journal we quote in part, as follows :-.

"My attention was first called to Plantago by an article in the Eclectic Medical Journal. There being a quantity of plantain growing in my yard, I prepared some, as directed. It was not long before I had opportunity to test it with teething babies, gums swollen, tender, mouth dry, diarrhea, child fretful, but no fever. These symptoms vanished in a few hours."

"Plantago is a commendable remedy in some erythematous conditions of the skin, when there is pricking, itching or burning of the surface, as in erysipelas. It is said to have a special action upon the urinary apparatus. Its use is highly recommended in cases of persistent bed-wetting, when the sphincters are relaxed and the urine is pale and profuse, both colorless and watery.

"The internal use of plantago is followed by beneficial effects in many gastro-intestinal disorders, in which colicky pains prevail. It may relieve a diarrhea or a dysentery, or a cholera infantum.

"Perhaps the most certain action of plantago is in toothache. The cavity is first well cleansed, and a small pledget of cotton saturated with Specific Medicine Plantago is crowded into the cavity. This may be repeated in half an hour, but a second application is seldom necessary. Prof. R. C. Heflebower made a research on this preparation in toothache due to nerve exposure through decay. He found its quieting action to be prompt.

"From this action of plantago, and the fact that a cotton pledget wet with the medicine (a few drops being given at the same time internally), frequently relieves a stubborn earache, and that tic doloureux is also often relieved by its administration, it is suggested that plantago has a specific effect upon the terminal filaments of the sensory division of the fifth nerve. We reserve further comment on this phase of the plantago problem for a future article.

"Plantago, in the form of the Specific Medicine, should be given in doses of from one to five drops, largely diluted with water."

The label of Specific Medicine Plantago sums up, briefly but comprehensively, the indications and uses of this remedy. We reproduce it, as follows:-

Specific Medicine Plantago Major, Colloidum.

Use: As a remedy in toothache, the carious tooth being cleansed and the medicine applied with cotton. Internally, it has been administered in incipient phthisis, hemorrhage from the lungs, menorrhagia, leucorrhoea, dysuria, and hemorrhoids.

Dose: Sp. Med. Plantago, gtt. v to gtt. x in a little water, repeated every hour.

Specific Medicine Plantago is a remedy used in nocturnal enuresis due to weakness of the sphincter muscle of the bladder, when the urine is of a pale color and abundant. Toothache from dental caries is relieved by its action upon the fifth cranial nerve. It can also be used topically, first cleansing the cavity and then applying on cotton to the sensitive pulp. Earache is similarly relieved by it, if mixed with Pulsatilla. Specific Medicine Plantago is used as a local application to the bites and stings of insects and spiders, as well as to those of some venomous reptiles.-King.

CHRONIC INFLAMMATION OF THE LOWER BOWEL.

(Contributed.)

Mr. B., farmer, age 37, has had dyspepsia and chronic diarrhea for three years, and was so much debilitated that he could not do a day's work. Most of what he ate passed, undigested, through the alimentary canal, accompanied with mucus and blood. His appetite was capricious, and he slept badly. Examination of the lower bowel showed the mucous membrane covered with ulcers with inflamed bases. I first cleansed the bowels with injection of water, then applied on a pledget of cotton pure peroxide of hydrogen to all the mucous membranes of the lower bowel, as far up as the probe would reach. With a powder blower I then dusted the parts with boracic acid and bismuth, equal parts, and directed the patient to syringe the bowels each day with a solution of boracic acid, 5i to a gallon of water. Internally I prescribed:

℞ Lloyd's Hydrastis,	℥i.
Sp. Med. Ipecac,	℥ss.
Syr. Trifol. Comp., q. s. ad,	℥vj.

M. Sig. A teaspoonful every two hours.

Without change in the medicine, he was given a local treatment each week for six weeks, when he was dismissed, perfectly well, in which condition he still remains. From the beginning of the treatment, he was put on a proper diet. In the eyes of the average physician these are simple things and demand little attention, but the facts do not warrant this opinion. I claim that the majority of cases of dyspepsia and other alimentary diseases originate, or are aggravated, by some bowel lesion.

KIDNEY AFFECTIONS: NEPHRITIS AND RHEUMATISM.

W. F. Ruble, M.D.

The following paper, by a practicing physician of long and highly successful experience, was contributed to the Eclectic Medical Journal In 1912. The many inquiries we receive from practicing physicians for literature in this direction, leads us to reproduce it for the benefit of readers of the Gleaner.-Ed.

Some author, I do not now remember who, has said that it is just as natural for trouble to come to the kidneys as we grow older as for wrinkles to come in the skin. The truth of this very remarkable statement is borne out by the very large per cent of cases coming to me for treatment having some trouble with the kidneys. It seems to me that I am within the bounds of truth when I state that four out of every five cases of a chronic nature coming to my office for treatment, present evidence of some derangement of the kidney. So true is this that, in each order I make for drugs, I have to increase the amount of remedies I use in treating such conditions.

It is not within the province of this paper to enumerate the distinctive symptoms of the different diseased conditions of the kidneys. What I especially wish to consider is a group, or combination of symptoms that almost invariably accompanies a deranged condition of the kidneys. Whether or not these symptoms are, wholly or in part, a result of the kidney affection, may be a question. But it has become plainly evident to me that treatment directed to and relieving the diseased kidney, almost invariably removes these symptoms, and I am convinced that in most instances the chief difficulty lies in the kidneys.

Prominent in this group or combination of symptoms, is the condition usually denominated "rheumatism," which has long been regarded as merely a symptom of some underlying cause. The cause is still a question. Formerly, rheumatism was thought to be due to "lactic acid in the alimentary canal"; later, to the "uric acid diathesis." A still later view is that it is caused by an "unknown micro-organism." That it is due to an infection in the system, I have little doubt. Every one has noticed the similarity between the symptoms of rheumatism and those of a case of blood poisoning, where the infection, entering through a local traumatism, is clearly the cause.

In a majority of cases rheumatism is due to a failure of the kidneys to eliminate the cause of the infection. In some instances, auto-infection, due to long-continued constipation, gives rise to a like train of symptoms. In the vast majority of kidney troubles will be found also a class of nerve manifestations, such as numbness or a tingling sensation in some part, with loss of nerve power, a tendency to paralysis, a heavy-weight feeling in the limbs. The patient frequently awakens at night with an arm or a leg feeling as if asleep.

Another almost constant attendant symptom in such cases is pain in the back of the head and neck. Tenderness on pressure over one or both kidneys is usually, but not always present. Very often in these cases I find difficulty in breathing, attended by a sagging of the heart's action, which I have found to be worse, in proportion as the action of the kidneys is scanty, irregular as to quantity, and variable in character. Sometimes the trouble is insidious. The patient has noticed nothing wrong, but upon inquiry he will admit that the eyes have been swollen at times, as well as the feet and ankles. Sometimes the only abnormal condition noticed by the patient, is a too great fullness of the abdomen, caused by an accumulation of fluid. In many such cases examination of the urine, as made by the average physician who is not expert in such directions, reveals nothing abnormal. And yet, the red and fissured tongue, along with many other symptoms, indicates no little disturbance of the organs.

I have given these symptoms somewhat in detail, for the reason that they are present in a very large part of my chronic cases, and hence I deem them important.

Fortunately, we have in our botanical armamentarium quite a number of valuable and effective remedies that, with some exceptions to be noted later, give entirely satisfactory results. In these cases there are two remedies that have given me greater satisfaction than all others that I have used, namely, Specific Medicine Hydrangea and Specific Medicine Apocynum. The latter is a good remedy, even where the usual indications for it are absent in either acute or chronic inflammation of the kidneys. I use it very frequently when I desire to increase the flow of urine, without irritation. It is one of our best remedies for the difficult breathing incident to kidney troubles, and where the heart's action is weak. The action of Specific Medicine Hydrangea, on the other hand, is well expressed by Ellingwood, who calls it "a soothing diuretic." Invaluable in both acute and chronic nephritis, it imparts tone and vigor to the kidneys, aiding them to perform their functions properly. Its use in the various forms of kidney disease has become nearly a matter of routine with me. I also use others of the Specific Medicines, somewhat as follows:

In all cases where the articulations are involved, as well as other serous structures, I associate Specific Medicine Bryonia with apocynum and hydrangea. Specific Medicine Macrotys is added when the usual indications for this remedy are present. Specific Medicine Oxydendron is a very certain remedy in all dropsical conditions, especially of the abdominal cavity. In ascites I prefer it to apocynum. It is especially valuable when the inflammation extends to and involves the bladder and urethra. Specific Medicine Polytrichum is an excellent agent, when it is desired to increase the amount of urine. It is a good, non-irritating hydragogue diuretic, and is reputed to be good in the uric acid diathesis. Specific Medicines Epigaea, Triticum and Chimaphila are all good in those cases where the inflammation invades the bladder and urethra, giving rise to dysuria with a tendency to hemorrhage, and where there is excess of uric acid with brickdust sediment. They may be used in combination, or singly. When used alone the dose should be larger.

Specific Medicine Gelsemium is valuable in all acute or subacute inflammations of the entire urinary tract. Potassium acetate, well diluted, is indicated as a diuretic, more especially when fever is present, or in feverish conditions. I recently treated a case of diabetes insipidus during the latter months of pregnancy, in which there was a persistent and intense occipital headache, that seemed to yield to no treatment. After the birth of the child the mother gradually improved, apparently recovering finally. My observation is that child bearing is certainly contraindicated in kidney disease. In diabetes insipidus or mellitus, or in a tendency to diabetes, Specific Medicine Fragrant Sumach, in large doses, usually answers well. I sometimes combine it with the glycerole of gallic acid, Specific Medicine Mangifera is also a good agent in diabetes. I have used Specific Medicine Chionanthus in one or two cases of diabetes mellitus, but without apparent improvement. These cases eventually proved fatal.

In conditions of the nervous system characterized by numbness, tingling sensations, with paralysis or a tendency to paralysis, I have had better results from the use of potassium phosphate than I ever obtained before using this agent. Our Homeopathic brethren would probably consider my doses massive, or heroic. I prepare my own trituration, and use about the second decimal. This I have found to be a most certain agent in all such conditions. In dyspnea of nervous origin, it gives most excellent results.

Fluid extract quebracho is another remedy I have recently used for the relief of difficult breathing, of whatever character, in doses of from ten to twenty drops. It seems to relieve the dyspnea of the different forms of heart trouble as well as of asthma and other nervous conditions. In painful conditions of the kidneys, with a deep soreness apparently within the structures of the kidney, I use a good deal of Specific Medicine Agrimonia.

These are a few only of the many remedies useful in the treatment of various conditions of kidney affections, but these I have so frequently used that I know their value in the conditions named. One condition that until recently I had much difficulty in relieving, is that of myalgia of the biceps and triceps muscles of the arm. I have had quite a number of patients suffering with pains of this kind. The pain in each case is worse at night, keeping the patient awake and causing great discomfort.

In this condition I have obtained more relief from the use of electricity than from any other means used. The faradic current seems to be the best suited. Galvanism has been a great aid to me in treating many cases of rheumatism involving the joints, using the positive sponge over the seat of pain, and the negative at some distant, indifferent point, the strength of current used being from ten to twenty milliamperes. By this use of galvanism in conjunction with the proper internal treatment, I have been able to give great relief to my sciatic patients, something I have not been able to do without the use of electricity. One other procedure I have found of importance in many of the conditions I have been considering, is that of a good saline laxative, and the observance of "Clean out, clean up, and keep clean."

IRRATIONAL CATHARSIS.

In connection with the subject of purging and bleeding, and the methods connected therewith universally taught to physicians less than a century ago, we make the following abstract from a graduation thesis forwarded us by the son of a physician who graduated in medicine (Indiana Medical College, Laporte University), session of 1846-7. That was "Regular" medication then, but not now. The subject of his paper was:

A Thesis on the Modus Operandi and Effects of Cathartics. *

"Blood letting and purging are natural associates, but they should not go hand in hand. *****

"Purging is also important as a means of depletion, for counteracting a phlogistic diathesis. Although bloodletting is undoubtedly the chief agent for this purpose, it should not be regarded of itself as sufficient, for where purgatives are neglected, excessive constitutional irritation in many cases follows copious repeated bleedings. In some cases we may purge our patients when we cannot safely bleed. *****

"I have already said that when the phlogistic diathesis of the patient runs high, bloodletting must precede purging; I recur to this subject here, for the purpose of adding that in many cases apparently unattended with much inflammatory orgasm, and in which it seems admissible to proceed at once to the administration of purgatives, we are disappointed in their operation to promote this. I know of nothing so powerful as bloodletting carried to incipient syncope."

EUPATORIUM IN AGUE AND INFLUENZA.

Illustrative of the domestic uses of Eupatorium we extract the following from Ellingwood's Therapeutist, 1919.

A long time ago, when I was practicing in southern Illinois, where chills and fever were then prevalent, I had a very stubborn case of third-day chills that had resisted my best-known remedies. Just then the Eclectic Medical Journal (which was a regular visitor) carried an article on Eupatorium for third-day chills. This plant grew plentifully along the roadside, and as I was riding to the home of my patient, it occurred to me to give it a trial. I alighted from my horse- this was the proper conveyance for a doctor in those days, in the seventies-and filled both pockets of the old linen "duster" that was then the proper garb to wear, with the green boneset. Reaching the house, I directed that a strong tea be made of the plant and given freely to the patient. I went on my rounds and was gone several hours. Coming back, when I came in sight of the house I saw the wife standing in the door, and she motioned me, in apparent anxiety, to hurry.

When I entered the house, what a sight met my eyes! The man was "limber as a rag," the sweat coming from every pore of his skin, and he had vomited till he could vomit no more. To say that I was alarmed puts it mildly, but I went to work. As was the custom in those days, I had in my pocket a small flask of brandy. By rubbing the patient and dosing him with what little was left in the bottle, we brought him around very satisfactorily, and as long as I knew him, he never had another chill.

This experience was too unpleasant for me to give the remedy another trial then.

*Graduating Thesis written by James W. Mandigo. Indiana Medical College, Laporte University, Session of 1846-1847. Laporte, Indiana.

In the course of time I came to Texas, where boneset does not grow and I had almost forgotten there was such a plant in the world, when I received Lloyd Brothers' Drug Treatise on Eupatorium. As we were then in the throes of the "Flu," I hurried to procure some of the Specific Medicine Eupatorium, and it has given me better results in this direction than any other remedy I have used.

Comment: The experience above related, bears out the evidence presented in our Drug Treatise on Eupatorium of the emetic action of a hot decoction of the whole plant. Eupatorium, like many other drugs, carries markedly distinct structures, possessed of qualities of a diametrically opposite nature. In all infusions, decoctions, and in the alcoholic preparations of Eupatorium, the kindly principle of the drug is overwhelmed by its discordant companion producing, in accordance with the dose, either the cathartic or the nauseating action of the drug. "But for the presence of this disagreeable material in all tinctures and fluid extracts of Eupatorium, as well as in hot decoctions and in freshly made infusions, Eupatorium would, unquestionably, enjoy to-day a very important professional position in the treatment of colds, coughs, and especially the various epidemic disorders known under the blanket term, 'Influenza.' "-Drug Treatise on Eupatorium, p. II. (Sent free to physicians on application.)

CLINICAL OBSERVATIONS ON MACROTYS.

(From Notes of Specific Medication Club, of which Dr. Arthur Weir Smith was President.)

Macrotys has long been known as a useful drug in treatment of the different varieties of rheumatism. In order to discover if there was any symptom or chain of symptoms indicating its use, as for example, whether the pain was made worse by heat or cold, increased by rest or by motion, or more apparent in the day or night, I made the following observations on 29 cases of subacute and chronic cases of rheumatism and lumbago. I regret to note that while the effects of Macrotys were very great, I found not one symptom or combination of symptoms which pointed to the unfailing utility of the drug. Yet it is asserted, by the system makers, that in every case of disease, we can discover the group of indicating symptoms or pathological condition.

The average of the patients treated was 39 years and 3 months. Out of the 29 cases, 14 were suffering from lumbago, of whom 11 were cured; 15 were suffering from chronic and subacute rheumatism. Of these 11 were also cured.

In the 22 cases cured, the pain was worse at night in 13, in the day in 9; when cold in 6, when hot in 11; when resting in 2, on movement in 20.

In the 7 cases that received no relief, the pain was worse at night in 3, in the day in 4; when cold in 2, when hot in 4; when resting in 6, on movement in 7.

The action of the Macrotys in some of the most chronic cases was very marked; it appeared, indeed, to give relief at once.

The following are fair examples of its utility:

Case I. May 27, 1872. S. W., aged 40, was admitted as patient at Kensington Dispensary. Has had pains in the loins for six months which are worse in the day and on exercise; heat and cold make no difference. She cannot stoop or rise from a chair without great pain. Catamenia regular. Urine at times very high colored. Pulse 96, regular.

R \bar{x} Sp. Med. Macrotys 3ss.
Water, 3i.

Sig.: Take this, three times a day.

May 30. Pain much better than for months. Patient can now stoop with ease. She suffers some from headache after taking prescription. Pulse 84, regular.

June 6. Pain quite gone, but at times suffers a little from headache.

June 10. Quite well.

Case II. June 20. S. R., male, aged 60, admitted to Kensington Dispensary suffering from pain in the left lumbar region, which was of some weeks' duration, making its appearance after an accident. Pain was worse at night, when hot, and on movement. Pulse 76, regular.

℞ Sp. Med. Macrotys

3ss.

Water,

℥i.

Sig. Three times a day.

June 24. Pain was shifted from the left loin to the left hip. Pulse 88, regular.

June 30. Quite well.

The medicine was administered in the form of a freshly prepared mixture, the dose being 3ss, three times a day, except in the case of two children, where the dose was gtt. x and gtt. xx, respectively, increased to gtt. xx and gtt. xxx. In four cases the dose was increased to ℥i, but only one of these cases was relieved. Unpleasant symptoms were noticed in six cases. These were giddiness, headache, nausea, vomiting and irregular pulse. They at once ceased on discontinuing the drug.

Diminution of the pulse has been mentioned as one of the effects of Macrotys, but I have not noticed this to be the case.

To me rheumatism, especially the acute variety, has proved a formidable disease, and one likely to be persistent. I do not recall a case of inflammatory rheumatism that was cured by any treatment. The patients got well in course of time. In the treatment of chronic rheumatism, the alcohol vapor bath has with me proved most valuable.

In connection with the foregoing, we take pleasure in reproducing the following, written by Dr. Scudder in 1875.-Ed.

I am satisfied that our readers do not properly estimate the value of Macrotys for the many minor ills of pregnancy, and for its good influence during and after labor. It is so difficult for the physician to believe that any remedy will directly influence the reproductive functions and organs in this way. The woman has been taught to believe that there is no relief from many of the unpleasantnesses of childbearing, and she receives her teaching from the physician who believes that he can do nothing.

With an experience of twenty years, I am ready to say that these ills can be remedied, and that in the use of means to do this, the labor is rendered easier, and the getting up better. I do not say that the Macrotys is a remedy for all ailments, but I do say that it is a remedy for the majority of the wrongs of innervation. If a pregnant woman suffers from uterine irritation, or disease the result of uterine irritation, the disease being functional, Macrotys will be a remedy in forty-nine out of fifty cases. It does not make much difference what form the disease assumes, whether rheumatic or neuralgic pain, a weak or painful back, painful or imperfect use of the extremities, nervousness, hysteria, wrongs of digestion, of secretion or nutrition, I should think of Macrotys as a probable remedy. There is no mistaking the action of the remedy in these cases, and I have used it long enough and often enough to know.

In many cases, the ailments of the latter months of gestation give a harder labor, in as they give a slower and poorer getting up. I am ready to say that Macrotys, properly administered, will facilitate the labor (is a partus accelerator), and that its use does give a better getting up. You will notice that I do not put in an if before the assertion. Wrong of uterine innervation do give difficult labors, as wrongs of uterine innervation do prevent normal involution of the uterus and lactation.

I give Macrotys for all unpleasant sensations in the pregnant uterus, no matter what their character; I give it for rheumatic or neuralgic pains; for abdominal tenderness; for pains or unpleasant sensations in pelvis, perineum, back or thighs; for uterine or vaginal discharge, and toward the last for false pains. I administer it during labor, when the pains are ineffective, especially when the pain is out of an proportion to the contraction of the uterus and effort at expulsion.

After delivery I use it for after pains, for subinvolution, for want of proper contractility, or for any unpleasant sensation arising in or from this organ. There is no mistaking its action here, and I have not administered a narcotic for after pain in the past five years, very much to the advantage of my patients. So highly do I value this remedy that I would not want to practice obstetrics without it.- Editorial, Eclectic Medical Journal, October, 1875, pp. 477-8.

The following, by Dr. F. L. Wilmeth, is also of timely interest in connection with this important remedy.-Ed.

Perfection has been reached by long study of the drug, and the use of the concentrating and extracting apparatus which is our sole property, and cannot be used elsewhere. It has slight odor, golden yellow color, sweet taste. It mixes with alcohol without change. With water, it makes a milky mixture, which must be shaken before each dose is taken. If a few drops be added to a little alcohol, tincture of iron darkens the mixture, which, if the Macrotys is in excess, becomes dark. It contains no inert material, no plant dirt.-L. B.

This is the remedy first thought of in rheumatism and rheumatic neuralgia. It is the remedy for unpleasant sensations in the pregnant uterus; for false pains, and to aid true ones. It is undoubtedly a partus preparator whenever the woman is troubled with unpleasant sensations in the last months of pregnancy. It is also a valuable remedy to correct the wrongs of menstruation, relieving pain, and looking toward normal functional activity.

Macrotys influences directly the reproductive organs. This influence seems to be wholly upon the nervous system, relieving irritation, irregular innervation, and strengthening normal functional activity. For this purpose it is unsurpassed by any agent of our materia medica, and is very largely used. It is the most prominent remedy for painful conditions, with muscular soreness and tension.-Scudder.

CASTANEA, CHESTNUT.

Question: Do you make a Specific Medicine called Castanea? If so, please send me literature concerning it. Have you any literature on the treatment of Pertussis?

Reply: Castanea, Chestnut, is not now much employed by physicians. It is not in our Specific Medicine list. We have no literature in form for distribution on this drug, but from the American Dispensatory we abstract as follows:

"Chestnut leaves appear to have been brought into notice, as a therapeutic agent, by Mr. G. C. Close, in a statement before the American Pharmaceutical Association, in 1862. They were subsequently employed by Dr. J. S. Unzicker, of Cincinnati, who valued them highly in the treatment of whooping cough. Since then, most favorable reports have been made by other physicians as to their value. These leaves have been, so far, employed mainly in the treatment of pertussis, in which malady they have proved remarkably efficient; but their manner of action has not yet been determined. It is probable that they may be found useful in other irritable or excitable conditions of the respiratory organs. Dr. Unzicker employed an infusion of the leaves, an ounce to a pint of boiling water, and administered this in tablespoonful doses, repeated several times a day."

Much has been written on the treatment of pertussis, but we have nothing in form for distribution. In Dr. Thomas' Eclectic Practice of Medicine we find four pages devoted to this ailment. From it we extract a portion of one paragraph, as follows:

"The cough can be so modified and the disease so controlled that the mortality will be very small. Belladonna, given in small doses, is one of our best remedies; add five to ten drops of the Specific Medicine to half a glass of water, and give a teaspoonful every one, two or three hours. The indications are the same as in other troubles-dullness, with capillary congestion. Drosera is called for when the child is hoarse and the cough croupal in character; bromide of ammonium where the most marked symptom is the convulsion or spasmodic character of the cough. Dr. Webster speaks very highly of magnesium phosphate 5x. An infusion of red clover blossoms, recently cured, to which may be added simple syrup, is an old domestic remedy considered of much value."

"COHOSH."

Question: I wish gratefully to acknowledge the valuable information I have obtained from the GLEANER. Will you favor me further by telling me something about "Cohosh"?

Reply: The word "Cohosh" is an Indian term of rather uncertain meaning. By the early settlers it was applied to several different plants, of widely different qualities, but all useful in affections of the female reproductive system.

These were "Black Cohosh," or *Macrotys*, "Blue Cohosh," or *Caulophyllum*, and "White Cohosh," or *Actaea alba*, as well as a variety of the latter, *Actaea rubra*, which was known as "Red Cohosh." For the indications and uses of these remedies we refer our readers to our Dose Book of Specific Medicines, which we will be pleased to send to physicians, on application. From the root of *Caulophyllum* we also make an aromatized liquid known as "Leontin," which is especially valued in amenorrhea. This remedy was described in some detail in our GLEANER 18.

ECHINACEA IN CATARRHAL CONDITIONS.

(Contributed.)

Thanks for your booklet on Echinacea, which is indeed a wonderful drug. I myself have had, for years, a catarrhal condition of the head and throat, with repeated colds. About four months ago I decided to try Specific Medicine Echinacea for this, and took it in one-half teaspoonful doses in a wine-glass of water, three times a day, and have continued its use from one to three times a day. Following this treatment I have had no colds, feel better in every way, and believe that I am cured.

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