

The GLEANER

(A Publication of the Lloyd Laboratory)

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



Number 28

MAY, 1926

Sent gratis to practicing physicians and
pharmacists on request

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BACK NUMBERS OF THE GLEANER

Increasingly we have calls for back numbers of THE GLEANER to complete sets. Many university libraries, State Departments of Agriculture, and societies are urgently asking for them. We need Numbers 1, 2, 9, 10, 11, 12, 18 and 20. Physicians willing to supply any of these will confer a favor to these parties by mailing them to us. We will place them where needed.

LLOYD BROTHERS, PHARMACISTS, INC.

THE GLEANER

Cincinnati, Ohio, May, 1926

Number 28

EDITORIAL

ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME

By A. F. Stephens, M.D.

The past hundred years have been marked by a wonderful advancement in medical science. In this development different avenues of therapeutic investigation were opened. Along that bordered by the American Flora, marched a host of honest, courageous, self-denying men, earnest in their zeal to benefit humanity, constant in their research, strong in their faith-the Eclectic physicians, a section possessed of the highest ideals. They were neither parasites nor fungous growths, but searchers after facts. They thrived not alone on the labor of others. They added to the general sum their share of therapeutic knowledge, and invited physicians of other sections to partake fully of the fruits of their labors.

During the formative period they met much rancor, animosity and intolerance, which often led to acrid controversy, as was manifested on all sides. All, alike, were guilty of an abundance of uncalled-for abuse of each other. All, believing they were right, denounced their opponents, after the method of those days, as wholly wrong. On different roads were they, but all were on their way to Rome. Differing in their ideas, ideals and formulas, all were advancing toward a common center-the alleviation of human suffering. In the end, discoveries of one and all are destined to mingle for the common good-humanity's service.

The progress toward this much-desired goal is now being hastened by a spirit of tolerance unknown in former times. A quality of mind now prevails that sees good in the other fellow, while each believes there is some good in himself. The honest, earnest worker in the therapeutic vineyard is now being recognized as never before, regardless of his location in medical thought. The hand of fellowship is gradually being extended the wayfarer, whatever be his medical complexion, if he conducts himself as an honorable physician, a gentleman, and a scholar.

Differences of opinion will always exist. They have always existed, and should exist. But honest differences are no cause for acrimonious contention. Let us rather discuss these differences in calmness and with an open mind, giving credit to whom credit is due. Who knows what the future holds in store? It may be that the future will overthrow many of our most cherished theoretical opinions. It will surely destroy the Bastille of Intolerance. Withal, we may believe that in the advancing years if medical politics entrenched on law and laws do not cast their blight over one and all who think for themselves, the trend will be ever upward and onward.

With wonderful vision, the Fathers of Eclecticism saw the opportunities offered by the therapeutic uses of plant products. They gave their attention almost wholly to the investigation of the remedial action of agents derived from this source. They called to their aid scientific pharmacy, which, in developing and perfecting plant products, has made possible the establishment of definite therapeutic effects. The result of their researches is shown in the line of pharmaceuticals known now to all branches of the medical profession. Few now deny the efficacy of these remedies, properly prescribed, in combating disease. Physicians in every civilized country are now seeking information concerning the Eclectic remedies, especially the Specific Medicines.

It may be said in passing that nothing unethical has been authoritatively practiced by the Eclectic school. True it is that some who did not there belong have tried to march under the Eclectic banner, but it is safe to assert that no branch of the medical profession has been free from ignoble parasites. Drugs and pharmaceuticals, like men, must have character to succeed in the long run. Quality of the highest order is now demanded. Fortunately, crudities of the old regime have been displaced by the refined and elegant products of the present.

This is demonstrated by the specialties of every manufacturing pharmaceutical establishment.

At the head of the list of plant pharmaceuticals stand the Specific Medicines. These are now recognized, the world over, as being of exceptional quality and of unquestioned purity. To these preparations we shall restrict our remarks, which do not in the least disparage other agents.

The Specific Medicines are the result of scientific pharmaceutical research and skillful manipulation. In their making nothing but the best materials have ever been employed. Because of their superior quality, they maintain a maximum efficacy. Their medicinal action is obtained by very small dosage. Because of their minimum dosage, none are more economical, as is attested alike by the physicians who use them and the pharmacists who dispense them. It must be understood that when we think of dosage we have in mind the smallest fractional dose that will prove of benefit to the patient, not the so-called physiological or poisonous dose. The therapeutic value of a remedy does not depend upon the maximum dose that can be administered short of its lethal effect. The amount of any drug that will cause death in man or beast does not establish that drug's value as a therapeutic agent. A hundred years' experience has thoroughly proven that the small, non-poisonous dose of the proper remedy will restore the normal balance of an unbalanced body, without doing violence to the body as a whole, if there be no vitally hopeless ailment.

The Specific Medicines are not untried experiments. Their worth is proved by half a century of successful use by practicing physicians. They are not prepared for the laity or advertised to the people as "cure-alls." They are designed for the use of physicians and pharmacists only. Their employment is remunerative to both alike, and brings to both a well-earned reward. The pharmacist who fills prescriptions for Specific Medicines is content in that the physician is not prescribing at haphazard. He also knows that, regardless of the great profit that comes to him in these prescriptions, the patron is well served.

FROM THE LABORATORY STAFF

Inasmuch as this number of THE GLEANER will go to many pharmacists who have applied for it, as well as because we promised in our last issue to make a special argument concerning the apothecary's opportunities in his legitimate sphere, we shall now present the subject in as terse a manner as possible.

In our opinion, attempts to belittle the pharmacist who concerns himself in legitimate financial returns, indicate immature consideration of an all-important phase of his duties, in which his own self must not be neglected. He receives no professional fee. He is thus included with business men, but he is a professional as well as a business man. Indeed, he must first be true to his professional trust, in that his education and watchfulness make him a colaborer with the physician, both being caretakers of the health of their community. His medicines must be pure. Service to both physician and the people demand this. For such all-important service and watchfulness the people he serves gladly recompense him, not as they do the grocer or the hardware dealer, but as one on whom they depend in lines where they themselves are incompetent. This includes manufacturing as well as prescription pharmacists. Both classes are thus as one. They lean on each other.

Every manufacturing pharmacist has specialties that, prescribed by physicians, are distributed by dispensing pharmacists. The return from all concerned in the business direction should be liberal. Especially, however, does this apply to the ailing ones, whose very lives are in the apothecary's hands. It would be out of place for us to attempt to designate the worthy preparations made other than by our own establishment. They are many, very many. But in our own field lie also exceptional opportunities for remunerative service to pharmacist patrons. A few of these we will mention. They will serve as examples sufficient to indicate possibilities as a whole.

Let us, with this object, consider one class of preparations, the Specific Medicines, which for half a century have given such exemplary service to the people, through physicians' prescriptions, as filled by pharmacists. Let us accept, as stated in the Dose Book, that:

"The cost of doses of even the most expensive can be calculated only in the fraction of a cent, it being, as a rule, but the fraction of a mill. For example, Ipecac is one of the most expensive Specific Medicines. The dose is from 1-10 to 1 minim, which would make one cent pay for 12 to 120 doses.

Of Nux Vomica, one cent will furnish from 40 to 400 doses. In like manner, the cost per dose of a few of the principal Specific Medicines is shown as follows:

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

The foregoing figures are object lessons for physicians accustomed to furnishing remedies in which teaspoonfuls, or even wineglassfuls, often of expensive remedies, are given at a dose. They are of deep interest to pharmacists also, who too often get but small return from prescriptions of expensive medicines. The sick do not consider the amount of medicine, but what medicine accomplishes. If a medicine that costs but the fraction of a cent cures the patient, he is satisfied to pay for the cure. The professional side of the pharmacist's vocation is recognized by all.

Pharmacists accustomed to filling prescriptions for the Specific Medicines justly consider that none are more satisfactory, either as to service or profit. This is generally known. If anyone unacquainted with these specialties will take any member of the list and figure the return of a four-ounce bottle from the dosage given on the label, he will agree in all that has been said. The calculation may be made from the following prescription, which is typical of the entire line:

Dose: ℞ Sp. Med. Gelsemium, Gtt. xx
 Aquae, ℥ iv

Misce, Sig. A teaspoonful of the dilution every hour.

The patient does not value a prescription by reason of the amount of medicine therein. Indeed, as a rule, we believe he would be pleased if the cure could be effected by a very small amount of medicine instead of much. If the druggist, from one prescription carrying but a few drops, gets a return sufficient to cover the expense of an entire four-ounce bottle of a Specific Medicine, and the cure be effected, the patron is satisfied. Consider as a standard the foregoing prescription of Specific Medicine Gelsemium, which we can certify by experience to be all-sufficient.

The same argument applies to physicians afar from a drug store. Those carrying their own pocket cases have learned that a small vial of a Specific Medicine lasts a long time.

Corroborating these statements, pharmacists filling Prescriptions with the Specific Medicines agree that patients, physicians, and themselves alike owe a debt of gratitude to these products which, so serviceable as well as remunerative, are being used increasingly the country over.' . .

Let us now attempt to show how opportunities may come to both physicians and pharmacists if they affiliate, as they should, and regard each other as friends who have a common interest in serving humanity.

The following, written a physician in reply to a letter, is self-explanatory. We introduce it mainly as an example of problems that should properly come before a local pharmacist. Subjects such as this could be made stepping-stones to pleasurable and serviceable investigation, wherein the pharmacist, in a part of his spare time, could both make a legitimate profit and bring himself more into touch with the medical profession of his neighborhood. The question concerns the making of a spray carrying in one liquid Thuja, Calendula, and Bismuth. Our reply was as follows:

"We much fear that the problem presented is one in which, under any and all circumstances, incompatibles dominate. Bismuth is one of the erratic elements, so far as associating its compounds with organic materials is concerned. These many years back we made a series of experiments, and determined that the then only soluble bismuth compound available as a remedial agent, was the Ammonia Citrate of Bismuth, known as "Liquor Bismuth." However, this is incompatible with preparations of the drugs mentioned in your letter, two of which are, in turn, incompatible with each other.

The addition of any form of bismuth, we much fear, would make it impractical to use the mixture as a spray."

Continuously, manufacturing pharmacists are receiving letters from non-professional people, asking questions regarding problems that should be handled locally by the home pharmacist and his physician. As an example, before us lies a letter from a party in California, to which we replied, giving the names of physicians in his neighborhood, and referring him to his home pharmacist. Such as this would not be necessary had the party first consulted his apothecary, who would cheerfully have served him. Our reply was as follows:

"We wish that we could offer some helpful suggestions in the problem that now concerns you. The fact is, however, we are not physicians, and aim not to intrude on their field. Even if we were, it would be difficult to prescribe for patients at a distance, who are not trained in observing the causes that lead to a given abnormal condition. They may easily overlook some disease expression, apparently simple, that is possibly the keynote to the whole situation. We advise you to depend on your local pharmacist for your medicines, after you have consulted your local physician concerning your ailment."

Concerning the local-physician subject: It is not now unusual for a physician to seek a partner or associate from a section in medicine other than his own. There are various reasons for this, one being that such a one brings with him a viewpoint of the materia medica and practice, not taught by the other's college of graduation. The old-time prejudice against learning from outside one's own school has practically disappeared, if we may judge by processes of thoughtful members of the profession.

Even so far does this courtesy now extend as to have led a prominent, well-known "old-school" physician, well established in practice in a city of considerable importance, but who proposed to change his location, to desire to be followed by an Eclectic physician, the value of whose materia medica he had himself learned by experience. Having already adopted into his practice a number of agents, introduced to him by colleagues of the Eclectic profession, he well knew that his patients would prefer a physician who would not discontinue their use. His letter is, in part, as follows: "I wish you would direct some good Eclectic M.D. to come to this town at once. I will guarantee him more than a living from the start. I must leave here, but will introduce him to my patients. This is a wonderful opening for Eclecticism. Have the doctor act quick if he wants my personal help."

Before us lies a letter from a physician located in a distant State. It encloses a most artfully worded advertisement designed to "catch" both the schooled and the non-schooled public, as well as to "slur" educated physicians and qualified pharmacists. This circular insidiously mentions about every sensation a well person might experience as being an introduction to a coming fatal disease, which could be aborted only by immediate use of the professional services of the "talented expert" named in the circular.

This is not a new process. Few "home-cure" advertisers, past or present, have neglected to emphasize that phase of the medicine problem. However, not all of them go to the extent of abusing the medical and pharmaceutical professions, as a whole, for their ignorance. Let us quote the words of the physician submitting to us this circular. He says:

"The enclosed circular is being mailed to about one thousand people here every few months, and seems to be taken as truth by numbers of the recipients. "I am sending it to you for several reasons, the one marked being principal. Fact is being contradicted by a person not at all familiar with drugs, one who evidently does not know enough to comprehend the right or the wrong of the use of medicines. "

In considering the foregoing it may be argued, in behalf of the advertiser, that the acme of teaching in some institutions of renown is to neglect all but diagnosis and ailment causes, thus turning the sick over to advertisers. The argument possibly is, that their graduates can learn the uses of the therapeutic agents needed after they locate. If they do not locate anywhere as physicians, the time spent in the study of medicines, drugs, common ailments that afflict the people, would be time wasted. This is not a facetious argument, based on a fallacy, as might perhaps be imagined.

If six years' schooling, based on a previous college education (all of it afar from actual practice) is not sufficient to teach a man how to study medicine as well as select medicines after he leaves school, the time spent on that man's schooling has probably been largely wasted.

From the foregoing one might infer that the writer of this editorial is opposed to schooling such as that mentioned. Not at all. The talented specialist, be he physician, dentist, surgeon, or "what not" in his field, is important beyond expression. However, the place for him is not in sparsely settled agricultural communities or amid the scattered homes of mountain or plain. He belongs in a city, or in an institution to which many afflicted in his special field come for help. "

To corroborate this view, one has but to consider facts, not theories such as many idealists promulgate. Wise is the general practitioner who knows when to advise a patient to seek a specialist, and who is fair enough toward that patient to advise him to seek the specialist before it is too late. That has been the teaching of the Eclectic Medical College these many decades. Not less wise is the specialist who credits the general practitioner with both knowledge and experience that fit him for his calling, and who honors the "doctor" on whom the people as a whole depend.

Thus it is that, instead of decrying ultra schooling, the writer of this editorial commends it as a long-advocated necessity. The field of the all-round physician is, however, much greater than is that of the specialist, as concerns the ailings of humanity at large. He must be a cosmopolitan, and he must understand medicine, medicines, and humanity.

And yet the fact that great institutions worthily teach ultra processes that make specialists, may lead to impositions by artful advertisers on a community destitute of a balanced physician. Possibly the most despicable pirate of all is the imitator of him possessed of real learning concerning a specialty mastered through devotion and education."

GLEANINGS AND COMMENTS

DRUG ADDICTS NOT EASILY TREATED AT HOME

Question: I have a patient who is very desirous of overcoming the morphine habit, but for various reasons he is not willing to go to an institution for treatment. In your opinion, would it be possible for him to take a course of treatment at home, with any chance of a favorable outcome?

Reply: In the opinion of Dr. Locke, who has been very successful in treatment of drug addicts, it is practically impossible for the patient to overcome a habit of this kind without placing himself under the care of an institution where he cannot obtain the drug. With the best desire in the world to cooperate with his physician, his system and will power are so undermined by the effects of the drug that he cannot resist its demands. Patients have so often formed the habit by taking the drug to relieve some agonizing ailment, that they need and usually receive the utmost sympathy from their friends and others in their efforts to overcome this terrible craving. Eclectic physicians have, for many decades, fought against the indiscriminate prescribing of narcotics to relieve pain, and it is seldom that the reproach of a drug addict, "This is due to your prescriptions," can be laid at their doors.

CORNS AND "CORN CURES"

Question: Our little town is now "blessed" with a traveling "corn doctor," who stops at the best hotel and is having about all he can do in his line. He uses some kind of medicine or chemical which he applies on and around the corn, and in a few minutes he takes it out, without pain. He evidently removes the corn, but I believe it will appear again in a short time. Then, of course, the "doctor" will be somewhere else, miles away. Can you give any guess as to what the "medicine" is that he uses?

Reply: The basis of many corn removers is some form of salicylic acid, but this of course requires time to deaden the corn.

A really good chiropodist can often remove an ordinary corn without pain without the aid of any "medicine" at all, but of course the same cause that induced the formation of the corn in the first place, will cause its return, sooner or later. An ill-fitting shoe, a too short stocking, or a wrong habit of standing, is very often the cause of corns, or even bunions. A shoe run down at the heel should be corrected. In cities such as this (St. Louis), many people go regularly to their chiropodist for the removal of corns, but in our opinion the process affords merely a temporary relief. Until the cause, whatever it may be, is corrected, there will be a recurrence of the trouble.

BUCK BEAN (*Menyanthes Trifoliata*)

Question: Can you give me any information concerning the therapeutic value of Buck Bean, *Menyanthes Trifoliata*, Linne, in the treatment of diabetes mellitus. A doctor friend claims to have had good results from its use. My own experience with it has been very satisfactory, but I have not yet used it long enough to know if the results are permanent. I believe it is worthy of further investigation.

Reply: Buck Bean was formerly held in considerable repute as a tonic where digestion and blood making were impaired, but for some time it has fallen into neglect. We make no preparation of this plant. According to the American Dispensary, it was used in powder form, or as an infusion of the fresh plant. In this form, when used in large doses, it usually caused emesis. When dried, the plant is tonic and astringent, or purgative, according to the dose.

MEDICINAL "SYRUPS"

Question: What has become of the Medicinal Syrups of old? When I practiced in Cincinnati, some years ago, a number of excellent syrups could be obtained in the pharmacies, such as Syrup of Tolu, *Syrupus Pruni Virg.*, *Syrupus Zingiberis*, etc. To-day there is no such thing as a medicinal syrup. The addition of some tincture of tolu or ginger to simple syrup does not make the syrup of that remedy. It has neither the taste nor the virtues, and many of the syrups so prepared are rather nasty. Why not return to the old methods and make "syrups that are syrups," and above all, why not make pharmacists after the manner of the fathers. Men who serve an apprenticeship and learn all that is to be learned in the art of making excellent pharmaceuticals, pleasant to the taste, pleasant to the eye, and withal, effective?

Reply: The syrups of old, as our correspondent states, have simply disappeared from the market, as have many other most excellent pharmaceutical preparations formerly made by the pharmacist himself. Many of the syrups of old carried alcohol in greater or less amount. The rulings of the enforcement officers, and the high price of alcohol owing to war tax rulings or laws established by Congress, have put the manufacturing of pharmaceutical preparations such as these, out of commission. In this connection read "Companion," pages 12-13, mailed on request.

"COPPER PLANTS"

Question: I am enclosing clipping from the Literary Digest, (November, 1921), that mentions a plant comparatively rich in copper. If this is not entirely visionary, I would like to know if this plant is in use. It might be helpful in cancerous and anemic conditions.

Reply: The article in question, which is titled, "Trees That Tell Where Oil is Not," bears on the possible relation existing between the vegetation of a country, and the mineral deposits underlying, with special reference to the vegetation of land rich in petroleum. In our opinion, it is not unlikely that certain plants growing in sections rich in mineral deposits should take into their substance the underlying mineral, as certain varieties of *Eupatorium* take up from the soil so much aluminum as, according to Prof. E. L. Moseley, to make them dangerous to stock, and to human beings partaking of the poisonous milk or butter. At certain seasons of the year he accepts that they cause the disease known as "milk sickness." We much regret that the author of the article in the Literary Digest gives no clue to the botanical name of the plant called by its local name, "copper plant," which he states is found abundantly in the vicinity of copper lodes in Northern Queensland, and has been determined by careful analyses to contain distinct traces of copper in its ash.

GNAPHALIUM PURPUREUM (Purplish Cudweed)

Question: I am sending you a common field plant known here as "Life Everlasting." It has a local reputation as an "asthma cure," the leaves being dried and smoked, like stramonium leaves. One woman claims she has been entirely relieved from asthma by its use. While I do not feel that its claims have been proven, I am interested in anything that may help in so difficult a problem. I would greatly like to know the botanical name of this plant, and if it has a recognized place in medicine.

Reply: The plant sent was identified by Professor Aiken as *Gnaphalium purpureum*, or Purplish Cudweed. This is very closely related to *Gnaphalium polycephalum*, the Common Everlasting or White Balsam, figured and described in our Drug Treatise on Eupatorium. It probably has like properties with that species. We find no mention of *Gnaphalium* in treatment of asthma, but the Dispensatory mentions the leaves and blossoms, chewed, and the juice swallowed, as being beneficial in ulcerations of the mouth and throat.

ACONITE

So frequently do physicians write us for literature concerning the uses of Aconite, that we take this opportunity of reproducing the following editorial from the pen of the late Professor Finley Ellingwood, M.D., an authority on this remedy.-Ed.

To those who have studied Aconite for a long period, it is a matter of great surprise that so valuable a remedy that for centuries has been as an active medicinal agent, is not better understood by the busy practicing physicians of the regular school. Their attitude toward Aconite has been much like that which for a century has existed toward Lobelia. While using other toxic agents, many of which are of the most vicious character and, when once taken, are difficult of elimination, physicians are apt to lay too great stress upon the toxic or depressing influence of these remedies.

In giving Aconite medicinally, there is no necessity whatever for giving it in large enough doses to show the least depressing influence. Its sedative effects are not depressing. I am confident that no fever with dry skin, sharp, small, hard, quick pulse, with generally suspended secretion, but in its early stages will satisfactorily abate through the action of Aconite in frequently repeated, fractional doses. Single large doses must be avoided. Aconite promotes the dissipation of heat, and retards the creation of heat. It soothes the irritability of the heart and of the nervous system, dilates the capillaries, permitting a free flow of blood through them, and materially equalizes the general circulation.

For many years I have felt that there is no greater remedy in our materia medica than Aconite. I have obtained this confidence from the frequently repeated doses of from one-fourth to three-fourths of a minim of a good official tincture, or slightly smaller doses of the homeopathic tincture. I believe about the same action is obtained by diluting Specific Medicine Aconite with four parts of alcohol, and that this is sufficiently strong for those who are not in the habit of using the Specific Medicines. With those who have habituated themselves to these remedies, certain success follows the use of from the one-tenth to the one-fourth of a drop at a dose. Seldom however, is more than one-sixth of a drop needed, especially with children.

I advise that every physician not thoroughly familiar with this important remedy, use it first for sthenic fevers with dry skin, until he learns from actual observation how it acts. This I believe is the only way its use can be correctly learned. The small dose, repeated every half hour or hour, is the true way to give this remedy, never in large doses, at long intervals, in acute cases. No satisfaction can result from this course.

SPECIFIC MEDICINE ACONITE *

Specific Indications: "The small, frequent pulse." Aconite is a stimulant to the sympathetic nervous system, strengthening the heart action, increasing its power to propel the blood, and placing the blood vessels in a better condition for the passage of the blood stream.

*In connection with the foregoing, we take pleasure in presenting a further study of this valuable remedy, contributed more recently to the California Eclectic Medical Journal, by Dr. H. Ford Scudder.

It is indicated in marked enfeeblement of the circulation; by the small, frequent pulse, the hard, wiry pulse, the frequent and easily compressed pulse; hot dry skin, sudden arrest of secretions, elevated temperature, and chilly sensations along the spine. It is indicated in the beginning of acute inflammation of any organ, with suppressed secretions; at the start of protracted fevers, especially the eruptive fevers, and in the beginning of local inflammations where the mucous membranes are involved, the mucous secretions being suppressed or perverted, as in bronchitis, gastritis, and enteritis. It is the remedy in the beginning of any fever, and is especially the fever remedy for all diseases of children. Use it in acute congestion or inflammation of the brain, spinal cord, or meninges; in cerebro-spinal meningitis in children, combined with Specific Medicine Gelsemium. Use it for chill as well as for simple fever, but always remember that Specific Medicine Aconite is to be used in small doses, gtt. iii-iv in ℥iv of water, giving the mixture in teaspoonful doses.

Aconite is also strongly indicated in measles, smallpox or scarlet fever, with hot, dry skin, excited circulation, and marked rise in the temperature. Here it aids in developing the eruption, controlling the fever and placing the skin in a good condition. In these cases, use it in combination with Specific Medicine Belladonna. Use Aconite in the early stages of pneumonia and pleurisy; in the beginning of diphtheria, and in amenorrhea from acute cold, with increased temperature. In acute tonsillitis, pharyngitis, and laryngitis Aconite has a specific influence, both local and constitutional. In croup, especially catarrhal or spasmodic croup, small doses are very effective. In the treatment of inflammations of the serous or mucous membranes, in acute gastritis, gastric fever and acute enteritis, it is an essential remedy. In the treatment of diarrhea, dysentery, and cholera infantum, it is one of our chief remedies. Here we generally combine it with small doses of Specific Medicine Ipecac. Aconite is valuable in all bowel troubles of an inflammatory character, especially those resulting from cold; in the treatment of rheumatism and rheumatic fever, especially pure inflammatory rheumatism. Combined with Specific Medicine Phytolacca, use it in acute mastitis, prostatitis, and acute orchitis.

The indications and uses of Specific Medicine Aconite, as given upon the label, are as follows:

Specific Medicine Aconite Colloidum

Indications: The small, frequent pulse.

Use: As a sedative in fever; in diseases of the throat and larynx; in the early stage of tonsillitis or quinsy; in irritative disease of the small intestines; in dysentery.

Dose: ℞. Sp. Med. Aconite, gtt. v to x.

Water, ℥iv.

Misc.

Sig: A teaspoonful of the dilution every hour.

Poisonous in Overdoses.

For "antidote and treatment in poisoning," see "Companion," page 45.

Specific Medicine Aconite is an increasing favorite with physicians. In the dose we advise it is quickly absorbed, and is absolutely safe. The indications for its use are a rapid, small, rather hard or wiry pulse, indicating heart enfeeblement and lack of tone in the capillary of cardiac neves, giving tone to the heart, thus removing obstruction to free circulation. If there is lack of skin action through above conditions, Sp. Med. Aconite is a true diaphoretic. In cases of enfeebled mucous membranes, giving rise to simple croup, laryngitis, gastritis, muco-enteritis, and dysentery, it is a most successful remedy, also fevers of any name, with feeble circulation and occasional chilliness with asthenic conditions. It should be given in very small doses, say not more than two drops of Sp. Med. Aconite in ℥iv. water, a teaspoonful given every 20 or 30 minutes. In my judgment, by relieving cardiac irritation, it acts as a true heart tonic. The maximum dose with me is gtt. v in ℥iv of water, teaspoonful as needed.-Feam.

SPECIFIC MEDICINE BELLADONNA

By H. Ford Scudder, M.D.

Specific Indications: "Dull face, dilated pupils, dullness of mind and tendency to sleep, impaired capillary circulation of the skin." Belladonna is a powerful stimulant to the capillary circulation and to the vasomotor nerve centers. It equalizes the circulation, overcoming and preventing local hyperemia. It is indicated in all acute disorders where the patient is dull and drowsy, with dilated pupils, face expressionless, cerebral congestion, cold extremities, and sluggish capillary circulation. Though not a sedative, it is usually combined with Specific Medicine Aconite or Veratrum. Belladonna antagonizes congestion.

When using Specific Medicine Belladonna, it should always be borne in mind that the best results are obtained from small doses. The following prescription I have found very effective: Specific Medicine Belladonna, gtt. v-x; water ℥iv. M. Sig. A teaspoonful of the mixture hourly. Belladonna is indicated in the beginning of all inflammatory conditions, in diphtheria, tonsillitis, croup, bronchitis, and peritonitis.

Combined with the proper sedative it stimulates the capillary circulation to the parts, preventing acute local congestion. It is an excellent remedy in erysipelas, where the surface is free from vesicles and the skin presents a deep dusky red appearance. It is useful in typhoid fever, preventing congestion of the mucous membrane and glands of the intestine. Use it in cerebral engorgement and meningeal inflammations, spasmodic cough, asthma, and the latter stages of whooping cough; in all spasmodic conditions with sudden onset, preceded by earlier stages of drowsiness and flashes of fever. In the eruptive fevers it quickly determines the eruption to the skin. Use it especially in scarlet fever, as it promotes exfoliation, assists elimination, and has a decidedly beneficial effect on the temperature. Where retrocession has occurred, Belladonna is the best remedy we possess for restoration of the eruption. In small doses it is regarded as a prophylactic against scarlatina.

Belladonna is useful in congestive neuralgia, in headache from fullness of circulation in the brain, in dull, frontal headache, with cold extremities, and tendency to sleep. It is most useful in incontinence of urine, especially in children, due to enfeebled pelvic circulation or spasms of the bladder. In nephritis it is useful in overcoming the increased renal blood pressure and engorgement of the capillaries; also in diabetes insipidus, with cold extremities. Either alone or combined with small doses of Specific Medicine Nux Vomica, for its general stimulating effect, I have used Specific Medicine Belladonna with marked success in nervous patients with lowered vitality, low blood pressure, cold extremities. Belladonna is also valuable in cases where it is necessary to retard the secretion of milk in the lacteal glands.

STICTA PULMONARIS

(Contributed)

I have recently tried out Specific Medicine Sticta, and find it superior to any other Sticta preparation I have ever used. It surely does the work.

Comment: Sticta pulmonaris, when clearly indicated, will be found an invaluable remedy. Its field, as given in Petersen's *Materia Medica*, is as follows:

"Indications: Pain in shoulders extending to back of neck and occiput. Sharp pain beneath the scapulae or in shoulders. Cough short and hacking.

Use: The influence of Sticta is on irritations of the chest, especially when complicated with irritation of the nerve centers. We think of it in chronic coughs of a short, hacking nature, rheumatism where indicated, hay fever and influenza in which there is an irritating hot watery mucous discharge, which may become thick and even purulent, and in catarrhal troubles in which there is headache, tearing pain through side of face, with pressure at root of nose, coryza, sneezing, conjunctivitis, and a dull pain and soreness in the chest."

In Mundy's *Diseases of Children*, pain in the shoulders is given as a prominent indication. Dr. Mundy says: "The child will be observed to draw its shoulders upward, throw the head backward, and move it uneasily. There is a harsh, dry cough, evidently from irritation, and not to remove secretion.

"Sticta acts upon the base of the brain, relieving irritation. The pneumogastric and the parts which it supplies are affected by it. By its sedative action upon the vagus it lessens irritation, lowers temperature, and controls cough, when these disorders depend upon wrongs of that nerve."

While the field of Sticta is narrow, it is so satisfactory when indicated, and the indications for its use are as a rule so plain, that the remedy deserves careful study. During the progress of the world war, it was impossible for us to obtain the drug of a quality such as we require for the making of the Specific Medicines, and we were compelled to mark all orders for this remedy "None." It pleases us to say that we are again in a position to supply Specific Medicine Sticta of unquestioned quality. The indications and uses in detail for Sticta are given on the label of the Specific Medicine.

STICTA PULMONARIS

(Contributed.)

When the peculiar indication for Sticta appears, and it is present in a number of acute conditions, the remedy is very prompt in its action. This indication is a sticking pain through the right chest from the breast to a point beneath the right shoulder blade. It is sharp, almost unbearable. There is often a cough with it. Sometimes this cough is incessant. At other times the pain is between or beneath the shoulder blades, but is most often found in the right shoulder. Fifteen to twenty drops of Specific Medicine Sticta in four ounces water, a teaspoonful every hour, should relieve this, and all the attending symptoms in two or three days.

CARBUNCLE

This painful affection is so commonly met, and occasionally results to disastrously, as to lead us to reproduce for our readers the following from Ellingwood's Therapeutist.-Ed.

"The recent death from carbuncle of a prominent citizen of this town recalls my experience years ago with three cases of carbuncle successfully treated, and practically painlessly. "After the death of Prof. A. J. Howe from carbuncle, numerous articles on the subject were published in different journals, some of which seemed to me satisfactory. At that time I put a good deal of thought on the subject. I thought of the electrocautery, with which to destroy the mass, under anesthesia. Then' a mixture of Specific Medicine Belladonna and peroxide of hydrogen, equal parts, occurred to me. Every article I read, I came back to this mixture.

"Finally, a prominent druggist asked me if I had any treatment for carbuncle he being afflicted. I told him of my thoughts and said' 'If. you have no treatment in which you have confidence, you might try this as an application.'. He did so. The carbuncle became soft throughout. I said to him, 'If it were my case, I think I would let out whatever might be in it.' He did not do so, but continued the treatment. The contents were all absorbed.

"Sometime afterward, a farmer came to me with the same trouble. I gave him the same treatment, with the same happy results. Two years afterward he came back with another carbuncle, with two openings. I gave him the same medicine, which healed the sores rapidly.

"My method of applying the lotion is to wet cloths and apply persistently over the diseased area, exercising some care if the carbuncle is open. If it is not freely open, it will some times disappear without suppuration."

Do not neglect the knife, when needed, regardless of other treatment.-Ed.

CHEMICAL FOODS

From the writings of the late Professor Finley Ellingwood, M.D. we extract the following as being of unusual interest to readers of THE GLEANER.-Ed.

"While we are especially favorable to the vegetable remedies, we can't get away from the fact that there are chemical demands in the system that must be met, if met accurately, with chemical remedies. I

Iron, sodium, potassium, magnesium, sulphur, and phosphates, in conditions of health, all are supplied from the foods, but for pathological conditions, where this supply is by no means sufficient, it must be made good by the giving of inorganic remedies of this kind. "We often say that a toothache comes from the natural decay of the tooth during pregnancy, but I am inclined to think that the child makes such a demand upon the mother for certain chemical elements that may be deficient, or poorly supplied to the mother, that in giving them up, she shows in her own system the effect of the shortage. While the dentist is consulted for the teeth, I have found many cases where the decay was stopped promptly, and the condition of the patient materially improved by the use of earthy phosphates, which in the mother were deficient.

"The following case illustrates such a pathological condition. During early pregnancy with her second child, a young mother complained that she suffered excruciating headaches and backaches. Upon examination it was found that there was spinal irritation the whole length of the spinal cord. The tenderness was so great that the pressure of the clothing increased it, and the weight of a finger caused distress. The condition of the urine showed nothing abnormal. With the excruciating headaches we would look for uremic complications, but these did not appear. The patient was weak, emaciated, anemic, and suffered from severe constipation. She had palpitation and fainting spells.

"So extreme was the spinal irritation that cups were applied daily along the spinal cord or over the ganglia. She was fed on concentrated food and given free phosphorus in a syrup of the hypophosphites. The condition materially abated, but was not entirely relieved until after the child was born, when the distressing symptoms disappeared. "A similar condition is not unusual, but because of the severe headaches it is often mistaken for uremic poisoning, and this condition, with high blood pressure, are common accompaniments; but while treating this condition, the spinal irritation should not be overlooked. Dry cups, bryonia, macrotys, and gelsemium are very important remedies. These, with concentrated nutrition and the normal phosphates or other earthy elements needed by the system, properly supplied, will lead to a satisfactory recovery of the patient."

To the foregoing we would repeat our suggestion, page 890, THE GLEANER, No. 27, to the effect that a non-styptic form of iron should also be given, regardless of other remedies.

NON-ALCOHOLIC ECHINACEA PREPARATIONS

Question: Do you make a non-alcoholic preparation of Echinacea for oral use, other than Subculoyd Echinacea?

Reply: We make no non-alcoholic preparation of Echinacea. Even Subculoyd Echinacea, as well as Subculoyd Echinacea and Inula, Compound, contain a certain amount of alcohol, as shown by their respective labels. For oral use, dentists value highly our preparation Aseptafolta, a compound of Echinacea, Asepsin, and Myrrh. This preparation, while itself highly alcoholic, is used in such dilution as to be highly suitable for gargles, mouth wash, etc. Its qualities are as given on the label, following:

Aseptafolta (Trade Mark).-A combination of Asepsin, Iodized Echafolta, and Myrrh.

Uses: A teaspoonful mixed with half a glass of water as a gargle or an antiseptic spray for sore or inflamed throat. For lacerated gums immediately following extraction of teeth, two (2) teaspoonfuls in half a glass of water to rinse the mouth every half hour, the amount being later decreased to one (1) teaspoonful if desirable.

Aseptafolta has the remarkable quality of making a transparent, aqueous solution of Myrrh, Echinacea, and Asepsin. These constituents have long been established separately in professional use but never before combined in a transparent water-soluble form.

MANGO FRUIT (Therapeutic Effect) (Contributed.)

I note in a recent medical journal an article on the medicinal properties of the mango fruit, and am sending for your inspection a package of canned mango, and also some mango jelly. In former years my family and I used this fruit as freely as we did fresh peaches. In latter years it has frequently given us sore throat, "mango itch," lips swelling, vulva inflamed, etc.

Comment: THE GLEANER would like to hear from other physicians concerning "Mango Itch."

SHIFTING PAINS

(Contributed.)

Recently I felt oppressed in the chest, with shifting slight pains. I knew that thirty drops of Specific Medicine Lobelia would relieve this. At the same time I had a little irritation of the urinary organs. So I took:

℞ Sp. Med. Lobelia,
Sp. Med. Barosma, aa gtt. xxx;
Water, one tablespoonful.

M. Sig.: Take in one dose.

To my surprise, I found the nauseating taste of Lobelia totally obliterated. Yet the mixture gave the desired results. I think this is really worth knowing.

Comment: Many aromatics overcome nauseating effects of drugs such as Lobelia in overdoses. A conspicuous example is that favorite of old, "Spiced Syrup of Rhubarb." So pleasant is it to the taste as to be relished by children.

EFFICACY OF THE SPECIFIC MEDICINES

(Contributed.)

For some time I have been using a few of the Specific Medicines and during the past few months have been employing them more extensively. They give me excellent results. Please send me literature setting forth in detail their uses and their application to various disease forms.

Comment: The "Companion" not only describes Specific Medicines in detail but furnishes a fund of information concerning drugs to be found in no other publication. It will be presented free to physicians applying.

THE GLEANER APPRECIATED

(Contributed)

I take much pleasure in reading THE GLEANER, as it gives me so much valuable information. Though a graduate of the old school, "Regular," so-called, I use more of the Specific Medicines than of other preparations, and from them I get results, which is what we are after. The house of Lloyd Brothers has done a wonderful work for the profession. I wish to thank you not only for THE GLEANER, but for other of your publications.

For some months I have been receiving two copies of THE GLEANER, which come with a slightly different address. You evidently have my name duplicated on your mailing list, which causes you a needless expense.

Comment: We much appreciate the courtesy of our correspondent in calling to our attention the fact that his name was duplicated on our lists. Such thoughtfulness is by us highly appreciated. Too often physicians fail to notify us when they make a change in their locations, and later write to us complaining that they are no longer receiving the literature issued under our auspices. We also highly appreciate the compliments extended in the direction of THE GLEANER, and to the products of our laboratory, which our correspondent has found so helpful in his practice. Many physicians of the "old school" have written us to the like effect, and we need not say that this is to us a source of the greatest satisfaction.

SPECIAL USE OF AMYGDALUS

(Contributed)

During the last few years I have made a special study of Amygdalus, and am convinced that it has a much wider field than is shown by the label of the Specific Medicine. In purely gastric disorders in which we have depended upon Ipecac, I find it superior to that remedy. But the place in which I most value it is for old people, with weak digestion and heart. I get the best results by combining it with Apocynum, as follows:

R̄. Sp. Med. Amygdalus,
Sp. Med. Apocynum, a. a.,gtt. xv to xx
Water, ℥iv.

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

This prescription I sometimes alternate with Specific Medicine Cactus, as needed. I find this quiets the disturbing symptoms, and produces a feeling of comfort and cheerfulness in old people, better than any other remedies I have tried.

"MOUNTAIN SICKNESS"

(Contributed)

I wish to relate an experience of my own with "Mountain Sickness," that occurred in the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California, 7,200 feet above sea level. The attack came on in the night, and the smothering sensation was beyond expression. Dr. H. T. Webster, who was one of the party, and accustomed to manifestations of this nature, prescribed for me a mixture of Specific Medicines Lobelia and Gelsemium, given as follows:

R̄. Sp. Med. Lobelia, gtt. x.
Spec. Med. Gelsemium gtt. xxx.
Water, ad. oz. iv.

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the dilution, as required.

A single dose of this dilution relieved the oppression, without any delay whatever. Five minutes after I had taken it I was comfortable, and went to sleep. I had no return of the ailment, either that night or the next day.

Comment: "Gelbia," page 4 "Companion," gives a description of above compound and its field of usefulness.

LEAKY, GLASS-STOPPERED BOTTLES

Question: Glass-stoppered bottles frequently prove annoying from the fact that the contents are likely to leak around the stopper. Could not this be overcome by dipping the stoppers in sterile wax before inserting?

Reply: This inquiry leads us to remark that some years ago it was our custom, in the finishing of our packages of Specific Medicines, to wax or paraffin the tops of the bottle necks after cutting off the surplus corks, applying next tinfoil covers while the melted wax was still hot. Physician correspondents wrote us that this wax, after the bottles were opened, proved a "dirt catcher," and furthermore, that the alcohol of the medicine softened the wax and made it difficult to remove. Acting on this information we abandoned this process of waxing the necks of the Specific Medicine containers, and since making this change, have had no further complaint. In this connection we would again urge that whenever a bottle of a Specific Medicine is opened for any reason, it be at once carefully recorked. This important subject receives little attention from anyone, although the action of some materials on cork is most pronounced.

Many liquids are sensitive to the influence of organic matter. The substitution of rubber stoppers is like "jumping from the frying pan into the fire." Rubber is all important in chemistry and in pharmacy, but rubber is the most adulterated of all substances known to us. The term "rubber" covers a multitude of sins. Its employment as a stopper may be attended by most unexpected developments. For instance, two four-ounce bottles of "Fehling's Soda Solution" were recently returned by a physician, with the statement that when mixed with the Fehling's Copper Solution, a black liquid resulted. This we found to be true. Experiment demonstrated that this reaction was due to the rubber stopper. We now use paraffined corks as stoppers for the soda solution. Should these prove unsatisfactory, we must return to glass stoppers, with their exasperating inconveniences, which need not here be discussed.

ASEPSIN IN BROMIDOSIS. THUJA IN SCALY ECZEMA

(Contributed)

I have had many cases of bromidosis wherein the stench was intolerable, this condition being relieved with Asepsin. For this purpose I dissolve 30 to 60 grains Asepsin in 6 ounces water, and apply on gauze, two or three times a day.

I have also had excellent results from the use of Specific Medicine Thuja in dry, scaly eczema. In such cases I use the Specific Medicine Thuja, 3ii in water q. s. ad ℥vi, applying on gauze to diseased surfaces. As a stimulant to the growth of hair I use a combination of Specific Medicines Thuja, Echafolta, and Phytolacca. This is a good remedy in alopecia.

Comment: Our correspondent fails to give the proportions of the stimulant prescription. It is important and we hope will be supplied for the benefit of physician readers of THE GLEANER.

AQUEOUS THUJA IN CORNEAL ULCER

(Contributed)

Your Aqueous (Felter's) Thuja, one part to four of distilled water, is the best preparation I have found for corneal ulcer. One to two drops of this solution in the eye, every two hours is my method of application. If there is complication of iritis, it may be used in conjunction with atropine.

Comment: Thuja has so many uses and preparations as to have led us to prepare a special Drug Treatise (No.1) on the subject. It will be mailed physicians free on application.

LYOYD'S OIL OF THUJA NOT DESIGNED FOR USE IN THE EYE

Question: I am interested in Thuja as a remedy for conjunctivitis, granulated lids, etc., and wish to try the so-called Oil of Thuja made by using olive oil and Thuja. Please send me any literature you may have on this preparation.

Reply: Letters similar to the above come to us not infrequently, notwithstanding that we have repeatedly, in current prints as well as in our drug treatise on Thuja, made prominent the fact that our preparation, Oil of Thuja, is too energetic to be used in the eye. It is an ethereal complicated extractive, astringent and stimulating, carrying the fixed oils of Thuja. It is an irritating preparation, and should not be employed in the eye. For conjunctivitis and other eye affections, Thuja Ointment may be employed. Another Thuja preparation that has for many years been a favorite in treatment of trachoma and other eye affections, is that known as "Long's Thuja," a bland, stimulating, oleaginous substance leaving no unpleasant after-effects.

Comment: See preceding article.

SPECIFIC MEDICINES IN COMBINATION

Question: Please state if the Specific Medicines may be given mixed together in prescriptions, or if they must be given separately.

Reply: This question is often asked by physicians just beginning the use of the Specific Medicines. It has several times been answered at considerable length in THE GLEANER, but at the risk of being tedious to old friends, we will again answer, briefly, that where remedies do not antagonize each other, either therapeutically or pharmaceutically, and when they are separately indicated, they may be given in combination, each being selected for its specific effect in the case under consideration.

As examples of therapeutic antagonists, we need but mention Gelsemium and Belladonna, the former of which is sedative, relaxant and antispasmodic, the latter a stimulant to capillary circulation. To administer these remedies in combination would be much as though an acid and an alkali were given on the same prescription, with the object of getting both the alkaline and the acid effect. This latter combination is a good example of a pharmaceutical incompatibility.

In like manner, a remedy that contains much of a resinous constituent upon which it depends for its action, such as Specific Medicine Cannabis, should not be given in combination with one having an aqueous menstruum, which precipitates the resin. Such remedies are better given in alternation, each being added to water in proper proportion, as each dose is taken. Should the physician for any reason desire to give such remedies in combination, for their synergistic action or otherwise, the patient should be directed to shake or stir well the mixture before each dose is taken.

LYCOPUS SINUATUS (Water Hoarhound)

Question: The enclosed plant came up last year in my door yard, and this year it is all over my garden. My chickens are very fond of it. I do not know of its growing anywhere else in this community. Can you tell me what it is?

Reply: This was identified by Professor Aiken as *Lycopus sinuatus*, or Water Hoarhound. This is a near relative to *Lycopus virginicus*, from which Specific Medicine *Lycopus* is made, and possibly may have like qualities, although we do not find this species of *Lycopus* mentioned in the dispensatories or *materia medicas*.

USES OF GARLIC

Question: Do you make any preparation of leek or garlic? My attention was attracted to this some time ago, and I have found it helpful in bronchial trouble, high blood pressure, partial paralysis, stomach and kidney troubles. Can its taste or odor be disguised in any way?

I am now in my seventy-fifth year. Had partial paralysis several years ago, but that is now all gone. I can walk ten miles with very little discomfort as a result. My friends call me "the boy."

Reply: We make no preparation of either leek or garlic. As noted in GLEANER 3, while garlic is possessed of a very characteristic, volatile oil, this, when separated from its natural plant structure, is not very permanent and soon wears out, even when in alcoholic solution. Fortunately, however, garlic bulbs are readily obtainable, and if not broken they may be kept from season to season, and from these a very uniform garlic product may be obtained from the freshest and best condition, whenever desired. This may be accomplished by crushing the bulb in a mortar, rubbing it to a pulp with a little water or diluted alcohol, and straining it through a cloth.

Some years ago we made some extensive experiments with garlic, our object being to make a permanent preparation for our physician friends who desired to use this agent in their practice. Our entire establishment was saturated with its fumes to such an extent as to be disagreeable to everybody therein, but the results of our experiments were of such a nature as to lead us to believe that the fresh bulb, alone, could properly be utilized. We found nothing to overcome the taste or odor of garlic, and in our opinion any preparation lacking this characteristic taste and odor would be devoid of the therapeutic qualities desired.

ERYNGIUM AQUATICUM (Water Eryngo)

(Contributed)

This is a remedy of recognized utility in a varied number of troubles. It seems particularly adapted to diseases of the genito-urinary organs, the urinary especially. Its special indications are irritation, burning pain, tenesmus in the bladder and urethra, unpleasant sensation behind the pubes, perineal weight and pressure, difficult micturition, mucous or pus deposits in the urine, uneasy, frequent desire to micturate, and dysuria, with pain extending to the loins.

In irritation of the kidneys, nephritis, acute or chronic, in irritation of the bladder, cystic irritation, in gravel, in urethritis, whether of simple or gonorrhoeal origin, in urethral and prostatic troubles generally, eryngium is a most excellent remedy. It is also of pronounced value in passive dropsy, and in many of the diseases of the reproductive organs of women.

Eryngium is unexcelled as a remedy in spasmodic stricture of the urethra, especially when it is combined with Specific Medicine *Gelsemium*. It is also variously described as a diaphoretic, expectorant, stimulant, etc. In this line it is commended for bronchial inflammation, with profuse exudation, laryngitis, and chronic pharyngitis. It is recommended by Dr. Webster as a remedy in the diarrhea of teething children, with tenesmus and mucous discharges.

* This important contribution to the literature on Cinnamon was made by Professor H. W. Felton, M.D., to the Eclectic Medical Journal in 1914. We reproduce it, believing it to be of timely interest to our readers.-Ed.

As adjuvants to Eryngium, to be given either with it, or in alternation, we suggest Specific Medicines Gelsemium, Triticum, Epigea, Jaborandi, and especially Specific Medicine Elaterium, in small doses. The Specific Medicine Eryngium, which is the best preparation of the drug I have been able to obtain, may be given as follows:

℞. Spec. Med. Eryngium, gtt. x to 3i.
Water, ℥iv.

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful every hour, or oftener, if the demand for immediate relief is imperative. The indications for Eryngium, and its uses, are given upon the label for the Specific Medicine.

SPECIFIC MEDICINE CINNAMON*

Specific Medicine Cinnamon is an important item in my medicine case. Its therapeutic field is restricted, and yet I find daily use for it no vial being more frequently emptied. For certain conditions, cinnamon has properties that make it nearly specific. While perhaps no tests have been made as regards its power over germ-life, there seems to be no question that some opposing action is exerted by it in cases of la grippe. In recent years, aromatic bodies like cinnamon and camphor have been overlooked, though the latter is now being given much attention in pneumonia. Should investigation be made of them in that line, we believe it will be found true that they possess anti-bacterial virtue. Cinnamon is frequently of service in hemorrhages, acting best in passive conditions. I have used it largely in hemoptysis, usually combining it with ergot. With rest and absolute mental composure on the part of the patient, the administration of cinnamon has been promptly effective. When used with ergot in pulmonary hemorrhage, we believe more relief comes from the cinnamon than from the ergot, for ergot alone is far less effective. We are told that ergot does not work as well in pulmonary bleeding as in other forms of hemorrhage, because of the sparse musculature of the pulmonic vessels, but here cinnamon has given me results that have been entirely satisfactory. I have also used it with success in uterine hemorrhages, parturial or otherwise. In menorrhagia, even when due to fibroids and polypi, it has had the effect of intermittently checking the waste; but in such cases, a surgical operation is the only rational course.

Cinnamon is used freely in certain diarrheal disorders-in very small amounts in acute forms, and in larger doses in chronic, non-inflammatory and non-febrile conditions. It helps to check the diarrhea, warms the sluggish gastro-intestinal tract, and is decidedly grateful as a carminative. In flatulency it gives decided relief if given in hot infusion. My chief use for cinnamon, however, is to flavor unpleasant medicines, and to preserve them from rapid changes. Medicines used in but few drops in a half glass of water will sour quickly in summer time, and will not keep sweet long at any time. The addition of a few drops of Specific Medicine Cinnamon to such a mixture, gives an agreeable sweetness and aroma, and will help the medicine to preserve its balance for several days. Children invariably like the flavor, and often ask to have a little cinnamon added to their medicine.

However, even cinnamon can be overdone. It should not be added day after day for a long period, lest the taste recoil and the stomach revolt. Nor should much be put into mixtures for little children, for if overdone, it smarts the mouth severely. Nor should it be employed when the mouth is irritated or ulcerated. When too much has been added, the oil of cinnamon separates, and floats upon the surface. If thus given, it is decidedly irritant. If the medicine to which cinnamon has been added in over-amount is too valuable to throw away, the excess of cinnamon may be easily removed by lightly sweeping over the surface with a clean piece of blotting paper or filter-paper, or a firm, non-crumbling piece of bread. The vial of cinnamon occupies the end of one row in my medicine. Here it is always handy, and is kept as much as possible from contact with the other medicines.

SPECIFIC MEDICINE ERGOT*

H. Ford Scudder, M.D., Los Angeles

Specific Use: "As a stimulant to the capillary circulation, and to the nerve centers. In large doses, a parturient."

In Hemorrhages.-Ergot lessens the caliber of the arteries, dilates the veins, and slows the action of the heart. It exercises a specific influence upon unstriated muscular fiber, inducing profuse muscular contractions. Ergot is one of our most valuable and frequently used remedies in controlling hemorrhage. For uterine hemorrhage it is our most important remedy, because it contracts the mouths of the bleeding vessels. Use it in passive hemorrhage with enfeebled circulation, in hemorrhage from the bowels following chronic diarrhea or typhoid fever, in vomiting of blood from ulceration of the stomach, in epistaxis, hematuria, or hemorrhage from the lungs. Specific Medicine Ergot, gtt. v to viii, given four or five times a day, usually controls the tendency to hemorrhage, but when there is free discharge of blood, larger doses should be employed.

As a Uterine Tonic.-Ergot is valuable in profuse menstruation, and when there is a tendency to uterine hemorrhage at the menstrual period. It has a tendency to tone up the muscular structure of the uterus, and is a valuable agent to combine with other uterine tonics.

As a Parturient.-Use Ergot in labor in the second stage, if there is threatened hemorrhage, or a previous history of the same, and in full-sized doses in cases of post-partum hemorrhage. We employ Ergot as a parturient only when there is muscular relaxation and uterine inertia after completion of the first stage of labor, with the os uteri soft and thoroughly dilated, with correct position of the child, and no obstacle to its free expulsion. Since its expulsive effect is very prompt and powerful, every care should be taken, before giving the remedy, to see that there are no contra-indications for its use.

In Chronic Disorders.-Ergot is indicated in atonic and relaxed conditions of the urinary and reproductive organs, relieving many chronic troubles of these organs, especially incontinence of urine in the aged, due to relaxation of the walls of the bladder.

In Cerebral Complications.-Ergot is exceedingly useful in disturbances of the circulation of the brain; in hyperemia with flushed face, vertigo, threatened apoplexy in full-blooded patients, concussion of the brain, and in inflammation of the brain and meninges, with full capillary circulation.

HYDRASTIS

H. Ford Scudder, M.D.

Specific Use: "To improve the appetite and digestion. It also exerts a specific influence on nutritive processes."

Specific Medicine Hydrastis.-This is one of our best tonics for the circulatory and mucous structures. It exerts a tonic influence upon the mucous membranes of the entire gastro-intestinal tract, especially the stomach. It is soothing in its action, it increases the appetite, aids the secretion of the gastric and intestinal juices, increases peristalsis, tones up the muscular walls of the stomach and intestines, improves nutrition, and tends to restore the parts to a normal condition. It is especially indicated in all functional disorders of the stomach and digestive apparatus, in all atonic states with increased secretion of mucous, and in sub-acute and chronic inflammation with free secretion. Use it in all irritable disorders of the stomach, in atonic dyspepsia, and in catarrhal gastritis. It is contra-indicated in acute inflammatory conditions, with scanty secretions.

Combined with Specific Medicine Nux Vomica, Specific Medicine Hydrastis is very effective in relieving chronic constipation, when the muscular walls of the stomach and intestines are relaxed and inactive. Combined with small doses of Specific Medicine Podophyllum, it is valuable in hepatic congestion and catarrhal conditions of the gall ducts. It is efficient in many uterine disorders, as in subinvolution or menorrhagia, and in all chronic catarrhal conditions of the mucous membranes of the uterus, bladder, vagina, or urethra.

Lloyd's Hydrastis.-Locally, the colorless preparation of Hydrastis, known as "Lloyd's Hydrastis" forms one of the best preparations for leucorrhoea with thick, yellowish discharge and relaxed and enfeebled membranes. For this use as a douche, two or three drams of Lloyd's Hydrastis to the pint of hot water. Lloyd's Hydrastis is especially serviceable, as a tampon dressing, in atonic conditions of the mucous membrane of the vagina. Combined with equal parts of glycerin, it forms an excellent tampon treatment for heavy, boggy uterus, with prolapsus.

We employ Lloyd's Hydrastis as a wash in ulcerated sore mouth, also in nasal catarrh, and as a gargle in chronic inflammations of the throat, with dilated blood vessels, relaxed tissues and profuse secretions.

Used as an injection in gonorrhoea, Lloyd's Hydrastis has no equal. It is painless and non-irritating, and does not stain the clothing. It should be employed only after acute stage of the disease has passed, say ten days from the onset of the discharge. In this affection use the following:

R̄. Lloyd's Hydrastis,	℥i
Spec. Med. Hamamelis,	℥i
Water,	℥ii

M. Sig.: Inject two drams of the mixture four times a day, after urinating. In gleet and chronic gonorrhoea, add to the prescription a small amount of acetate of lead or sulphate of zinc.

CORNUS STOLONIFERA (Red-Osier Dogwood)

Question: I am sending specimens of a plant that grows wild in this section. If not too much trouble, will you kindly identify it for me?

Reply: This is the *Comus stolonifera*, or Red-Osier Dogwood. Several species of dogwood are recognized in the Dispensatory as having medicinal properties, but this is not among the number although it possibly has therapeutic qualities similar to those of the other species. The official variety of dogwood is the well known *Comus Florida*, whose showy blooms add so much to the beauty of springtime. Its indications and uses in medicine are as given on the label of the Specific Medicine *Cornus*.

JATROPHA SPATHULATA (Leather Plant)

Question: The enclosed plant is known here as "Rubber" or "Leather Plant." Out of more than two hundred specimens, this was the only one I could find with the bloom, which disappears quickly from the growing plant. The outer coating of the root having been washed or scraped off, the white root substance is scraped and used internally. Taken in moderate doses, it acts as an emetic. In full doses it acts both as an emetic and a purge, the fecal discharges resembling those from podophyllin. No ill effects follow. The action of the drug seems to be similar to that of ipecac. I should much appreciate the botanical name of this plant, and its record in medicine, if it is known to you.

Reply: This plant, from Texas, was identified by Professor Aiken as *Jatropha spathulata*, variety *sessiliflora*, of the Euphorbia or Spurge family. Like the other Euphorbias it has a milky juice and long, rubber-like stems, which very quickly blackened the blade of the knife cutting into it. This species of Euphorbia is not mentioned in the Dispensatory, which includes about thirty varieties, among these being *Euphorbia corollata*, from which we make Specific Medicine Euphorbia; *Euphorbia hypericifolia*, listed among the Specific Medicines as Spotted Spurge, and *Euphorbia pilulifera*, or Asthma Weed. As described by our physician friend, the action of this species of Euphorbia is much like that of *Euphorbia corollata*. Of this the American Dispensatory says:

"One of our early botanists, Nuttall, had a peculiar dislike to the Euphorbias, and could see no good in them, regarding them as dangerous and needless remedies. Rafinesque, who was more nearly Eclectic than any other of the earlier botanists, and whose views were those generally accepted by the Eclectic fathers, says of the *Euphorbia corollata* that 'it is a safer and better emetic than common ipecac, from the fact that its action may be regulated according to the quantity taken, which as we all know, can not be done with the latter drug.' Rafinesque further notes the singular similarity of the Louisiana Indian name 'peheca' and the Brazilian 'ipeca,' both meaning 'emetic root.' "

The action of *Euphorbia corollata*, according to the American Dispensatory, is "Emetic, diaphoretic, expectorant, and epispastic. Small doses are expectorant and diaphoretic. Larger doses produce emesis, usually without much pain or spasm, nausea, or giddiness. Overdoses will produce dangerous hyperemesis or hypercatharsis, or both, and not infrequently give rise to an unpleasant inflammatory state of the alimentary canal. A dose that falls short of emesis usually proves cathartic."

The indications and uses of Specific Medicine Euphorbia are as given upon the Specific Medicine label.

MYOSOTIS VIRGINICA

Question: I desire to thank you for the drug treatises received. I wish there was one regarding Myosotis, one of my favorite remedies. Have you anything concerning this drug?

Reply: *Myosotis virginica*, L. (*Cynoglossum Morisini*, D. C.), common names Virginia Mouse-ear, Beggar's Lice, and Dysentery Weed is nearly related to the official *Cynoglossum Officinale*, or Hound's Tongue. We make no preparation of this plant, which is not much used in medicine. It would please us to receive from physicians employing this drug, their method of using it, together with indications for its use, and dosage. Information such as this should be recorded, for the benefit of the profession at large. The record of *Myosotis*, as given in the American Dispensatory, is as follows:

"The root is the part used, and it imparts its virtues to water. It is mucilaginous, tonic, and astringent, and has been found very efficient in diarrhea and dysentery. From its excellent effect in these diseases, it has acquired the popular name of dysentery root. It has also been used with marked advantage in cholera infantum, gastro-intestinal irritation of continued fever, and as a mild tonic during convalescence from acute disease. As a diuretic, it has been useful in cystitis, nephritis, and other diseases of the urinary organs."

ASTER PUNICEUS IN RHEUMATISM

Question: I am enclosing specimen of a plant known here as "Blue Belgian." It is supposed to be a specific for rheumatism. Has it any record of use in this direction?

Reply: This specimen was referred to Professor Aiken, who says of it, "I think this is the *Aster puniceus*, or Red-stalked Aster. *Aster novi belgii* is very closely related to it. *Novi Belgii* is one of the eastern swamp plants that grow along the coast from Newfoundland to Maine, and it has been found as far south as Georgia." The aromatic, astringent rootlets of the *aster puniceus* have been employed as a stimulating diaphoretic in rheumatic and catarrhal affections. The American Dispensatory says of *Aster puniceus*:

"It is stimulant and diaphoretic. The warm infusion, 3ss to water Oj, may be used freely in colds, rheumatism, nervous debility, headache, pains in the stomach, dizziness, and menstrual irregularities. This plant has been compared in value with valerian."

ROSA GALLICA

"Question: What is "*Rosa Gallica*," now commended for use in hay fever?

Reply: *Rosa Gallica* (French Rose), is the dwarf red rose, as described in Gray's Botany. In former times it was quite extensively used in medicine, but is rarely now thus employed. In the Amer. Dispensatory we find the following concerning its properties:

"Red roses are tonic and mildly astringent. They have been used in passive hemorrhages and excessive mucous discharges. They have also been found beneficial in bowel complaints, and are more commonly used in ophthalmic diseases as a poultice. . . . The confection is mostly employed as a basis for making pills. If iron be added to the confection or any of its preparations, it forms a hard black pill, which passed through the alimentary canal unchanged."

The use of the rose in confection form, once very popular in pharmacopoeial preparations, has now become nearly obsolete, with the exception perhaps of its employment in "blue mass," *Massa Hydrargyrum*. From the History of Pharmacopoeial Drugs, 1922, we make the following excerpt, as of possible interest to GLEANER readers ;

"*Rosa gallica* is said to have been introduced into France in 1241 by the Count of Champagne, on his return from the Crusades. In his study of 'attar of roses,' made by the writer on the bottomlands beneath Mt. Olympus, near Brussa, in Turkey, in 1906, he found the roses planted in rows, appearing much like fields of raspberries. The flowers were of a rather insignificant appearance, but very fragrant. The process employed in the distillation of the oil, as well as the apparatus used, was of the crudest. A copper-bottomed still of tin, having a capacity of about fifty gallons, was heated at the bottom by a direct charcoal furnace."

From the top of the still a tin pipe ran horizontally along a rude trough about fifteen feet in length, filled with very cold, running water, supplied in abundance from the springs of Mt. Olympus, the water being raised by means of an undershot wheel about eight feet in height and two feet in diameter, with paddles on the extremities of the arms. To the ends of these paddles were affixed tin cans, holding about a quart each. These were submerged, successively, as the wheel turned slowly, in a lower trough supplied" with running water, and on rising they poured their contents into the upper trough, carrying the pipe from the still. The vapor from the still was thus condensed, the rose oil separating from the water of distillation, which was used over and over, with fresh lots of rose petals. By this rude process two kinds of rose oil were made by the Turkish owner of the gardens, one from white, the other from red roses, their colors being respectively a light yellowish and a reddish. The oil from each congealed at ordinary temperatures. Specimens of the oil then procured are yet in my possession (1921), seemingly as fragrant and as sweet as when first made."-J. U. L.

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MULLEINED OIL

This preparation (then called Mullein Oil) was first mentioned to the medical profession in the "Investigator," July, 1884. Following this, brief reports concerning its service were given in the Eclectic Medical Journal.

At first the preparation as has been stated was called "Mullein Oil," a misnomer, because it was made by macerating mullein flowers in alcohol. It is not an oil. (We still furnish the alcoholic preparation when desired.) Later we incorporated the desirable medicinal principles of mullein flowers in pure olive oil, thus doing away with alcohol, which often proved objectionable when used in the ear. Our improved preparation, termed Mulleined Oil, was introduced to the profession by Dr. Waterhouse.

MULLEINED OIL

LLOYD BROTHERS, PHARMACISTS INC. Cincinnati, O.

Uses. Simple uncomplicated cases of deafness; or in the early stages of progressive deafness where the cause is not apparent. Earache of children. Ulceration of the ear with fetid discharges.

Dose. Two to five drops in the ear three or four times each day.—*Ellingwood.*

Itching of the ears is quickly allayed by application of a saturated cotton carrier.

Note. This preparation was introduced by us and for many years has been used with satisfaction by physicians. Formerly it was alcoholic, and of a dark red-brown color. (We still furnish this alcoholic preparation.) In cold weather the preparation may solidify. Should this occur, warm the vial gently and it will assume its liquid form without changing its properties.—*Introduced by Dr. Waterhouse.*

Although Mulleined Oil has been so seldom and briefly mentioned in print it remains a favorite with many physicians. A preparation that unaided, without feature advertising, thus holds its place through more than a generation unquestionably has more than ordinary merit. For the benefit of its readers THE GLEANER would appreciate clinical reports from those who use Mulleined Oil. A reproduction of our label follows. We should like to know if you have further uses than those of the label, also how valuable it is in your practice according to label usage.