

USES OF SOME STANDARD REMEDIES,

BY
ECLECTIC PHYSICIANS.

(Extract from Locke's Materia Medica and Therapeutics.)

IPECACUANHA.

Specific Ipecac.- This has a dark brown-red color, being one of the few dark, cloudy Specific Medicines. It is capable of mixing clear with water, or mixtures of water and alcohol, being, for this reason, a great improvement on such preparations as the fluid extract. Being very concentrated, care must be taken in its administration.

Ipecac is a good remedy in troubles of the respiratory organs, such as acute bronchitis, difficult breathing, and in croup (combined with Aconite). It may be given with good results to women troubled with difficult respiration during pregnancy.

℞ Specific Ipecac, gtt. v. to x.

Aqua, fl ℥ iv. M.

Sig.-Teaspoonful every one to four hours.

In spasmodic affections of the throat, as croup, if fever is present, give Ipecac in alternation with Aconite; if a membrane is present, alternate it with Bryonia. It is not as good as Lobelia in catarrhal affections of the throat. Given in small doses it is stimulant; in large doses depressant. If dryness of the membranes is a marked feature, the syrup is a good form of administration. Ipecac is beneficial in many kinds of cough. If it be a dry form of cough give nauseant doses; if secretion is abundant give a small (stimulant) dose. In that form of spasmodic cough in which the expectoration is bloody, the dose should be neither large nor small, say one drop of Specific Ipecac in a teaspoonful of water every ten or fifteen minutes.

IRIS VERSICOLOR.

The older Eclectics seemed to do some wonderful things with powdered blue flag as a remedy. They learned, too, that the poorly dried root was of little or no value as a medicine. Prof. Lloyd, who has carefully studied the drug, besides confirming this, has determined that the iris grown in the South is not medicinally the equal of Ohio grown iris. The soil and climate affect its chemical properties, and modify its therapeutic action.

Iris, under the old classification, is an emetic, a cathartic, a cholagogue, a diuretic, and an alterative. Because of its cholagogue, cathartic, and alterative properties or action, and the further fact that in large doses it many times caused a very disagreeable salivation, it was frequently called the "Eclectic mercury." The ptyalism produced by it is attended by much nausea, and great prostration, but there is an absence of the peculiar fetor that accompanies mercurial salivation, Stimulating remedies like capsicum and ginger, when given with iris, will, to a great degree, overcome the untoward action of the drug.

Iris may be said to be indicated in any case in which an "increased waste and an improved nutrition are demanded, and more especially when there is a "sodden, leaden-colored tongue and tissues" and general fullness of the throat, pulse and arteries, together with glandular engorgement, whether it be of the liver, spleen, thyroid, or lymph glands generally. Hepatic torpor, bad blood, poor nutrition, glandular sluggishness, etc., are special beacons guiding to iris as a remedy.

Coming within this category are chronic liver troubles; and some one has said iris is especially useful in those cases accompanied by sharp, cutting pains, worse on motion. It is the remedy in liver troubles accompanied by jaundice, white stools, or by dropsy, by constipation, by the so-called biliousness, and by sick headache. Iris has a specific action upon the thyroid gland, and is *the* remedy for bronchocele. Dr. Niederkorn, of Versailles, O., writes us that he has *never* failed to cure goitre by the administration of iris, but that it is necessary to vary the dose, and in some cases to correct other existing wrongs by remedies specifically indicated. In this trouble it should be given internally and applied locally. Some preparation of iodine is a favorite local application with many of our physicians in this affection.

Iris is a valuable remedy in glandular affections generally; in malarial poisoning with involvement of the spleen and liver; in rheumatism, in catarrhal affections, especially in some cases of diarrhea and dysentery, in scrofulous cachexia, particularly in scorbutic females, who have leucorrhoea, dysmenorrhoea, etc. In syphilis, any stage, but more especially during its secondary and tertiary manifestations, iris is an admirable remedy. In some cases of stomatitis. and in gastro-intestinal disorders, like cholera morbus and infantum, it is decidedly beneficial when given in small doses. In some cases of skin diseases-those in which iris indications are prominent-it is a most satisfactory remedy. This is markedly true in some cases of eczema, psoriasis, and pustular diseases in children. When the mouth is dry and saliva scanty, iris in fair sized doses is efficient. Iris is recommended in prostatic troubles, and seminal losses in cases in which there is marked debility, with mental complications.

When iris is given in doses that are too large, it irritates and disturbs the stomach. Small doses allay gastric irritation. The specific medicine iris, the ideal preparation of the drug, is given in teaspoonful doses every three or four hours of a mixture of ten drops to one drachm of the specific medicine to four fluid ounces of water. Many conquests over disease have been decided in favor of Eclectic physicians by iris, and it deserves a thorough trial at the hands of every practitioner of medicine.

Elaterium in Cystitis.

There is one specific medicine, that from recent conversations with wide-awake physicians we believe is often overlooked, or forgotten. It is specific elaterium as a remedy in chronic cystitis, with much pain. The dose must be small.

Ten drops to four ounces of water; a teaspoonful of the mixture every hour.

(Editorial from the Eclectic Medical Journal, Vol. LVI, No, 10, October, 1896.)

CACTUS GRANDIFLORUS.

Recorded experiences of observers of the action of this remedy differ widely. We believe it is because of the varying strength of the preparations employed and the fact that several species of cactus are sold for cactus grandiflorus, as well as the drug must be carefully and quickly prepared after being cut. It is difficult to make a perfect pharmaceutical preparation of cactus of full strength, because of the abundance of water in the green drug, and, according to Prof. Lloyd, it must be worked at once, after being cut

There are several reasons for inferior preparations of cactus being on the drug market, one being the scarcity and expense of the genuine drug. Then, again, the cases to which it was given were not always well selected. We give cactus with as much confidence as we do digitalis, nitro-glycerine, or any other of the class of remedies to which it belongs.

It is, however, not so rapid in its action as some of these. Our experience is based wholly upon the specific medicine which is used in doses varying from five drops to one drachm in four ounces of water, of which a teaspoonful is given from every half hour to two hours. The specific medicine is made from the green stem of the true species of the plant.

As to the action of cactus, Prof. Scudder, in his writings, seemed quite positive that it was "neither sedative or stimulant." Prof. Locke remarks that according to our view, cactus is sedative but not depressant. If it were not that great men differ, we would be slow to express the opinion that cactus is both stimulant and sedative; but that the effect in either case is secondary. We believe that its action is specifically through the sympathetic nervous supply, the cardiac plexus. The nutrition of the heart-muscle is permanently increased, and it has greater contractile power, and rhythm is strengthened and regulated.

The continued use of cactus is followed by no unpleasant effects, though it is said that over-doses cause gastric irritation, the belching of acrid gases and distressing diarrhoea. The indications calling for cactus as a remedy are, feeble, irregular, quick, nervous, irritable pulse; oppression in the chest as if in an iron grip; unpleasant pain, heart stitches, palpitation, mental depression, hypochondria. With these guide-posts before us, cactus is used in "heart disease," both functional and structural. Of course, for the palpitation and disturbances due to stomachic distension and other reflex troubles, cactus is *not* the remedy. But for the weak heart of the typhoid fever patient, when he is convalescing, or before or after; for the bad heart of the chronic indulger in strong drink-the toper; in the exhausted heart muscle of the worn out dyspeptic; in the fond but frail heart of the too frequent worshipper at the throne of Venus; in sexual exhaustion; in the palpitation and disturbances of exophthalmic goitre; in aortic regurgitation due to weak heart tissue, cactus is the remedy *par excellence*. In structural lesions, though it will not correct the wrong, we believe cactus will do as much as any remedy to alleviate. It will help matters when the heart is worried from valvular insufficiency; it should strengthen a fatty, degenerated heart, and it should, to a degree, relieve uncompensated valvular disease in relative incompetency due to muscular degeneration. It is said to be contra-indicated in mitral stenosis, and that its administration favors hemorrhage. While on the other hand, Prof. Webster says that cactus is the remedy *par excellence* in hemoptysis.

Cactus is a remedy in fever or inflammation of any or all kinds when from its long continue nee heart failure is threatened.

It is an excellent remedy in *nervous* diseases, when the heart is disturbed, and especially in nervous headaches with depression and in nervous females about the menstrual time. It can be given with or in alteration with pulsatilla. We believe, too, that the addition of very small doses of lobelia for their stimulating effect upon the sympathetic can frequently be used in connection with cactus. It is also a superior remedy in mild cases of angina pectoris, and in threatened apoplexy. It is of great value in cardiac dropsy, in cardiac neuralgia, and rheumatism with the characteristic chest oppression and griping, vice-like pain.

Dr. Scudder highly recommended cactus as a remedy for cough that pointed to the supra-sternal notch, and for its special action upon the pancreas. In these particular cases, we have not verified its action, because we have not tried it.

We believe that it has a special action through the heart upon the circulation and nutrition of the brain. We have confidence in cactus as a remedy, and we suggest to Journal readers that they study it, or having tried it and not satisfied with it, re-study it, using a superior preparation, and report results to the editor.

(Extract from Locke's *Materia Medica and Therapeutics*.)

VERATRUM.

Specific Veratrum.- This is made of recent (not green) Veratrum root. It is very energetic and must be used with caution. Many authorities consider that Veratrum depends exclusively upon an alkaloid for its medicinal value, but Prof. Lloyd considers that the association of the alkaloid and resinous constituents must be unbroken to give the full effects of this valuable drug. No solution of Veratrum alkaloids will produce the therapeutical action of specific Veratrum.

Veratrum is a good remedy for puerperal convulsions. It must not be relied upon here alone, but it prevents inflammation and favorably influences the stomach, secretory organs and absorbents.

It is a very good drug when a sedative is needed in the early stage of acute dropsy given in alternation with Digitalis; the effusion sometimes rapidly disappears under its employment. It is valuable in the early stage of phthisis to control a violent condition of the circulation, and to bring down the temperature. Give it in one-half drop doses. It likewise proves useful in hemorrhages of an active character. In acute inflammatory rheumatism it lessens the pain and promotes elimination of the rheumatic poison.

Heart troubles, such as active cardiac hypertrophy, are relieved by Veratrum. In these cases the pulse is full, strong, and intense, the carotids pulsate forcibly, the eyes are blood-shot, and there is cough, headache, and weight in the upper epigastrium, while the heart may beat so violently as to shake the bed, and sleep is entirely prevented. This remedy relieves the excitement, the heart action becomes normal, the cough improves, and the patient is in every way better. Give one drop in water five or six times a day. If the pulse is feeble and rapid Digitalis is preferable.

(From the Daily Lancet. Philadelphia, October 7th, 1896.)

THUJA OCCIDENTALIS.

By D. G. HIMROD, M. D., Augusta, Ga.

An eminent physician once said: "When I began the practice of medicine I had many remedies for each disease; after many years experience, I had but one remedy for many diseases."

The one remedy I find most useful for the many diseases. is the one at the head of this article. It is not a new remedy, for the record of its use extends over a period of two hundred years. To our Homeopathic and Eclectic brethren are we indebted for much we know of its virtue. Their experiments have proven it to be slightly anodyne, stimulant, antiseptic, alterative, astringent and tonic, having its principle action on the skin. mucous membranes and generative organs.

From the above statement we see that Thuja will be useful in many cutaneous affections, particularly in eczema especially in the dry variety. In pruritis, whether anal or vulvar, when accompanied by fissures of the skin, it will be found useful and curative. In epithelioma of the face, in warts, tumors and excrescences you will not be disappointed. For chapped hands, so troublesome in the fall of the year; in all mucous patches or ulcerations of the throat, whether syphilitic or diphtheritic; in ptialism from mercury or iris, Thuja will be found valuable.

In nasal, vaginal, rectal, urethral or bladder irritations and vesiculitis, Thuja should be thought of. In hydrocele it is safer and surer than carbolic acid and iodine.

In trachoma and conjunctivitis it will remove the granulations and subdue the inflammation.

Oftentimes a patient presents himself with balanitis or abrasions or excoriations on the head of the penis, or around the corona gland is. A few applications of Thuja will greatly relieve him and please you. In soft chancres, when not too deep, a wash or ointment of Thuja will be sufficient. In catarrhal ulceration of the uterine neck a tampon of Thuja and glycerin will rapidly cure. Given internally in proper doses, it arrests passive hemorrhages. It will cure enuresis of children and check the dribbling of the aged when not of parietic origin. It is the remedy in vesical irritation-especially in aged women. In amnoerrhea, from pelvic atony, it must not be forgotten. In anal fissures and prolapsed rectum of children, either applied locally or used with the hypodermic syringe, a cure may be anticipated. Combined with chloroform and menthol it forms an efficient styptic for bleeding gums and hemorrhage after extracting teeth.

Thuja, in combination with hamamelis and hydrastis used as a rectal injection in acute and chronic proctitis, will not disappoint you. With nux vomica added you have almost a soecific in those atonic conditions so often met with following dysentery. In these cases Thuja seems to act in a double capacity. By its astringent and anodyne powers it soothes the irritation and contracts the dilated blood vessels in the inflammatory stages, by its stimulating and tonic properties it restores vigor and gives vitality to the atrophic conditions.

In urethral caruncles a properly diluted solution applied with absorbent cotton or painted on with a camel's hair brush, will cause their disappearance without pain, the knife, or danger of hemorrhage, much to the relief of the patient and the satisfaction of the practitioner. In syphilitic psoriasis and nodules, Thuja combined with Iris vesicolor given internally is the equal of mercury and iodide of potash. In all diseases of bad blood, with warty excrescences or ulcerations showing prominence of papillae, either of cutaneous or mucous surfaces, Thuja can be relied on. It has been recommended in malaria, rheumatism and for worms. I have had no experience with it in these cases.

In leucorrhea and gonorrhoea and all discharges of mucous surfaces, Thuja should be thought of. To obtain the full benefits in its use, much depends on the mode of its administration, and more on the preparation used. For internal administration it should be given in small doses frequently repeated, and its effects closely watched.

In vesical irritation, in large doses, it will increase rather than diminish the trouble. As a local application it can be used diluted one to four parts, or one to two. or equal parts. In chancroids and ulcers I frequently use it in full strength. The fluid and solid extracts I find of unequal strength and unsatisfactory.

The specific medicine made by Lloyd Brothers, of Cincinnati, has proven most serviceable. It is made from the green herb; and is of uniform strength and reliable. They put up two preparations, one the alcoholic and the other nonalcoholic. For internal use, and as a local application to cutaneous surfaces, I prefer the alcoholic, but for mucous surfaces or hypodermic use I choose the aqueous or nonalcoholic.

I keep it always in my case and find more use for it than any other one remedy.

(Extract from Locke's Materia Medica and Therapeutics.)

THUJA.

Thuja specifically influences the urinary apparatus and is useful in chronic diarrhoea and chronic troubles of the prostate gland. It is a good agent in the treatment of warty excrescences on the genital organs of male. or female; inject into the tumor. If this does not cure use nitric acid. It may be used on warts on any part of the body.

Thuja is an excellent remedy for dribbling of urine in the aged, and urinary incontinence in the young. Give small doses of specific Thuja. The non-alcoholic Thuja is one of the best remedies for granular conjunctivitis. It should be applied with vaseline. Thuja is contra-indicated in inflammatory states of the urinary tract.

In cancerous troubles this is a good remedy; it may cure in the early stages, but it will not in the latter. It is a good alterative in all such cases. It specifically influences the glandular system and may be. used in the treatment of glandular indurations, as syphilis and scrofula. Give specific Thuja, five drops four times a day.

Thuja furnishes a good local remedy for chronic ulcers and skin troubles in syphilitic patients.

It makes a good injection in hydrocele; after tapping the scrotum inject into. the tuuica vaginalis. Internally use doses of from one to five drops. As a local application dilute it with three or four parts of water or glycerin. For warts use full strength.

(Editorial from the Eclectic Medical Journal, Vol. LVII, No.4.)

COLLINSONIA.

This is also called "stone root," from the fact that the root is very heavy, hard, tough, stone-like, and that it is almost impossible to grind or powder it. It is not one of the newer remedies, but it is an efficient one nevertheless. Under old methods collinsonia has been variously classified. It has been called a tonic, a diuretic, an astringent, a diaphoretic, an alterative, a stimulant, a carminative, a discutient, etc. Had we nothing but these names to guide us to a practical use of this, or in fact any other drug, there certainly would be room for guess-work. The fact that a drug is "said to be good" for such and such diseases, does not avail us much.

The Eclectic finger-boards pointing to the use of collinsonia are few, but they are positive, and our experience with the drug, based upon these indications, are sufficiently satisfactory to warrant us in not only recommending the drug, but in urging JOURNAL readers to its use. The late Prof. J. M. Scudder said of collinsonia: "I regard it as one of the most direct and valuable agents of the materia medica, and one that will give satisfaction to whoever employs it." The only qualification that we would attach to this declaration is, that a fresh and reliable preparation of the drug must be used.

The indications pointing to the use of collinsonia may be summed up in a very few words. They are *congestion, irritation, with a sense of constriction*, and its application as a remedy is beneficial, no matter what part of the digestive tract is most disturbed. The above indications are frequently pronounced in diseases of the throat or larynx, diseases of the stomach, and in diseases of the rectum and anus. Besides, we believe that through its general tonic effect, collinsonia markedly benefits chronic disturbances of the genitourinary organs.

For some affections of the throat, collinsonia is certainly a specific. It is such in so-called "minister's sore throat," or the laryngitis due to an over use of the speech organs. It is also efficient in chronic laryngitis, with change of voice, and in chronic bronchitis, when there is *irritation, congestion, and sense of constriction*. When these symptoms present, collinsonia has no superior as a remedy in certain forms of relaxed uvula, in pharyngitis, in hoarseness, in croup, and in whooping cough. as well as in ordinary cough of nervous origin. For these various uses it is administered in fair sized doses, as

R̄ Specific collinsonia, f ℥j.

Simple syrup, q. s. ad f ℥iv. M.

Sig.-Teaspoonful four or five times a day.

For its general tonic effect upon the digestive tract, collinsonia is a remedy of no mean value in functional gastric troubles, atonic dyspepsia, constipation, anemia, chlorosis, etc. However, next to its specific action in throat affections, we desire to suggest the use of collinsonia in rectal diseases, and in troubles about the anal outlet. As an internal medicament in the treatment of hemorrhoids, collinsonia has no equal, if the cases be well chosen. There is *irritation, constriction, congestion*, a feeling as though a foreign body of no small size were lodged within the bowel. There is heat, burning, and perhaps hemorrhage. It is also very efficient as an internal remedy in the relief of the disturbances due to rectal pockets, papillae, ulcers, spasmodic stricture, etc. It is not surpassed by any remedy in these troubles, unless it be by operative measures. The latter are more speedy, but hardly more certain. The same is true of collinsonia in certain cases of painful spasmodic contraction of the sphincter ani, and in general prostatitis.

As adjunct remedies to be used in combination or in alternation with collinsonia, we should consider specific ipecac, powdered rhubarb, and either the second or third decimal trituration of sulphur, or the second trituration of podophyllin. Collinsonia should not be forgotten in reflex troubles due to rectal irritation. In this line we mention reflex cough, asthma, chorea, headache of a dull, frontal variety, and reflex cardiac affections. It is frequently a remedy in dysentery, and in cholera infantum, when there is much tenesmus, with *irritation, constriction and congestion*.

Collinsonia is highly recommended in certain functional urinary troubles, when the symptoms calling for it are prominent. It allays the irritation and gives speedy relief. Many times it is the remedy in incontinence of urine, in urethral or vesical hyperesthesia, and for minor gonorrhoeal disturbances. Because of this action it has been suggested as a remedy in gravel, calculus, in dropsy, and in varicocele.

It is also a remedy for the hemorrhoids, swollen genitals, pruritis vulva and ani of the pregnant female. By some it is recommended in certain cases of dysmenorrhoea, amenorrhoea, leucorrhoea, prolapsus, etc.

The *symptoms-irritation, congestion, and constriction* presenting in any case of whatever name or nature, call for collinsonia. For use in rectal, anal, and genito-urinary diseases, the dose does not need to be so large as recommended above. Ten drops of the specific medicine to four ounces of water, and a teaspoonful of the mixture every hour or two, is sufficient for most purposes in these lines. Larger doses, however, are not followed by deleterious effects. Remember, that when *irritation, congestion, and constriction* are present, collinsonia is the remedy, call the disease what you may.

(Extract from Locke's Materia Medica and Therapeutics.)

CHIONANTHUS.

Specific Chionanthus.- This preparation has the rank odor of the drug and a dark amber color. By age it casts a gelatinous precipitate that does not interfere with the value of the remedy. All attempts to avoid this phenomenon have resulted in injury to the preparation.

The special action of this drug is expended upon the liver and to some extent on all the organs concerned in bloodmaking. It is tonic to the stomach and bowels, and influences the whole glandular apparatus. It is one of our best cholagogues, and we have employed it with good results in jaundice and congestion of the liver. Yellowness of the conjunctiva and skin, uneasy sensations in the right hypogastrium, and extensive abdominal pain, somewhat resembling colic, are the specific indications for its use. It may, therefore, be employed in cases of gall-stones, both during their formation and passage, hepatic inflammation (acute and chronic), bilious colic, and for the irritable condition of the liver common in the inebriate.

(Editorial from the Eclectic Medical Journal, Vol. LV, No. 11, November, 1895)

STAPHISAGRIA.

This remedy is specially applicable to chronic diseases, and may be said to be indicated by weariness, stiffness in the joints and limbs; the body seems heavy and torpid, there is a feeling of soreness in shoulders, back, and hips; the muscles of the back and legs seem bruised, painful, tired.

The patient is inclined to lie down. The tissues are full, swollen, congested, relaxed. This is especially true of the perineal and pelvic regions. The mental condition of the patient is characteristic. He is gloomy, peevish, particularly in the morning; he has no inclination to work; he may become irritable, violent, passionate, even' destructive.

Staphisagria has a specific action upon, and predilection for the pelvic and genito-urinary organs of both sexes. It can be relied upon in either sex, in catarrh of the bladder, or in chronic cystitis. There may be incontinence of urine, or frequent urging to urinate, with little relief from the evacuations; the urine is usually scanty and dark colored, or in an opposite condition, it may be light in color, and copious in quantity, and be expelled involuntarily upon walking or coughing. Prof. Webster says, it is very beneficial in the "teasing urinary difficulties of old men." This is true when they are due to chronic irritation or hypertrophy of the prostate gland, or to chronic irritation of the urethra-chronic urethritis. In gonorrhoeal urethritis, in the second stage, and in gleet, Staphisagria is an excellent remedy. We can not say as much for it, however, in the first or inflammatory stage of the disease. In prostaticorrhoea, in nocturnal seminal emissions, in drawing, tearing, tensive pains of the testicles, in impotency due to seminal emissions or effects of sexual excesses, Staphisagria is a very commendable remedy and should not be forgotten when there is a mucoid or mucopurulent urethral discharge alone, or when at stool.

In male or female, Staphisagria is an efficient remedy for a sprain-like pain in the back, and especially when the pain is worse on arising from a sitting posture or when turning in bed; or for the tearing pains and supersensitiveness in the muscles of the legs, arms, or back, or for a sensation as of sinking of the abdomen-with aching hips and weak legs.

In certain cases of amenorrhoea, dysmenorrhoea, in hysteria, when due to uterine disease, in hypochondriasis from genito-urinary troubles; in vomiting of pregnancy; and even in some cases of facial or spinal neuralgia; in "bone pains," the administration of Staphisagria brings very satisfactory results.

In some eye troubles, as amaurosis-floating spots before the eye; for burning and itching of the lids; for dryness of the eyes and lids; and for little tumors growing in the lid-margins; and even for scrofulous ulceration of the cornea,

Staphisagria is highly recommended, when given internally.

The dose of Staphisagria is

℞ Specific Staphisagria, ʒj.

Water, ℥iv. M.

Sig.-Teaspoonful everyone to four hours.

(Extract from Locke's Materia Medica and Therapeutics.)

STAPHISAGRIA.

Specific Staphisagria has a greenish-yellow color and a greasy feeling if rubbed between the fingers. When dropped into water the result is milky, and, if the Staphisagria be in large amount, globules of oil separate.

It has a marked influence on the nervous system and sometimes relieves neuralgia of the facial or superficial nerves of the neck. Many female troubles are relieved by it. It is a good agent in amenorrhoea and in some cases of dysmenorrhoea, as when the menses come at greatly prolonged intervals, and are unduly prolonged in period. Hysteria from chronic irritation of the uterus is radically cured by its use. It relieves chronic irritation and catarrh of the bladder. In most chronic cases the following prescription is proper:

℞ Specific Staphisagria, gtt. x.

Aqua, fl ℥iv. M.

Dose, teaspoonful four or five times a day.

It is of great value in cases of nocturnal emissions, if the patient is nervous and anaemic. If plethoric give bromide of potassium. It lessens the vomiting of pregnant women. It is also a good agent in seasickness. Staphisagria is clearly indicated in those conditions in which there is a sensation as if a drop of urine were rolling in the urethra; a sensation of incomplete urethral evacuation. It is employed chiefly as a stimulant to the urinary tract.

(Editorial from the Eclectic Medical Journal, Vol. LVI, No.8, August, 1895.)

IGNATIA AMARA-St. Ignatius' Bean.

This remedy is a very close relative of nux vomica, and was at one time the chief source of commercial strychnine. Ignatia contains relatively more strychnine and brucine than does the nux vomica, the yield of these being from .5 to 1.5 per cent. Hence the preparations of ignatia are stronger than corresponding ones of nux vomica. The bromides, chlorides, and iodides, precipitate the strychnine in solutions of ignatia; therefore care should be exercised in making combinations. Should poisoning occur from overdoses of ignatia, the same antidotes as for strychnia should be given, viz., the stomach pumps and emetics; the paralyzers, as conium, belladonna, opium, tobacco, and physostigma. Hydrate of chloral, tobacco, bromide of potassium in large doses; ether, and inhalations of chloroform, are true physiological antidotes to ignatia as well as to strychnia. The patient should be kept absolutely quiet, and if necessary, artificial respiration should be kept up preservingly for hours.

The dose of specific ignatia as given generally is

℞ Specific ignatia, gtt. v. to gtt. x.

Water, f ℥iv. M.

Sig.- Teaspoonful everyone, two or three hours. This we believe to be too large in many, if not in all cases. We believe that the five drops to four ounces of water is of sufficient strength to meet most cases. Larger doses than this quite frequently produce a distressing and depressing frontal headache and other unpleasant symptoms.

Ignatia is a favorite remedy with the Homoeopaths, and in our opinion it deserves its exalted position. They say it is a remedy for women, while nux vomica is the remedy for like indispositions in men.

Our experience (and we have used it freely and frequently for a number of years in both sexes) is not in accord with this assertion. It is an excellent remedy in certain conditions, in both male and female. The first great indication for the use of ignatia is *atony*. It is harmful, rather than beneficial in cases that are above par mentally or physically-excited. We believe it is to be preeminently *tile nerve tonic and nerve stimulant* of the materia medica. Strychnine and nux vomica are not so direct and simple in their action upon the nervous system as is ignatia.

Nux vomica is preferable to ignatia in below-par *digestive* troubles. Ignatia is preferable to nux vomica in below-par *nervous* troubles. Though these two classes are to an extent interdependent, there is withal a definite distinction between the cases calling for nux and those in which ignatia does better.

With these ideas in view, then, ignatia is a remedy of value in any case in which there is an atonic nervous force. The patient is cold and bloodless generally-anaemic; there are evidences of cerebral anaemia-the patient is demonstrative, hypochondriacal, hysterical; he may complain of "sick headache" or migraine; or he may have a chronic gastric catarrh, or atonic dyspepsia. The pain in a patient of this kind is deep in the loins or back; it is described as dragging boring, or shooting; sometimes shifting from place to place; many times it is located by the patient in the right hypochondriac region, or in the stomach-a gastralgia or gas trodynia; or if it be a woman, in the pelvis-a uterine colic -or an ovarian pain.

The ignatia patient has *nervous debility*, and all that it implies. There is atony of the reproductive organs-impotence in the male, sterility and "sexual frigidity" in the female. She has dysmenorrhoea, with colicky pains, or amenorrhoea, with a large, weighty uterus, and doughy, distressing ovaries. He or she may have general or local paralysis, facial twitchings, neuralgia, chronic constipation, be always chock full of grief, may be choreic, epileptic, or neurasthenic.

The Eclectic who has thus far failed to use ignatia in his practice, has not done justice to himself or to his patients.

(Editorial from the Eclectic Medical Gleaner, Vol. VI, 10., October, 1895.)

BED WETTING.

Quite recently we succeeded in overcoming a case of habitual bed wetting, that had withstood the treatment of several physicians for two years or more, by the administration of teaspoonful doses four times a day of

℞ Specific belladonna, gtt. xx.

Specific thuja, gtt. xxx

Water, fʒ iv. M.

The result was eminently satisfactory to physician and patient.

