

EDITORIAL

CAULOPHYLLUM THALICTROIDES

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THE GLEANER is frequently asked concerning the therapeutic properties of Caulophyllum. This editorial is designed to satisfy those who desire information concerning its medicinal influence upon the human subject.

In 1873, Dr. John King, in *The American Dispensary*, wrote: "Caulophyllum has a sweetish taste, somewhat bitter, ultimately acrid and pungent, and a slightly fragrant odor. Mr. A. E. Ebert has detected in the root gum, starch, phosphoric acid, salts of potassium, magnesium, calcium, iron, and silica; a resin soluble in alcohol and ether; a resin soluble in alcohol but insoluble in ether; and a body analogous to saponin." Of its properties and uses he further states: "This is a favorite agent of American physicians, and is becoming generally appreciated. It is principally used as an emmenagogue, parturient and antispasmodic. It has been successfully employed in rheumatism. It is a valuable agent in all chronic uterine diseases, appearing to exert an especial influence upon the uterus, and has been found serviceable in uterine leucorrhea, amenorrhea, dysmenorrhea, etc."

Dr. John M. Scudder bears testimony as to the virtues of Caulophyllum as follows: "We have used it often with great apparent advantage, and know of its being used frequently by others, for a few weeks prior to confinement, as a preparatory measure in the important changes which take place at that time. In many instances, where the patients have been invariably the subjects of tedious and difficult labors, by the use of Caulophyllum for two or three weeks before confinement, all the anticipated difficulties vanished, labor was rapid and easy and recovery speedy, when compared with previous confinements. We have employed Caulophyllum to a considerable extent in the treatment of chronic uterine disease; metritis, ovaritis, inflammation of the cervix uteri, leucorrhea, etc. It tends to subdue chronic inflammation, lessens irritability, and gives tone to the generative organs."

Dr. Locke, who was an authority on drug action, says of Caulophyllum: "The drug is used as a parturient and emmenagogue increasing the strength of uterine action. As an antispasmodic in atonic and irritable conditions of the nervous system, it acts nicely. In cramps of the uterus, spasms at the menstrual period, leucorrhea and amenorrhea, it proves an excellent medicine. This drug is a good anti-abortion. It prevents premature labor by giving strength and tone to the uterus. After abortion it relieves the general irritability of the system and prevents hemorrhage. It relieves after pains in hysterical women. For this purpose, give five drops of Specific Medicine Caulophyllum in hot water, every half hour."

Dr. John Fyfe gives the following specific indications for its use:

"Uterine irritation; as a parturient to relieve false pains; chronic uterine diseases; dysmenorrhea and amenorrhea; hysteria resulting from uterine irritation."

Dr. Samuel J. Smith records as follows: "Many women suffer from palpitation, a sense of approaching death from supposed heart failure, all of which are reflex, owing to the disturbed condition of the uterus. Caulophyllum quiets the overexcited heart and removes the tormenting symptoms. Caulophyllum is one of our best agents in irritation of the bladder. There is an almost constant desire to pass urine, with only small quantities voided each time. In cramps of the uterus, spasms at the menstrual period, in amenorrhea, dysmenorrhea, and leucorrhea, it

proves an excellent remedy. In hysteria that appears at the menstrual period, it is an exceptional agent. For the trouble some conditions that arise during the menopause it will prove of good service. Caulophyllum has no superior in the treatment of those cases of general debility so frequently found in women who are down, physically and sexually, and who complain always of pain, heaviness and weakness in the lower extremities. In some way or other Caulophyllum gives to such patients new life. Caulophyllum and Hydrastis work well together, helping and assisting each other, in uterine hemorrhage, such as menorrhagia and excessive menstruation, as well as in dyspepsia of women suffering from uterine disease. For conditions of this character, add ten drops to one drachm of Specific Medicine Caulophyllum to four ounces of water and give a teaspoonful every half hour to two hours."

The above quotations furnish indisputable evidence in favor of Caulophyllum, and may well be trusted.

LEONTIN

The term Leontin has been applied to an aromatized liquid containing one per cent of the isolated glucoside derived by the Lloyd process from the root of "Blue Cohosh"-Caulophyllum Thalictroides. It is the emmenagogue principle of the root. Its indications, according to Fyfe's Modern Materia Medica and Therapeutics, are: "Amenorrhoea and dysmenorrhoea, as from exposure to cold; Amenorrhoea of young girls." Dr. Fyfe says of Leontin: "I have used this remedy in my practice for several years, and seldom find it necessary to employ any other in amenorrhoea and dysmenorrhoea. It is especially valuable in the amenorrhoea of girls." Numerous cases have been reported where Leontin has established the flow where other remedies had failed, with girls who had never before menstruated; also where the flow was re-established after being stopped from cold or other causes.

Leontin was authoritatively introduced to the profession by the celebrated surgeon, Dr. A. J. Howe, in 1887.

FROM THE LABORATORY STAFF

THE LION AND THE LAMB

Read Aesop's Fable of the Lion and the Lamb, then think of the parallel that stands now before this country.

Just how it happened seems to be a mystery-seems to be. We emphasize the word "seems," in order to qualify the fact. Possibly it might better read, "To some persons it seems to be."

"Why," one might ask, say "some persons"? The answer might be a question: "Is it likely that an affliction such as this could strike a great section of our country-new-almost like an epidemic-and yet be confined only to a class using one material, without parties supplying this material being aware of the cause of the epidemic?"

Is it not likely that, knowing the cause of the trouble,. persons involved would endeavor to divert from themselves the eyes of observers?

One constituent of the preparation is the root of a plant. . An innocent plant. To make it carry the blame seems a happy solution.

"But," it might be asked, "is not this plant the well-known condiment used from time immemorial? Has it not been commended in every work on household foods, in every Pharmacopeia, in every work concerning medicine, in the world? Is it not used in making refreshing drinks that have great reputation, and in foods that delight the palate? Is it not a favorite with children and adults, and even with babies, the world throughout? Has not this vegetable been one of the standards used in thousands of tons during the past decades, made into Tinctures and Fluid Extracts, with alcohol, and with never a charge against either, as being harmfully deleterious or otherwise objectionable?"

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Is it not self-evident that something to muddle thought has been intruded, something that needs be observed? Is it any wonder that the name of the innocent constituent should be persistently flaunted by the lion that, drinking the water of the stream, above where stands the lamb, should charge the innocent creature with "muddying the water"?

"But," one might ask, "how are we to protect ourselves against this condition?" To this the writer of this editorial would reply, "Forbid anyone the right to poison any alcohol whatever used in the making of any medicine or beverage." Catch the big fish, and the minnows will disappear'.

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"But," one might ask, "why the foregoing? What reason is there for this article?" Read the following letter and Dr. Nellan's reply. To it might be added: "Why not catch the big fish? Is he too big to get into a seine, or too strong to be held by any hook?"

GLEANINGS AND COMMENTS **PARALYSIS FROM POISONED ALCOHOL**

Question.-We have here a number of cases of paralysis caused, supposedly, from drinking Jamaica ginger extract. Can you give me a remedy for this?

Reply.- The hospitals in Cincinnati, as elsewhere, are crowded with victims of this paralysis, but as yet the problem presented has not been solved. The paralysis is caused, NOT by the Jamaica ginger, which, in this case, is but the "innocent bystander," but by the adulterant added to the alcohol used in making the preparation that produces this condition. Since a variety of substances are utilized for the purpose of adulterating the alcohol (denaturing is the term selected to use for poison), the antidote to the poison will of course vary, depending upon the material added. The general treatment may be outlined as consisting of opening the bowels, flushing the kidneys, and employing remedies directed towards overcoming alcoholic polyneuritis.

ENLARGED SUBMAXILLARY GLANDS* Treated With Specific Medicine Gaultheria

Under the above heading we presented, in GLEANER 36, a physician's report carrying a prescription that he had found very helpful for enlarged glands. In copying this an unfortunate error was made that has caused some confusion, and has brought several inquiries. The prescription, with corrected "Comment," reads as follows:

Rx Sp.Med.Gaultheria 3 iss
Water,q.s.,ad ℥ iv
M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture every three hours.
Give in three minim doses every three hours.

In calling our attention to this error, our physician correspondent submits two other reports on his use of Gaultheria with enlarged glands. They are as follows:

TONSILLITIS WITH COMPLICATIONS
Treatment With Gaultheria (Contributed)

Woman, 56 years of age. Seven years ago the appendix was removed as a precautionary measure. Last summer she contracted whooping cough, which persisted, all remedies given to relax the throat causing so much bowel trouble that they had to be abandoned. Six months later follicular tonsillitis developed in right side of throat, with extensive enlargement of submaxillary glands on same side. This was followed by pneumonia, temperature 104.5, cough intensified.

The pneumonia was soon relieved by cautious, but nearly continuous inhalation of vapor of Squibb's Ether. To the throat a Libradol plaster was applied. A gargle of one part Specific Medicine Gaultheria to three parts water, brought up a large quantity of pus and some blood, with immediate relief. The gargle was then reduced to Gaultheria one part, to five parts water, used often and thoroughly. After twelve hours the Libradol was omitted, but the gargle was continued. No other medicine was given. In five days everything was normal and patient in fine condition.

GLENER 37 will carry a brief account of chemical researches on this herb, recently made in Paris, France.-L. B.

GAULTHERIA IN ACUTE ORCHITIS
(Contributed)

Four months ago, an old patron whose family I treated a quarter of a century ago, wrote me as follows: "I am confined to my bed with a very bad case of orchitis, testicles apparently swollen to the bursting point and very painful. I urinate every hour, night and day. Can you help me?" I mailed him six ounces of Specific Medicine Gaultheria, with instructions to take this in three minim doses every three hours, during the daytime only, and report to me concerning its action. Two weeks later he reported as follows: "Immediately on taking the medicine, all symptoms began subsiding. Testicles are now reduced to normal size, all pains are gone, and I urinate normally. Sleep all night like a log. I hope to resume my regular work at once, by using support to the tender testicles." No further reports have as yet been received.

AGED PHYSICIAN HONORED

We are in receipt of a paper describing a testimonial dinner given to a physician of a farm village (Dr. Arthur R. Hill), in honor of his fifty years' service to the community. The family physician of the small town or country district who serves through a half century, perhaps seeing his town grow into a city during that period, stands in a distinct class in these days of city specialists. A great satisfaction must it be to him to think back over those busy years. We are indeed glad that his friends and fellow townsmen have united in showing this evidence of their appreciation. From his home paper let us quote a passage which may well apply to many a hard-working physician:

"Fifty years is a long time in one life, yet night and day, in the storms of winter and through all kinds of roads, Dr. Hill has been at the call of everyone who needed his help in that whole countryside. His cheerful presence and efficient help have been a rock of strength in innumerable families, in the dawn of life, in countless sick-room crises, and finally when Death rang down the last curtain.

"Yet, with all of his hard work, and in spite of the trouble and suffering that a physician is called upon to see, Dr. Hill has been able to keep his cheerful, hopeful outlook on life, and to-day it may be said of him, as Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes said of a friend:

“To be seventy years young is sometimes far more cheerful and hopeful than to be forty years old.”

To the foregoing we will add that there are numbers of just such men who, by self-sacrifice and constant efforts in behalf of their home communities, have served well their people.

SUBCULOYD ERGOT

Question.-Have you a preparation of Ergot that can be used hypodermically?

Reply.-Our preparation of Ergot, now listed as "Subculoyd Ergot," has the distinction, so far as we have been able to determine, of being the first plant preparation devised for hypodermic work, although previous to that date a few alkaloidal preparations had been devised for research work, It antedates by a short period the use of cocaine as a therapeutic agent. Its history, as related by Professor Lloyd, is as follows:

In 1880, Professor Wm, H, Taylor, M.D" one of Cincinnati's best-known physicians at that time, came to me, saying:

"Lloyd, I have a young man who is bleeding to death, and I can find nothing to stop the hemorrhage. Can you give me a preparation of Ergot that I can use hypodermically, as a last resort?"

I said, "How long a time can you give me?"

He said, "Not more than two hours."

It chanced that I then had in process of working a batch of Ergot,

I took from it a portion, and at the end of the allotted time had succeeded in making for the doctor a preparation that could be used in the manner desired. Its use was so satisfactory in this instance that the preparation was continued, chiefly as a gynecological agent, being distributed under the term "Lloyd's Ergot."

When came, 1908, Dr. Jentzsch's introduction of Lobelia as a hypodermic in the treatment of diphtheria, he called upon us to make for him a preparation of that drug that could be used hypodermically, This we were enabled to do, and Lobelia thus took its place as the second of our line of plant hypodermics, now known as Subculoyds. Thereafter, at the request of physicians, we made a number of plant hypodermics, some of which became favorites, and are still being supplied increasingly. The Subculoyds now most employed are as follows:

Apocynum, Lobelia, Echinacea, Lycopus, Ergot, Stramonium, Gelbia (Gelsemium and Lobelia Compound), Veratrum. Gelsemium, Inula and Echinacea

SUBCULOYD ERGOT FOR HYPODERMIC USE

First prepared, fifty years ago, for Dr. Wm. H. Taylor, for hypodermic use. It has since been much used under the term Lloyd's Ergot.

This preparation excludes the fat, inorganic constituents and fungus life of Ergot, It is anti-fungoid, a minim of Phenol to the ounce preventing microscopic growths.

Dose.- The average injection for uterine inertia is from 20 to 25 minims, repeated every fifteen minutes, as necessary, In emergency cases and in uterine hemorrhage inject 30 to 60 minims every fifteen minutes, Subculoyd Ergot can be administered by mouth, in the same manner and dose as Sp. Med. Ergot.

Take Notice!-Keep the syringe absolutely clean, Keep the hands clean, Wash the skin of the patient at point of penetration, before making injection.

RHUS TOX. POISONING

The problem of poisoning by Rhus tox. is one that is ever with us. Last year, in GLEANER 35, we' published a resume of a previous article on this subject, with comments from various physicians who gave their favorite methods of meeting this condition, It brought us many letters from physicians, from which we select the following as of special interest to our readers.

No, 1. "The poisoning from Rhus tox. comes from an oil that is volatile at summer temperatures, and is therefore toxic to susceptible persons, on their mere approach to the plant. Since it is an oil that does the mischief, it can be removed by saponification, Use therefore bicarbonate of soda, by the handful, and then wash it off with a garden hose, It is important that the saponified oil be at once removed, since if allowed to stay on, or spread, the condition will be worse than before. Wash therefore with a garden hose, and repeat the application of sodium bicarbonate many, many times, Finally, I wash the spot or spots with dilute nitric acid, and again wash off with the garden hose, If this treatment is applied immediately, no bad results will follow.

"Cold water does not dissolve the oil, which can not be washed off with water alone, Persons whose skin is never oily, are more subject to rhus poisoning. It might be advisable for such persons, when venturing into rhus-infested districts, to oil the skin, This may perhaps be a reason why the ancients oiled their bodies.

"If this poisonous oil stays on the skin for some time, it will blister. Diluted Sp, Med. Grindelia is soothing. Ammonium chloride may be added to the Grindelia,

"I find that persons with a very thin, run-down blood, are the chief sufferers from this cause, I therefore order such patients to put forty grains calcium chloride into a glass, and over it press the juice from half a lemon, Wait until effervescence has subsided, then fill the glass with drinking water, ice, and sugar to taste, Drink this. as often as thirsty, Should the kidneys be inactive, a half teaspoonful of potassium acetate dissolved in plenty of water, may be taken every morning."

No.2. Have just read the article on Rhus poisoning in the July GLEANER. Of the various contributions, the one marked "Number 3" is the remedy, but the writer doesn't know it. The poison from Rhus is a volatile oil, and can be carried by the air from the plant to a susceptible person. Having been poisoned many times myself, I finally discovered accidentally that an intense heat would give complete relief, almost instantly. Holding such parts as the hands and arms over the flame for two or three minutes, close enough to nearly but not quite burn, is all the treatment needed. Other parts of the body may be treated with a therapeutic lamp held close enough to nearly burn. Comment.- The treatment suggested reminds us of the old domestic remedy for a simple burn, one where the skin was not broken. This was treated by holding the part affected over a hot stove. It was an heroic, but a sometimes effective remedy.

ECHAFOLTA NOW IN IODIZED FORM, ONLY

Question.-Do you make Echafolta not "Iodized"? If so, please send me a good supply.*

Reply.-We have many times in print called the attention of our patrons to the fact that Echafolta is now distributed only in the "Iodized" form, but the above inquiry continues to reach us frequently. Let us therefore again state that the "plain" form of Echafolta has been discontinued, the "Iodized" Echafolta replacing the older form of the remedy.

This however works no hardship upon physicians desiring to use Echinacea internally, since Specific Medicine Echinacea, which from the very beginning of the use of Echinacea by physicians, has been employed for internal administration, remains unchanged and is still used by perhaps thousands of practicing physicians.

As we have repeatedly stated in print, the drug Echinacea was established professionally under our label, two forms being presented, Specific Medicine Echinacea, devised for internal use, and Echafolta, for use in surgery, where the coloring matters and glucose, both so abundant in the drug, would be objectionable. Since Echafolta was possessed of the same therapeutic qualities as the Specific Medicine, many physicians came to rely upon it for both internal and external uses, and it is for this reason that inquiries such as the above, still come to us from physicians and pharmacists.

Several years ago, it was deemed advisable to strengthen Echafolta as an external application and for surgical uses, which was done by the addition of a small amount of iodine. This of course unfits it for internal uses, excepting in the very few cases where iodine is itself indicated as a therapeutic agent. GLEANER 25 carries several articles devoted to the use of Iodized Echafolta in treatment of wounds, and to this GLEANER we would refer those of our readers who wish to refresh their memories on this point.

As we have said however, this change in the form of Echafolta works no hardship upon anyone, since Specific Medicine Echinacea, which for more than forty years has been commended by physicians for internal use, remains unchanged. This, let us repeat, is the agent upon which the therapeutic uses of Echinacea was established under our label, and its growth in favor among physicians who have learned its virtues, has been phenomenal. If the demand for plain Echafolta continues, we shall consider its return to our list.-L. B.

IODIZED ECHAFOLTA FOR INTERNAL USE

Question.-I am at a loss to understand why Iodized Echafolta would not be an excellent agent for internal administration. It seems to me to be directly indicated in a wide range of conditions in which each drug is indicated, separately.

Reply.-If the usual internal dose of iodine be not exceeded, we see no reason why Iodized Echafolta should not be employed internally, provided iodine be itself indicated. Iodized Echafolta is intended for external and surgical use, only. For internal use, we advise the use of Specific Medicine Echinacea. We would deem it a favor if any physician using the Iodized Echafolta internally, would advise us as regards the dosage he employs, and the indications he follows in its use.

Since the use of Echafolta in treatment of wounds is an ever present necessity, we take the liberty of reprinting in this connection, two items presented in GLEANER 25, now out of print.

ECHAFOLTA IODIZED IN TREATMENT OF WOUNDS

(Contributed)

In septic wounds, and in those lacerated or punctured wounds that so often become infected, Echafolta Iodized has been uniformly successful in my hands. It has accomplished all that could be asked from it.

Comment.-For saturating bandages, this preparation has proved invaluable. We doubt if any forms of bacteria can live in the water dilution commended by physicians.

We reprint, by request, a contribution on this subject that appeared in GLEANER 16, now practically out of print, as follows:

ECHAFOLTA IN TREATMENT OF WOUNDS

(Contributed)

For several years much literature has appeared regarding the use of Echinacea, both internally and locally. As I have had frequent occasion to use it in treatment of wounds, I am under the impression that our experience here may be of interest to others.

In our hospital we have to care for many wounds, mostly affecting the hand and fingers. Being caused by greasy machinery, such as draw-presses, drill-presses, etc., these wounds are usually rough and jagged and plastered with dirt, and in nearly every case they are also heavily loaded with brass or iron filings, very hard to remove. Most of these wounds will suppurate under ordinary means of treatment. For some time past we have had no pus, and we desire to give the credit for this to Echinacea, our method of treatment being as follows:

We first cleanse the wound and the surrounding parts with pure gasoline, thus removing all grease and dirt. The gasoline is poured directly into the wound, and causes no pain or irritation worth mentioning. We then carefully bathe the part with sterile water. Our next procedure is to irrigate the wound with a 25% solution of Echa folta. If stitches are necessary they are carefully employed, after drainage gauze saturated with Echafolta has been placed in bottom of the wound. A thick pad of gauze is finally placed over the wound, and this also is saturated with the Echafolta solution and bandaged. The following day the drainage is removed, the wound being flushed with the Echafolta solution and redressed. It sometimes happens that the patient does not return for two days. In this case we warn him not to uncover the wound, but to remove a few layers of the bandage and then to saturate the dressing with sterile water.

We have treated a large number of cases in this way, and the first drop of pus has yet to appear. We have also treated with this solution a number of cases that have come to us already infected, the results being more than gratifying.

Comment.-This contribution came to us early in 1919 from a physician in charge of the hospital of one of the largest munition factories in America, who now occupies a like position in a Cincinnati establishment of international reputation. He has recently employed Iodized Echafolta in the same way with equally gratifying results.

Still another contribution on this subject comes to us from a practicing physician in Ohio, as follows:

IODIZED ECHAFOLTA

(Contributed)

I have used this preparation in several instances, and believe other physicians will be interested in results obtained, as follows:

1. After-treatment in operation for appendicitis. It gave great relief, applied locally, in the soreness and tenderness as the wound was healing.
2. Applied locally to the forearm of a factory worker, terribly bruised by a piece of falling iron. It gave much relief.
3. Applied locally, full strength, to a suspicious appearing growth on the temple, about the size of a hickory nut. The growth soon began to get smaller, and in three weeks had diminished to the size of an ordinary pea.

The patient was directed to continue the treatment, but neglected to get another supply of the medicine, and about this time was persuaded to try radium treatment. He lived a little more than a year, dying from epithelial cancer. What might have been the result had he continued with the Echafolta, I am of course unable to say.

Comment.-As shown by the above contributions, Iodized Echafolta is fast coming into favor with physicians. The iodine adds to its value as a germicide. Although intended for external use only, physicians occasionally employ it internally, where iodine is indicated as a strengthening agent. Overdoses are hazardous.

ANEMOPSIS CALIFORNICA

Question.-I am sending to you for identification some leaves and the root of a plant that grows in low damp places here in Southern California. In the households of the native Indians and Mexicans here, I have found it used quite commonly (and profusely) as a wash for fresh cuts and sores, as a powder for old sores and indolent ulcers, and as a decoction, internally, for all blood conditions, and with apparently very good results.

Reply.-This plant is *Anemopsis Californica*, first brought to our attention, about 1878, by Dr. William H. George, of California.

A strange peculiarity of the roots furnished us by him, was the presence of numerous grass stalks that pierced and grew through the *Anemopsis* roots, sometimes appearing several inches from the place of entrance.

We have in our museum a number of specimens of these roots, with grasses piercing through their very centers, and showing a healthy growth, being well branched after emerging from the roots.

The established uses of *Anemopsis* in therapy are as given on the label, following:

Specific Medicine *Anemopsis Californica*

Indications.-Profuse mucus or serous discharges from mucous membranes.

Use.-In nasal or pharyngeal catarrh, acute or chronic; in diarrheal or dysenteric catarrh of the bowels, attended by typhoid symptoms; also in gonorrhoea and other catarrhal conditions of the urinary passages, attended by relaxation and irritation.

Dose: ℞ Sp. Med. *Anemopsis* 3 ss to 3 ii

AquaDest..... ʒ iv

M. Sig.: Internally, a teaspoonful every one or two hours; externally, apply locally with spray, douche, or by injection, as the case requires, repeating at from one to four-hour intervals, as case demands. -WEBSTER.

Anemopsis has been established by excellent observers in nasal catarrh, with considerable relaxation of the mucous membrane. The greatest reliance has been placed upon its local effect, though its unirritating astringent properties as an internal agent have been indorsed by good authority.

It has long been used as a domestic remedy in intestinal relaxation and bronchial catarrh, with severe cough. It has also been used as a domestic remedy for urinary difficulties requiring soothing and astringent properties. As a substitute for quinine in malaria, it has been known to relieve where quinine failed.

An injection, in various degrees of strength, may be used in gonorrhoea, to be renewed after each urination. The bruised herb has been employed locally in abrasions, bruises, and indolent ulcers.

The size of the dose of Specific Medicine Anemopsis is yet in an experimental stage, though it is safe to extend the amount considerably beyond that prescribed on the label, and it may be found that considerable latitude, above and below the amount named, will be desirable in a variety of cases.

Apply with a spray apparatus, especially in pharyngeal catarrh, though the nasal passages may be better treated in most cases with a miniature nasal douche, which brings the medicine into contact with every part of the surface. By closing the posterior nares with the soft palate, the patient may retain it for a few seconds, and then allow it to pass out through the nostrils, thus thoroughly irrigating every part of the diseased surface.-
WEBSTER.

IMPOTENCE

Question.-Kindly suggest something for a young man afflicted for some time with impotence.

Reply.-Impotence will yield to our treatment just in proportion as we are able to remove its cause. This we must carefully search for, and as far as possible, remove. Each case is a law to itself. The cause having been removed, where no pathological conditions are encountered, some internal medication may be necessary to tone up the sexual organs and the nervous system relating thereto. We would recommend a careful study of Specific Medicines Avena, Nux Vomica, Pulsatilla, Saw Palmetto and Staphisagria, also of Yohimbe. In purely functional cases, Specific Medicines Cannabis Indica and Pulsatilla may be of service.

"WATER ON THE KNEE"

Question by a Pharmacist

Question.-A local physician has asked me to obtain from you some information regarding a condition that has been diagnosed as "Water on the Knee." The general health of the patient, a married woman of about fifty, is good. Various remedies have been tried, but without results. The pain subsides when the patient has rested for a while, but as soon as she does any amount of walking, regardless of distance, there is great pain.

Reply.-It is always better, where possible, that the physician himself should write the diagnosis, as information given through a third party may prove misleading, or insufficient. The above inquiry is a case in point. There are various conditions involving the structure of the knee, which the layman is prone to call "water on the knee."

One of these is Hydrarthrosis, defined as an accumulation of water in the cavity of a joint.

Then there is the "house-maid's knee," which is properly termed pre-patellar bursitis, that is, an inflammation of the bursa in front of the patella, with accumulation of fluid therein. The management of these cases lies in the surgical rather than in the medical field, by which we mean, treatment depends upon rest and immobilization of the affected parts rather than upon internal medication, rest being a better therapeutic agent than the majority of other means employed.

In the case described, we would advise rest and immobilization of the parts for some time, then passive massage. Some of these cases do well when the fluid is aspirated. Just when this should be done, is beyond our field. Then too a careful physical examination of the patient should be made, as in hydrarthrosis, tuberculosis is oftentimes a large factor.

Among local applications for the relief of pain in the knee joint, we know of nothing better than Libradol.

As a supporting treatment to rest or such other measures as may be decided upon, one might give Specific Medicine Bryonia with some hope of assistance in relieving the pain; if sepsis should be present, Echinacea would be indicated, and Apocynum for its action upon effusions.

In this particular case, the prime thing of importance is rest. Bryonia will not relieve the pain if the patient uses the injured or diseased part. To obtain relief, there must be a careful cooperation between internal medication and physical measures. These cases fall more into the surgical than into the medical field.

PRURITUS ANI

Question.-Have you any remedy that will relieve, if not cure, pruritus ani? I have a patient who is almost crazy with it.

Reply.-We wish that we could suggest a "cure" for pruritus ani, or a cure for anything else, for that matter, as we understand the meaning of the word "cure." Treatment of these cases often taxes the physician's resources to the limit, and one has but to consult any article on the subject and note the multiplicity of the agents employed, to realize that the profession is still "at sea" for a "cure." We do not doubt that the patient "is almost crazy with it," for of all distressing conditions, this ranks well among the most aggravating.

The disorder varies in its severity, from a mere irritation to an unbearable itching, and 'the patient's demand for relief is acute. Whether it be a symptom of some other malady, and not in itself a distinct disease or a separate and distinct affection, the physician must center his attention and treatment on the itching itself. Where there is intense itching, phenol would be indicated, in 1 % solution.

The following method has, in our hands, proven most successful. All causes, both constitutional and local, must be sought and removed, as far as possible. Strict cleanliness must be insisted upon. For this, Lloyd's Asepsin Soap has been the routine thing prescribed. By its use, the parts are thoroughly cleansed, and the asepsin of the soap imparts to the irritated structures a soothing, cooling relief.

In bathing the parts, no rubbing is to be permitted. Should the itching become aggravated at night, as is often the case, the parts may be bathed with hot water, as hot as may be borne with comfort, but under no circumstances are the parts to be rubbed or scratched. In allaying this unbearable itching at night, Libradol,

applied hot, has been very efficacious. In the office, painting the parts with a solution of nitrate of silver (from a 2% to a saturated solution), every third day for two or three treatments, depending upon the conditions present, has been helpful.

Internally, the patient is given

℞ Sp.Med.Apis gtt.v
Sp.Med.Rhustox gtt.v
Sp.Med.Collinsonia gtt.x
Water,q.s.,ad ℥ iii

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture four times a day, the last dose being taken at bed time.

ASTHMA WEED IN PRESCRIPTIONS

Therapeutic Action of Remedies, Alone and in Combination

Question.-Kindly advise the proper amount of Specific Medicine Asthma Weed in the accompanying prescription, to make one pint.

What is the limit dose of this medicine?

Reply.-We employ this agent in two drop doses, using 3 i to ʒ iv of the mixture, which yields approximately that dose. This would give ʒ iv to the pint mixture in the prescription enclosed.

As regards the limit dose. Felter, in his recent work, says the dose of Specific Medicine Asthma Weed is from one to thirty drops. Hence, if the result desired is not obtained by means of the two-drop dose, it may be gradually increased. Our own experience has been in favor of the small, two-drop dose, repeated rather often, say hourly during the paroxysm, then gradually lengthening the interval between doses to three hours, or as needed.

According to our experience, Asthma Weed is an agent that works best, alone. By this we mean, if we desire to use it along with some other agent, we use the Asthma Weed, alone, in one vehicle, water by preference, and the other agents in a separate mixture, alternating the two prescriptions, for the best results. This may not have been the experience of others, or it may be that others have never noticed the difference in action, when this agent is given in alternation with other medicines.

This action of remedial agents, is a most interesting therapeutic problem. Some agents, like Asthma Weed, act best when given alone. Others, like Cactus, act in a contrary manner. Cactus, when given alone, has at times aggravated the very condition it was intended to rout, but combined with Nux Vomica (with which we usually combine it), it works most satisfactorily. We would be glad to receive reports from other physicians, either to the contrary, or corroborative of this observation.

DIGITALIS IN AURICULAR FIBRILLATION

Question.-I have a case of Auricular fibrillation, man 58, who has been much improved during a period of six weeks under a Digitalis treatment. General improvement good, but results are now at a standstill.

Reply.- The brilliant results following the use of Digitalis in auricular fibrillation, have, without a doubt, made the reputation of this remedy. When we bear in mind that Digitalis delays the conductivity of the atrioventricular node, thereby blocking off the slower, haphazard impulses that arise in the auricle, that it steadies and increases the force of the ventricular contraction, thus relieving the symptoms of circulatory failure, it may be readily seen that its action in auricular fibrillation may easily be accounted for. In the case described, the pulse deficit was greatly reduced. We note that the general condition is good.

But while Digitalis is brilliantly effective in auricular fibrillation, it should be employed with judgment. One must not depend wholly upon drugs in this condition. Here, rest is a very good therapeutic agent. By lessening the systemic demands, the ventricular rate is slowed. In those cases not urgent, it is advisable to withhold drugs at first, and note the effect of absolute rest upon the pulse deficit in twenty-four hours.

Among the Specific Medicines that may be used for supportive measures along with the Digitalis, are Cactus, Crataegus, Pulsatilla, and Passiflora, the two latter serving to relax nerve tension and induce sleep, Passiflora often replacing morphia in these cases. Should there be an accompanying anemia, Lloyd's Iron will prove of service.

A case is occasionally encountered where Digitalis produces such gastric discomfort that it can not be borne by the patient. In these cases, Specific Medicine Strophanthus is often used as a substitute for Digitalis, but when the patient has already been given Digitalis, one must be very careful in the use of Strophanthus, for then it may overwhelm the patient.

Each heart case is a law unto itself, and as in many other diseases, one must proceed with care and deliberation, being careful not to overdo, and thus without intent, harm the patient. Digitalis must be thoughtfully employed. The dose should not be too small, but on the other hand, one must carefully watch for the cumulative effect of the agent, if it be too long continued, or the dose not properly regulated. A coupling of the radial pulse beat is a danger signal that must not be disregarded, for to do so may precipitate a serious cardiac emergency.

Comment.-Dr. Nellans' caution as regards dosage is very timely. We may add, however, that we have never heard of a death resulting from the use of Specific Medicine Digitalis, nearly the toxic constituents of the drug being lacking in that preparation. See Drug Treatise on Digitalis, sent free to physicians, on application.-L. B.

DIOSCOREA. BEST FORM FOR ADMINISTERING

Question.-Is Dioscorea best given in powder or liquid form? If the latter, how many drops, and how often should it be given?

Reply.-In our opinion Dioscorea is best administered in liquid form. Its absorption is more rapid, and its resultant action is therefore more positive and rapid. The dose of the Specific Medicine Dioscorea, which is the preparation we employ, is from two to ten drops in hot water, every fifteen to thirty minutes, to effect, depending upon the condition of the patient and the severity of the symptoms present.

Associated remedies are Nux vomica, Colocynth, Lobelia and occasionally Gelsemium. Combinations of the various agents may be made as the symptoms warrant. Echinacea is indicated in all depraved conditions of the system, and may be given in from two to ten drop doses, every three or four hours, depending upon the amount of sepsis present.

THUJA FOR SWELLING OF FINGER TIPS AND WARTS

(Contributed)

Many young girls who play the piano come to me for a swelling of the finger tips. The symptoms are alike, marked by swelling of the fingers, which become red and inflamed. In most cases a wart appears on the middle finger, from which the inflammation seems to radiate. Touching the keyboard with the tips of the fingers produces intense pain, with tingling sensations. While the malady may seem trifling, it causes much hardship with those who play the piano for a livelihood. I recommend painting the entire inflamed surface with warm Specific Medicine Thuja twice a day. The wart is painted with Thuja four times a day, and every other day with strong acetic acid. After the third day the swelling subsides and about the tenth day the wart comes off, all scarification disappearing in a few days. This simple treatment I have found to give very satisfactory results.

TRIBUTE TO THE SPECIFIC MEDICINES

(Contributed)

The Specific Medicines are, par excellence, the standards of all vegetable remedial agents for reliability, and in fact on every count. Should the physician using them fail at times (as we all do occasionally) to get the results desired, there is never any doubt in his mind as regards his medicines.

A QUESTION OF DOSAGE

Question.-I am using many of your preparations in my practice, but your Dose Book confuses me as regards dosage. For example, Mangifera. In your table for maximum and minimum doses, the dosage for this remedy is given as 1/10 to 10 minims. In another place I find the dose gtt. v to;) ss in ℥ iv water. In ℥ iv water there are thirty-two teaspoonfuls. If I put into this ℥ ss, I have less than one drop to the teaspoonful. To give 10 drops to the teaspoonful would require 320 drops to ℥ iv water. Would that be too much, and why?

Reply.- The dosage commended on the labels of the Specific Medicines, as shown in the Dose Book, gives the ordinary dosage of those remedies, as long established by Eclectic physicians. In the Table for Maximum and Minimum Doses, the limits for the safe use of these remedies are given by Professor Felter. In this connection it must be remembered that frequently physicians of the highest standing disagree as regards the amount of a remedy that should be given to secure the desired result. For example, Dr. Niederkorn, author of the invaluable little Handy Reference Book, in GLEANER 9, severely criticizes as being too small, the dosage commended on the labels of certain remedies, such as Macrotys, Caulophyllum, Mitchella, and the like. In that same number of THE GLEANER appears an editorial by Dr. Stephens calling attention to the fact that in the ordinary run of cases, the anticipated effect does not contemplate the physiological or poisonous action of a remedy, and that the dose as printed on the labels of the Specific Medicines is the ordinary remedial dose, it being left to the judgment of the prescriber whether he will increase or diminish the dose in any particular case. Dr. Stephens says:

"It should be plainly apparent to all, that to recommend a maximum dose to the inexperienced, and especially if the remedy so recommended shall be actively energetic, would be unwise. To place a dangerous drug in the hands of one unskilled in its use, without restriction as to dose, would almost place one as particeps criminis in its careless or wrongful use."

Dr. Stephens says further,

"One fact should stand out clearly in view, that the commended dose of any remedy shall not exceed the minimum that will accomplish a desired effect, and that a maximum dose is to be thought of only in connection with those cases in which extreme measures are positively required."

Since GLEANER 9 is long since out of print, we are taking the liberty of reproducing for our readers the article by Dr. Niederkorn to which we have referred above. as follows:

THE QUESTION OF DOSAGE

By J. S. NIEDERKORN, M.D.

Macrotys gives best results in from five to ten-drop doses. Viburnum should be given in twenty-drop doses, and in acute conditions, the dose should be drops thirty, or even up to drops sixty. Helonias, whilst a great, grand remedy, will get you nothing if given in doses as the label recommends. I get best results when I administer it in from ten to fifteen drop doses, and I get results that stay. Caulophyllum proves up best in ten drop doses, while dioscorea is by me administered in from thirty to sixty drop doses, acting best in acute conditions when this dose is used. The dose of fraxinus may differ for individuals, as do some of the other remedies. It is pretty fair in the ten drops recommended, and is often thus used; but fifteen to twenty drop doses make results more permanent. I would not think of administering mitchella in less than ten drop doses though some stomachs will not tolerate this; but that dose, repeated thrice daily, will, in my opinion, prove the most effective. The average dose for senecio is ten drops, but I frequently find cases where twenty drops prove more satisfactory. Tiger lily, though not so pronounced in its action as are some of the other remedies mentioned frequently gives me elegant results, and I find twenty drops to be an average dose.

I have been using specific medicines for more than twenty-five years. Indeed, I make use of them practically altogether, not only in the treatment of acute ailments, but also for the relief and cure of most chronic disorders. In the treatment of the various chronic uterine and 'Ovarian disorders, of whatever nature, with the probable single exception of neoplasms and malignancy, I usually succeed in obtaining satisfactory results, either with specific medicines used alone or as adjuncts to other indicated procedures.

The particular point I wish to make concerning specific medicines is, that in the treatment of chronic uterine or other disorders, especially such as are chronic, the dose of some remedies, as given on the labels, is too small. I need not take anyone else's word because I have employed this class of remedies so long and so often, that I am confident of my ability to handle them in the way which gives my patient such results as we wish. I am therefore my own authority for the statement that I consider that the dose commended is often too small.

Let us go over some of these remedies, following the usual indications for each, and consider their dosage, as directed. Let us take as examples the following: Viburnum, caulophyllum, dioscorea, fraxinus, mitchella, senecio, and tiger lily.

Another remedy frequently employed in some chronic affections of the female reproductive apparatus is gelsemium. When I thus employ gelsemium I give it in "dose big enough to get the effect," and this varies from five to twenty drops, owing to individual idiosyncrasies. When gelsemium is given in large doses its effect should be watched always. As a nerve pacifier, gelsemium will prove its worth, in suitable doses, in "dose enough." I would not exchange four ounces of red gelsemium for barrels of many of the so-called nerve-sedative combinations; but I find it must be given in larger doses than recommended on the label. Conditions frequently arise where chionanthus is indicated, and it is often of great help to the case, given either alone, or in conjunction with any other indicated remedy. I should say, however, that it should be given in not less than ten-drop doses, and I would rather have it in from twenty to thirty drops. I would not have you understand that I am a "heavy doser." I am rather the opposite, with energetic remedies. But the remedies mentioned herein, and which I employ a great deal, give me best results if administered in the doses herein suggested.

APPRECIATION OF THE SPECIFIC MEDICINES

(Contributed)

Please accept my sincere thanks for your literature I also take this occasion to express my delight over the success I have experienced from their use. I have for seven years used the Specific Medicines, almost to the exclusion of all others. During the epidemic of infant paralysis, by following the Eclectic Materia Medicas and using the Specific Medicines I had most gratifying experiences. I was then physician to the Board of Health, and had many cases, in many poor families.

LONICERA DIOICA, SMOOTH LEAVED HONEYSUCKLE

Question.-I am sending specimen of a hardy plant found in northeastern Ohio at the site of a residence long abandoned. This slip contains two leaves and a double leaf, in the center of which is a cluster of flowers not fully developed. Late in the fall these produce a very pretty cluster of red berries, about ten or twelve in number, that lie within this double leaf.

Reply.- This plant was identified by Professor Aiken of the Lloyd Library as *Lonicera dioica*, or Smooth-leaved Honeysuckle. Its upper leaves are connate-perfoliate, the lower sessile or short stemmed. It bears terminal clusters of yellowish green flowers, tinged with purple. The berries are red. It grows usually in dry places, from Quebec to Manitoba, and in Ohio and Michigan. Professor Aiken says of the specimen enclosed, "I do not remember ever seeing so many berries on any Honeysuckle, four or five being usually the limit. One variety, *Lonicera Sullivantii*, has ten or twelve berries, but they are yellow in color."

PIN WORMS

Question.-Please suggest some good remedy for pin worms.

Reply.-Many remedies have been commended. Inasmuch as these worms are usually found in the lower bowel, all that is usually necessary for their removal is irrigation with a solution of strong salt water. This is a safe, and very efficient method. The treatment should be continued for a considerable time, as it usually takes several weeks to effect a cure. Daily injections should be used until the situation is controlled, then employed less frequently. For the removal of such worms, Dr. John King employed a decoction of quassia.

LLOYD'S HYDRASTIS IN EYE AFFECTIONS

Question.-I have found the addition of a little Hydrastis to an eye lotion for ophthalmia is an advantage, but the yellow color stains. Can your uncolored preparation of Hydrastis be used in this direction?

Reply.-Since the time of its introduction, decades ago, Lloyd's Hydrastis ("colorless" Hydrastis) has been a favorite in eye affections, as well as in all other ailments involving the mucous membrane.

CHOREA IN CHILD OF FIVE. MACROTYS

Question.-What is best for a severe case of chronic chorea in a child of five?

Reply.-We would suggest the use of Macrotys, which has a marked influence upon the nervous system. Many of our physicians claim it to be the best single remedy for chorea. It is also of value for its action in combating the cardiac disturbances that frequently accompany chorea. The dose for a child of this age is from ten to thirty drops of the Specific Medicine in four ounces of water, teaspoonful doses of the dilution being given about every two or three hours. Its use should be persisted in, as its action is slow, but the effects produced are permanent.

With older patients the dosage is larger, pushing the agent along to full effects, remembering that in over-doses it produces a severe frontal headache. Give it just short of producing the headache, the dosage ranging from 3 i to 3 ii in four ounces of water, a teaspoonful of the dilution given every two hours, to effect.

Personally, we have found that much larger doses of Macrotys (the Specific Medicine) can be given, if it be combined with Nux Vomica. In some cases the Nux can not be incorporated in the prescription, as it may not be indicated.

Associate remedies along with Macrotys in treatment of chorea are Pulsatilla, Valerian, Avena, Hyoscyamus, Cypripedium and Gelsemium, a combination being made that is best suited to the individual needs of the patient. The beneficial effect of Fowler's Solution in such cases should not be overlooked. If anemia is present, Lloyd's Iron should be given.

In all cases of chronic chorea every care should be taken in a careful physical examination of the little patient, to determine the cause, if possible. Especial attention should be given to the orificial examination. Oftentimes a circumcision, or unhooding of the clitoris, is followed by marked improvement in the patient's condition.

REMEDIES USEFUL IN GLEET

Question.-Have you the Specific Medicine Matricaria that you commend for gleet?

Reply.-Specific Medicine Matricaria is still a favorite with Eclectic physicians, but its field of action, as described by Dr. Scudder, is as a stimulant tonic and anti-spasmodic, used in gastro-intestinal debility, flatulent colic, atonic constipation and nervous prostration. So far as we have ever been informed, Matricaria has never been commended for use in gleet. The agent we would recommend for that condition is Specific Medicine Staphisagria. We would also refer physicians to our Drug Treatise on Hydrastis for the local use of Lloyd's Hydrastis (colorless), to be incorporated in a suitable prescription to meet the needs of the individual patient.

PINUS CANADENSIS IN OINTMENT FORM

Question.-Can Specific Medicine Pinus be used in making an ointment, and if so, will it mix readily with oil or petrolatum? Has it been used locally, with success, in treatment of hemorrhoids?

Reply.-Specific Medicine Pinus may be made into an ointment according to the usual method, by triturating in a mortar sayan ounce of petrolatum and a dram of the Pinus. A mixture will result, not a solution. We have had no experience in the use of such an ointment in treatment of hemorrhoids. If any of our physician friends have tried it in this way, we would much appreciate their reports, for the benefit of other physicians.

GASTRIC AND DUODENAL ULCERS

Question.-Which of the Specific Medicines would you commend for relief of the paroxysmal pains in gastric and duodenal ulcers, with vomiting in the latter? In urinary disturbances, I am using Specific Medicine Eryngium with success.

Reply.- The management of gastric and duodenal ulcers, where it is decided to institute medical treatment, is one that divides itself into two groups, first dietetic, and next therapeutic. The diet must be rigidly enforced, and the patient must heartily cooperate with the physician or all is of no avail.

The Sippy diet may be modified to meet the requirements of the individual case. Sodium bicarbonate, calcined magnesia and bismuth subnitrate are some of the more common ingredients of remedies usually employed.

As to the Specific Medicines that are of service, we would mention Belladonna, Hyoscyamus, Dioscorea, Sodium Sulphite, Glyconda and Hydrastis. Occasionally, Ipecac, Carbo veg. or Amygdalus may be indicated. The thing of prime importance is the diet, care being taken that the ulcerated mucous membrane is given very light food, and plenty of rest.

WHAT I KNOW ABOUT GELBIA

(Contributed)

For the benefit of other physicians, I wish to relate my experience with Gelbia in treatment of neuritis. Some time ago I had the good, or bad fortune, to run up against a perfect "nest" of neuritis, in all forms, seventeen cases in all. These I treated as follows. They were first given a hypodermic of Gelbia, gr. xx, then the prescription

Rx Gelbia

Glycerinaa.....3iv

Water℥iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture before each meal and at bedtime, with directions to shake well before using.

The patients all returned to report benefit, some considering themselves "cured," and others wishing the prescription renewed. One man, eighty-four years of age, had neuritis off and on for seven years with no previous relief. Childishly, he wanted me to put the remedy on the market as "B's sure shot for neuritis."

SPECIFIC MEDICINE HYDRASTIS

(Contributed)

Some time ago you sent me a bottle of Specific Medicine Hydrastis. This seems to me to have greater virtue than what I have formerly had from you. Possibly you have somewhat improved your method of preparation, or it may be this is due simply to natural variation in the raw material. At any rate, I thought it a good idea to let you know that I consider the present form of this remedy a great success, as it is usually only the bad things concerning which we write.

Comment.-In our opinion, our correspondent is correct in that Specific Medicine Hydrastis has been markedly improved in value, as is true of many others of the Specific Medicines.

This improvement, in our opinion, is due largely to the fact that the discovery of colloidal opportunities in the manipulation of materials, has enabled us to give to these remedies a quality not formerly possible. This, in connection with our increasing knowledge of the subject, "Dispersion," which for some years has taken our thoughtful care, accounts for their increased virtue, without change in field of influence.

ENLARGED SPLEEN

Question.-I have a case of enlarged spleen, which seems to me due to malaria, but patient says he has had no fever or "chills." There is no accompanying syphilis.

Reply.-We would suggest the use of Specific Medicine Polymnia Uvedalia, giving the remedy a thorough trial. The uses of this remedy are as follows:

Specific Medicine Polymnia Colloidum

Specific Use.-In glandular enlargements with functional atony, impaired circulation, flabby and sallow tissues, as in chronic splenitis, chronic hepatitis, mammary abscess, intermittent fever and chronic rheumatism.

Dose: ℞ Sp. Med. Polymnia. 3 ss to ʒj

Water

Glycerin,aa., ʒ ij

Misc.

Sig.: A teaspoonful every one or two hours. The mixture must be well shaken before taking each dose.

Specific Medicine Polymnia is made from the root of Polymnia Uvedalia, a large perennial American plant of rich soil. It represents the drug minim to grain, according to our study of the natural therapeutic constituents of the crude material. Formerly it was accepted that the oleo-resin was the therapeutic principle, an opinion we no longer hold, having removed the offending substance from the Specific Medicine. In doses commended on the label, this Colloidum mixes clear with water, glycerin, syrup, or dilute alcohol.-L. B.

Literature has for the last twenty years contained many reports in regard to the beneficial results of Polymnia in hypertrophy of the spleen. In treatment of splenic leucocythemia it is our best remedy, and is indicated whenever the symptoms point to splenic engorgement, hypertrophy, or hyperemia. Polymnia has also been suggested for other glandular enlargements, but its specific, prompt and unmistakable action is upon the spleen.-WATKINS.

CONIUM MACULATUM

Question.-Can you give me some information regarding Conium Maculatum, especially as an aphrodisiac? I think I read at one time in THE GLEANER that it was a valuable remedy in this direction.

Reply.- The only reference to this remedy that we find in THE GLEANER occurs in Number 1, long since out of print, but this does not cover the point concerning which our correspondent inquires. The Dispensatories, both the American and the National, speak of it as an aphrodisiac. "In consequence of its action on the spinal marrow, it lessens the venereal appetite."-American Dispensatory.

It may be of interest to our readers to know that Conium, "Water Hemlock," is the drug reputed to have caused the death of Socrates, who was condemned to death by the Athenian law on the charge of "impiety". The front label of the Specific Medicine is as follows:

Specific Medicine Colloidum Conium

Specific Use.-A powerful narcotic sedative, useful in chorea, paralysis, tetanus, whooping cough, asthma, etc.

It seems to be indicated in those cases of diseases in which motor activity is in excess.

Dose: ℞ Sp. Med. Conium. gtt. v to 3 iv

Water ℥ iv

Misc. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the solution every two to four hours.

Poisonous in overdoses.

Antidote.-Evacuate the stomach by stomach pump or emetic of mustard. Give tannic acid or strong tea freely. Give demulcents. Keep head low; use stimulants as indicated, artificial heat and artificial respiration.

PHOSPHORUS AS A HYPODERMIC INJECTION

Question.-What would be the proper amount of your Specific Medicine Phosphorus to use for an intravenous injection? That is, how much should it be diluted, and how?

Reply.-As shown by its label, Specific Medicine Phosphorus is, when made, "A saturated alcoholic solution of Phosphorus," and if used as a hypodermic, it would need to be diluted with about four parts of distilled water. This would throw the element phosphorus out of solution and render it unsuitable for hypodermic use. We have had no reports from physicians concerning their use of Specific Medicine Phosphorus as a hypodermic, and regret that we cannot give our inquirer any authentic information on the subject.

LLOYD'S HYDRASTIS

Question.-While I have used Lloyd's Hydrastis for years in throat, nose, and urethral diseases, I have not often given it internally until recently. I find it free from that terribly intense bitter taste so common in most Hydrastis preparations. In making this preparation, do you also remove the white alkaloid, hydrastine, and canadine?

Reply.-The drug, Hydrastis, carries a number of constituents, some of them almost contradictory in character. We make from it a number of preparations, in accordance with the uses the physician desires to make of Hydrastis. These are all described in our Drug Treatise on Hydrastis, which is sent free to physicians who desire it. "LLOYD'S HYDRASTIS" is a water-white solution, which lacks both the yellow alkaloid berberine and the canadine of the drug. It carries just enough of the white alkaloid, Hydrastine, in an extremely dispersed form, to make a characteristic, but not an irritating, preparation. In its special field, physicians consider it the standard of all Hydrastis preparations.

ARTHRITIS DEFORMANS

Question.-Please give treatment for Arthritis Deformans.

Reply.-We cannot better answer this inquiry than to quote from Dr. Stephens' reply to a like inquiry, in GLEANER 6, as follows:

"Unfortunately, we have to admit our limitations in this most distressing disease. We cannot overcome the deformity, nor often stay the increasing ravages of the disease, except in its early stages. The very best advice we have to offer is as follows: Apply to the larger and most painful joints Libradol. Secure the services of a good masseur, to give daily treatments to the joints. Let the diet be generous, except as to the red meats; restrict these altogether. As for remedies for pain, we might try bryonia, rhus tox., macrotys, calcium phos. 3 x, and calcium fluoride 3 x."

To the above-named remedies we would further suggest a careful study of Specific Medicines Bryonia, Colchicum, Echinacea, and Apocynum for their clinical application to these aggravating cases, with Gelbia as a pain reliever as occasion demands.

From a recent paper by Dr. H. T. Webster, of California, on the treatment of Inflammatory Rheumatism with Rhamnus californica (Specific Medicine Rhamnus), we extract the following paragraph as of possible suggestive help in this direction:

"The patient was unable, without great pain, to move his arms, hands, feet, or legs. He could not feed himself. His joints were reddened and enormously swollen. He was suffering excruciating pain. Under treatment with Rhamnus alone, in a week's time he was able to walk about, with no pain or other discomfort."

PAIN IN OS CALCIS

Question.-Please suggest treatment for the following: Man about 50, has been suffering for about three years with severe pain in os calcis, where it joins the ankle bones, very like a "stone bruise." There is a history of gonorrheal infection for the last three or four months, with pyorrhea for a number of years.

Reply.-We are inclined to believe this pain due to some focus of infection. Gonorrhea, pyorrhea, and bad teeth are in themselves factors of much importance in such a condition, and their removal should be followed by relief of the local joint pain. Locally, Libradol should be applied to relieve the pain. One occasionally encounters a case of severe pain of this character that is relieved by painting the parts with Dynamine. Our first effort should be directed toward finding the cause of this condition, which, in this case, we believe to be due to some infection focus, such as those mentioned in the letter.

URINARY TROUBLE

Question.-Am suffering from what I think is a cystic and prostatic trouble so distressing that I seldom sleep more than an hour between urgent calls to urinate, a condition that has grown worse in recent years. Am 74, and retired from practice a number of years ago, hence seek advice from one in active medical practice. Have thought Thuja, taken internally, might be of help.

Reply.-From the patient's age and description of the case, we would advise that a thorough examination of the bladder and prostate be made by a competent urologist. We are inclined to believe that there is a hypertrophied prostate, which is mechanically hindering the bladder from emptying properly. With some residual urine left in the bladder, a cystitis is set up, causing the urgent frequency for urination. If an operation is indicated, and the patient is physically able to withstand it, this, in our opinion, is the proper course to follow.

If the case is inoperable, we would advise that Specific Medicine Thuja be given a chance. To this we often add Belladonna or Nux Vomica, making the prescription read as follows:

R̄ Sp. Med. Thuja..... gtt. 60
Sp. Med. Belladonna or Nux Vom. gtt. 5 to 10
Water, q.s., ad ℥ 4

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

SPECIFIC MEDICINE ACONITE VS. TINCTURE ACONITE

Question.-In treatment of arterio-sclerosis as a vaso-dilator, a writer in a medical journal recommends the use of Tincture Aconite 10% dilution (U. S. P. 1890), in ten-drop doses. I am desirous of using the Specific Medicine Aconite in dose corresponding to the one commended, but do not want to experiment with so potent a drug. I am therefore taking the liberty of asking you to give me the dose of Specific Medicine Aconite corresponding to the 10-drop dose of the preparation mentioned.

Reply.- The dose commended on the label of the Specific Medicine Aconite is from five to ten drops in four ounces of water, teaspoonful doses of this dilution being administered as required. We would urge great caution before the dosage of this energetic remedy be increased much beyond that commended on the label.

In all probability the writer to whom our correspondent refers really had in mind the Tincture of Aconite. As we have frequently mentioned in THE GLEANER, the word "Tincture" is often very much abused. The Tinctures are a distinct class of pharmaceutical preparations, of a definite drug strength, which as a rule is only about one-eighth that of the corresponding Fluid Extract of the U. S. P. Physicians too often write "Tincture" where they mean "Fluid Extract." Some even write "Specific Tincture," though the Specific Medicines are a totally different class of remedial agents from the "Tinctures," and should not be confused therewith. To write "tincture" in a prescription intended to be filled by a Specific Medicine is to run a grave risk of having one's prescription filled by a preparation other than the one intended. Still graver is the risk involved, as in the instance mentioned by our correspondent, where the dosage admissible in a Tincture would be most heroic were the prescription filled with a corresponding energetic Specific Medicine, such as Specific Medicine Aconite.

Following are given the uses and dosage as commended by Eclectic authorities of this remedy:

Specific Medicine Colloidum Aconite

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: R̄ Sp. Med. Aconite... . gtt. v to x
Water..... ℥ iv

Misc. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the dilution every hour.
Poisonous in overdoses.

PSORIASIS VULGARIS

Question.-Please suggest treatment for Psoriasis vulgaris. Patient has been troubled with this for from five to seven years, and has consulted many doctors. About two weeks ago he was covered with psoriasis patches, the hairy parts of the body being worst affected, groins almost raw. He is now doing fairly well.

Reply.-We would refer the doctor to a reply to a like question in GLEANER 14, page 487.

As regards local treatment: It is very essential that the scales be removed before any local applications are given. To do this effectively, we would advise the use of Asepsin Soap in frequent and prolonged baths. Sulphur soap may also be employed.

From the fact that ammoniated mercury is odorless and does not stain the skin, it makes a fine treatment for the patches near the scalp. Salicylic acid is often combined with this. Chrysarobin, tar, resorcin, etc., have their advocates.

Internally, arsenic, in the form of Fowler's Solution, has long been held in much esteem. Among the Specific Medicines to be thought of for their action upon cutaneous disturbances, in addition to the agents above mentioned, are Kalmia, Echinacea, Iris, and Corydalis. These are all alterative, increasing elimination and improving nutrition.

It is to be remembered that psoriasis is a chronic inflammatory disease of the skin, its etiological factors being still uncertain, and that while one can effect a disappearance of the eruptions, there is a likelihood, in the majority of cases, of a recurrence. There is no "specific remedy" for the condition. One must study the requirements of each case, and outline the method of procedure accordingly.

Since GLEANER 14, to which Dr. Nellans refers, is long since out of print, we reproduce, for the benefit of physicians not having that number, the article in question, as follows.-ED.

TREATMENT OF PSORIASIS

Question.-I have used your medicines constantly for ten years, with fine results and many cures, but am now "up against" a bad case of psoriasis in a young man about twenty years of age, who is otherwise in good health. This case baffles me, and I turn to you for advice and suggestions as to treatment.

Reply.-We would suggest the following prescription:

℞ Specific Medicine Berberis. ℥ iv
Specific Medicine Rumex 3 iii
Specific Medicine Eryngium. 3 iv
Elixirarom.q.s.ad..... ℥ vi

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful every three hours.

Also:

℞ Kali mur. 3 x, in tablet, q. s. Sig.: Three tablets, four times a day.

Apply locally:

℞ Acid Salicylic..... 3 i
Acid Boric..... 3 i
Acid Carbolic..... gtt. v
Petrolatum..... ℥ ii

M. Sig.: Apply two or three times a day.

We would suggest that the doctor keep up this treatment for three months, and then report.

GLENER APPRECIATED

(Contributed)

Thanks for THE GLENER, just received. I value this publication very highly, and carefully preserve every number. Your literature is always very welcome.

THE SPECIFIC MEDICINES APPRECIATED

(Contributed)

For some time I have felt that I should write and express to you my admiration for the high standard of the Specific Medicines. I have used them for twenty years, and have relied upon them above all other preparations. They have never failed to give satisfaction.

Comment.-Letters such as the above, from one of our valued correspondents, are highly appreciated because of their supportive encouragement, which is much needed in connection with problems of a business nature.

The work accomplished by our establishment lies largely outside of ordinary cold business. It is largely an ethical problem, in which an effort has ever been continuously made by us to replace, in our field, inferior remedial agents by something better. For more than half a century it has been our aim to unite with our physician friends, supplying them with preparations supportive of their efforts', and endeavoring in every way possible to improve, pharmaceutically, the products of our Laboratory. Letters of encouragement such as the above are frankly welcomed by us.

PERSISTENT VOMITING OF BILE

(Contributed)

I wish to express my appreciation of the purity of your remedial agents, and the successful action resulting from their use.

Some months ago I had a patient, a girl 16 years of age, normal in every way until a week before the menstrual period, when she would be attacked with the most pernicious vomiting spells, lasting for two or three days, leaving her exhausted. She would vomit a quart of bile in twenty-four hours. The results were negative from an X-ray examination of the gastro-intestinal tract and from Graham Cole test of the gall bladder. After trying everything else known to me to stop the regurgitation of bile into the stomach, all to no avail, I gave the following:

Rx Sp. Med. Amygdalus..... 3 i

Water..... ʒ iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful every thirty minutes until relieved, then every four hours.

After the third dose the vomiting ceased.

During the interval between periods Specific Medicine Macrotys was taken. There has been no recurrence of the trouble.

This patient has suffered every month in this manner for more than two years, and this is the first time medication has been helpful.

Direct Therapeutics. By Edwin H. Moore, Pittsburgh, Pa. 107 pp. Pittsburgh 1930. Published by the author. \$2.50.

"Direct Therapeutics," in the introductory words of Dr. Moore, "is the science of prescribing directly for the pathological symptoms as they may develop regardless of the name applied to them as a group. This fact does not minimize or underrate the importance of correct diagnosis; neither does it permit diagnosis to divert attention from the clearly outlined call that nature is making for specialized treatment."

We regret that space at our command does not permit reproducing the entire introduction. In its few pages we feel sure our readers would find many of their own beliefs crystallized into concise words and phrases most forcefully arranged.

We hope that "Direct Therapeutics," which comes to us as a surprise, will fulfill Dr. Moore's "sincere hope that it will prove of great value in giving ready assistance to the busy physician in his untiring efforts to assuage human suffering."-L. B.