

# The GLEANER

*(A Publication of the Lloyd Laboratory)*

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



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# THE GLEANER

*Cincinnati, Ohio, February, 1928*

*Number 32*

## EDITORIAL

### THE SPECIFIC ACTION OF REMEDIES

A. F. Stephens, M.D.

For the coming year, our editorials will be devoted to the consideration of a few well established Eclectic remedies, with special reference to their action upon particular abnormal conditions of the human body. We are among the number who believe that a worthwhile knowledge of remedies that live is to be gained only by observing their serviceable action upon pathological conditions as found in the human being, when ill. This does not imply that we oppose experimental work as conducted in the laboratory, barring only the needless cruelty too often practiced therein upon helpless sub-humans. In these articles we propose to discuss facts, only, leaving theory to the individual who would speculate upon the why and wherefore of the action of a particular agent upon healthful animal life.

The prevention of disease is a laudable undertaking, but so long as man is lacking in the knowledge of how to live so as to maintain a healthy state of being, so long must we meet the inevitable consequences of wrong living. As long as there are sick people who need to be made well again, so long shall we be forced to rely upon remedial agents capable of overcoming diseased conditions. The problem of correcting morbid conditions when they appear, is one that daily meets the practicing physician. Here he is facing facts, not theory. Whatever has proven helpful in relieving those who suffer should be accepted, regardless of its origin. Experienced physicians should, for the benefit of humanity, as well as to aid brother physicians, fearlessly state their views regarding remedial agents, as they have observed their action.

But what are "facts"? Facts are things that are proved to be true, be they relative to existing conditions, or things that have been accomplished even in remote days. In these articles, we propose to record facts in medicine, as in our opinion thoroughly established by the numberless observations of qualified physicians. It has been well established that certain remedial agents have a particular and definite action upon particular and definite conditions. It has also been established that certain remedies, known as "organ remedies," influence particular organs of the body, while others are more general in their action. This has long been known (and recorded) by practicing physicians. The wise selection of remedies for their particular and definite action upon particular and definite disease conditions, leads to the successful practice of medicine, which is the ultimate aim of the physician.

But "One swallow does not make a summer." The observed favorable influence of a given remedy upon a disease, once only, does not prove its positive value. Its place in medicine must be established by observing, and recording, just what particular condition is favorably influenced by a remedy, in the many different diseases in which it has been found helpful. To do this is to establish a fact, beyond a possible doubt. Knowledge thus gained is lasting, not ephemeral. A remedy thus established, is established for all time. What was true of it fifty years ago is true today, and will likewise be true tomorrow, next year, or a hundred years to come.

\* See Specific Medication, Scudder Brothers & Co., Cincinnati, Ohio, publishers.

To illustrate. Sodium chloride "cured" (preserved) the farmer's meat a hundred years ago. The same common salt will cure his meat today, and will continue to do so for all time. Gelsemium will relax the muscular system today as it did when first its properties were discovered. If a remedy once removes a pathological warp it will, under like conditions, do the same thing throughout all time. But, although a remedy administered in a certain disease may modify that disease in the direction of health, its place in medicine is not established as a fact until we have observed what particular phase of the disease is overcome. If however we can prove that its effect is always the same when applied to some particular condition arising in the course of a disease, whatever name we may give that disease, then we have established the fact of its specific action.

Having this in view, we shall, in coming issues of THE GLEANER, consider, consecutively, a few remedies whose specific action has long been firmly established. And we might here add that a remedy, to be effective, need not necessarily be poisonous. Some of our most useful agents are, in their action, non-poisonous. As the first number of this series, let us consider the established virtues of Specific Medicine Gelsemium.

The effect of Gelsemium upon the human organism was discovered accidentally, through the error of a colored servant in digging the root of Gelsemium instead of the one directed. A decoction made from this was administered to a sick patient, with unexpected results, which for a time were somewhat alarming. From this as a starting point, an observing physician developed its pathological action in many diseases, but to Dr. John M. Scudder must be given the credit for formulating the specific action of the drug, which he expressed as follows:\*

"Any disease wherein the face is flushed, the eyes bright, the pupils contracted, with increased heat of the head and excited nervous system, will be modified favorably by Gelsemium. . . . When given in medicinal doses, we find that it produces relaxation of the muscular system, the muscles of the eyes being the first affected, the patient having difficulty in opening the eyes. . . . In fevers and inflammations of childhood, one of the most unpleasant complications met, is that of determination of blood to the brain. The child is observed to be uneasy and restless, the head hot, the face flushed, the eyes bright and pupils contracted, all showing excitement of the nervous and circulatory system. Gelsemium is the remedy for the conditions outlined in this case."

If then such conditions are modified by Gelsemium in one disease of childhood, then in all diseases showing such conditions, whether of childhood or adult age, the remedy will act in like manner. That is to say, we have in Gelsemium a remedy for certain definite (or "specific") phases of disease, which yield to the action of that remedy. In such conditions, Gelsemium will be found effective, regardless of the name of the disease with which the patient is afflicted. The only requirements upon the physician are, first, that he be able to read the alphabet of disease expression, and next, that he apply the corrective agent needed. If the physician is unable to read the language of disease as expressed by the symptoms, he becomes a mere guess-work wanderer, regardless of his other talents. He must fail in his application of remedies. But it is not difficult to learn the "short-hand" of disease expression. Careful observation, joined with good judgment, will soon establish in the mind of the qualified observer the truth of this statement.

One illustration will complete this editorial on one of our most important agents for combatting particular disease-expressions. Every person has had a "cold," and will continue, at times, to have this affection, by whatever name it be called, influenza, la grippe, or what-not. The early symptoms are flushing of the face, with heat seemingly radiating therefrom, headache, sneezing, "stuffing up" of the nose or watery secretion from that organ, sensation of burning or smarting in the eyes, with perhaps some nervous excitement and general ill-feeling all over the body. When such a condition develops, the administration at bedtime of a dose of from ten to fifteen drops of Specific Medicine Gelsemium (if the patient is not super-sensitive to Gelsemium) will usually be sufficient. In the morning, the patient will, as a rule, be found minus his cold.

If quick action be needed, or the patient very susceptible to Gelsemium, as is sometimes the case, prepare a solution as follows:

R̄	Specific Medicine Gelsemium	gtt. xx-xxx
	Specific Medicine Euphrasia	3ii
	Specific Medicine Bryonia	gtt. v-x
	Specific Medicine Aconite	gtt. v
	Aquae dest. q.s.ad	℥iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture at once, then every hour until muscular relaxation begins, then in smaller doses or at longer intervals until all untoward symptoms disappear. In this prescription, each constituent is added for its specific action, which may be established by reading each label. To give these agents separately is needless. Providing each is indicated in the case in hand, there is no guess work in their combination.

The particular conditions calling for the use of Gelsemium may appear in any named disease. They are often very pronounced in such ailments as pneumonia, bronchitis, pleuritis, measles, whooping cough, scarlet fever, gastric and intestinal irritation, laryngitis and tonsillitis. Gelsemium, alone, will often relieve headache showing the disease-expression described. In fact, it matters not in what symptom-complex one finds a call for this remedy, it is certain in its action. Watch then for its indications, read literature written by physicians who know how to use Gelsemium, then do your own independent thinking, and prescribe accordingly.

#### GLEANINGS AND COMMENTS USEFULNESS OF THE GLEANER (Contributed)

I refer to THE GLEANER very often because it carries many reports from practicing physicians who have learned through experience facts that seldom reach the profession generally through other sources.

For instance, the treatment of Professor Lloyd's case of rhus poisoning, reported in GLEANER 25. This was of great value to me in two stubborn cases. THE GLEANER, with Dr. Niederkorn's Handy Reference Book, and the new book by Dr. Webster, make a good working library.

#### COLLINSONIA NOT CONTRA-INDICATED IN GLAUCOMA

Question.-I have a patient afflicted by hemorrhoids who also has glaucoma. Is Collinsonia contra-indicated here?

Reply.-Collinsonia is not contra-indicated in glaucoma. There is no reason why it should not be used in the case described. It is one of our best agents for combatting venous stasis, where the patient complains of a sensation of weight and constriction. It may be necessary to give it during a considerable period, as it takes time to overcome the atony of the venous circulation.

The uses for Specific Medicine Collinsonia as given on the label follow:

#### Specific Medicine Collinsonia

Indications.-Sense of constriction, with irritation in throat, larynx, or anus.

Use.-In Ministers' sore throat; in chronic laryngitis, chronic bronchitis, and some cases of gastric disease. It allays irritation in some cases of urinary disease. A specific in hemorrhoids when the above indications are present.

Dose.-R̄ Sp. Med. Collinsonia	3i
Simple Syrup	3 iij

Misc.

Sig.: A teaspoonful four times a day.

## FOR HEMORRHOIDS:

℞ Sp. Med. Collinsonia	gtt. x
Water	℥iv

Misc.

Sig.: A teaspoonful of the dilution four times a day.

This is the remedy for hemorrhoids, with a sense of heat, burning, or constriction in the rectum. It is a remedy for diseases of digestion, functional diseases of the urinary apparatus, and diseases of the reproductive organs, if the above symptoms are present. It is a remedy of diseases of the respiratory apparatus, when the irritation points in the larynx, with change in the voice, or inability to use it without irritation.

For the latter purpose no remedy has exceeded Collinsonia in that form of laryngeal irritation and sub-acute inflammation known as "ministers' sore throat"-chronic laryngitis. It is the remedy for hoarseness in those who speak or sing for a livelihood,-such hoarseness being due either to vascular hyperemia or to congestion. The small dose is most effectual in hemorrhoidal troubles, while in laryngeal affections large doses are required.-FELTER.

## CARDIAC PALPITATION AT MENOPAUSE

Question.-I have a patient with a slight palpitation of the heart, accompanied by a sensation as though the heart was going to stop. She is in her menopause, and with every flow is thrown into a terribly nervous state. She has no pain, and I can find no organic heart trouble of any kind. For some three months she has been in bed, with no relief. Can sleep only under drug influence. Her father and small son are dependent upon her for support, and she worries constantly about them. She will for one or two days feel perfectly normal, then throbbing of the heart begins, and she is hardly able to talk, feels as though she were going to die. There is no increase in heat or pressure of arteries.

I am not fully acquainted with the Specific Medicines, and take the liberty of asking assistance in this case. Would you commend the following prescription, or suggest some other?

℞ Sp. Med. Cactus	3i
Sp. Med. Pulsatilla	3i
Sp: Med. Ignatia	gtt. x
Water, q. s. ad	℥iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful as needed.

Reply.- The prescription given is excellent and should assist the patient. From the description given, these remedies are particularly indicated, and, if persisted in, should prove of benefit. We would suggest that the patient be placed also upon Lloyd's Iron, the iron in this preparation being of value in building up the blood stream, and the phosphorus steadying and strengthening the nervous system, which at this time (the menopause) is being severely taxed. To overcome sleeplessness at night, the administration of gtt. xv of Specific Medicine Passiflora in a cup of warm milk at bedtime should suffice.

Passiflora induces sleep by quieting any irritation of the nervous system. Oftentimes the administration of some standard ovarian preparation will assist very materially in tiding these patients over a distressing menopause by serving to supply the deficit in the ovarian secretion. As in all cases of this description, treatment to be fully satisfactory should be the specialist's care. However, the report made by our correspondent is so explicit as to warrant the suggestions above made.

## CUTANEOUS ERUPTIONS

Question.-Following the administration of Berberis to male patient sixty years of age, red patches appeared on his skin.

Corydalis was then given, following which little pimples broke out on his leg, accompanied by terrible itching. Could this condition be caused by the medicines given? Patient is also continuously troubled with acidosis, "sour stomach."

Reply.--We are inclined to the opinion that the condition described is due to the systemic condition of the patient, rather than to the medicines administered. As a matter of fact, Berberis and Corydalis, being alteratives, are both indicated in just such depraved conditions of the system as are attended by the cutaneous manifestations described.

To correct the acidosis, we would advise administering the Berberis in Glyconda as a vehicle, using about one drachm of Specific Medicine Berberis to four ounces of Glyconda, teaspoonful doses of the mixture being given before each meal and at bedtime. This is an excellent stomach tonic, is antacid, and if used persistently, should improve the gastric condition, it being tonic to the stomach and the system in general. The diet of the patient should be watched and the system kept alkalinized. See that he drinks plenty of water and that his elimination is good.

In most cases where an antacid is needed Glyconda is a pleasant menstruum. It also overcomes bitterness, and thus makes a diluent grateful to the patient.

### USEFULNESS OF SUBCULOYD LOBELIA

(Contributed)

I need another bottle of Subculoyd Lobelia. In all my twenty seven years of practice, this is the best emergency remedy I have ever used.

Comment.-Had the writer of the above given data concerning ailments treated, his letter would have been of special service. As it is, we introduce it as a text, hoping that other correspondents may, where possible, better serve their brother practitioners by giving case reports. Even should this involve a repetition of a something already published in these columns, this would not prove objectionable. Repetition is one of Nature's processes. A thousand physicians will this year graduate who are unaware of the wealth of material to be found in the long-established American materia medica.

### YERBA BUENA, MICROMERIA DOUGLASII. EUPHORBIA POLYCARPA, "SNAKEWEED"

Question.-I am sending two herbs for identification. One of these, known as Yerba Buena, is used by the natives as a stomach tonic, and also in all cases of digestive troubles. The other is known here as "Snakeweed." The natives use it in the cure of snake bite and other kinds of bite. It seems to have much the same properties in this regard as Echinacea. I have been using it for some time, and find it one of the best heart sedatives I have ever used.

Reply.-- The first of these plants was identified by Professor Aiken as *Micromeria Douglasii*; common name, Yerba Buena. Of this the American Dispensatory says:

"*Micromeria Doug-Iasii*. Bentham. The Yerba Buena, a native of California, is a labiate plant closely allied to the common garden thyme, *Thymus vulgars*. It is stated to possess not only febrifuge, but also emmenagogue and anthelmintic properties. It is very probable that its virtues are simply those of a stimulating aromatic and tonic, and that its effects are due to these qualities."

The second is *Euphorbia Polycarpa*, which is not recorded as having any common name other than Spurge, which is applied to the Euphorbias generally. Many of the Euphorbias have medicinal qualities, more than twenty being named in the American Dispensatory. From the Euphorbias we make no less than three preparations that have long been held in high favor among physicians, namely, Specific Medicine Euphorbia, from *Euphorbia Corollata*; Specific Medicine Spotted Spurge, from *Euphorbia Hypericifolia*; and Specific Medicine Asthma Weed, from *Euphorbia Pilulifera*. We find no mention in works at our command of the variety sent by our correspondent, which is evidently worthy of further study.

It will be noted that two of these Euphorbias are found in our Specific Medicine list under their common names. The reason for this is explained in our "Companion to Prices Current," which we will mail free, on application, to physicians and pharmacists.

#### PENTSTEMON LAEVIGATUS. "WHIPPOORWILL PLANT"

Question.-A German friend hands me the enclosed plant with the statement that his father, for years before his death at the age of eighty-four, used a tea of the root "off and on" to relieve irritable prostate. After taking it for a few days he would not be bothered at all at night. This specimen is known in Missouri as "Whippoorwill Plant." Any information you can give me regarding it will be gratefully received. Especially would I like to know if you make a Specific Medicine from it.

Reply.- This plant is identified by Professor Aiken as Pentstemon Laevigatus, or Beard-Tongue. We find in the dispensatories no mention of any of the Pentstemons being employed in medicine, but Professor Aiken appends the note that it is mentioned in Dragendorff's Die Heilflanzen, 1898, as follows:

"Leaf: Tonic, cathartic, and in liver troubles." We make no preparation from any of the pentstemons. Would be pleased to get reports from other physicians.

#### OINTMENT FOR BURNS AND WOUNDS

(Contributed)

I take a half-pound can of vaseline, remove about an inch from the top, and set the can on a water bath, heating it until pretty hot. I then remove from water bath and add ℥iii of Specific Medicine Echinacea, ℥ii Specific Medicine Calendula, and ℥i Specific Medicine Thuja, and stir until cold. This is fine for burns and wounds. In chapped lips, especially cracks in angle of lips, it acts quickly, applied freely, at bedtime. I also use it in painful cicatrices, like those following burns. It softens them, and relieves the pain.

Comment.- This welcome letter reminds of the "good old times," when physicians were content to make their own simple medicaments. To-day, the art of office pharmacy is practically unknown. In connection with our contributor's good suggestions, we recall that two exceedingly valuable remedies, "Mayer's Ointment" and "Black Plaster," were, at the outset, kitchen-made. Read directions in King's American Dispensatory, 1854.

#### STONECROP, SEDUM ACRE

Question.-What are the medical properties of the common Stonecrop or Biting Stonecrop? I do not find it mentioned in any of the books at my command. Do you supply any preparation of this plant?

Reply.- The Biting Stonecrop, Mossy Stonecrop, or Wall-Pepper of Europe, Sedum Acre, cultivated for flower-bed edgings, has become naturalized in a few sections of this country but is not now much employed in medicine. We make no preparation of this plant, nor can we refer to any manufacturer from whom it can be obtained. The American Dispensatory says of it:

"Sedum Acre has little or no odor, and its taste, at first herbaceous, is followed by a persistent acrid pungency. The leaves, pounded and applied to the surface of the body, will occasion a troublesome vesication. Taken internally, the plant or its expressed juice has an emetocathartic action. It is rarely employed at the present day, except occasionally as a local application to glandular enlargements, to scrofulous ulcers, and to some chronic cutaneous maladies-the fresh leaves only (bruised) being used; being thus applied to warts, corns, or similar growths, it is said ultimately to effect their removal."

## CHRONIC COLITIS AND SIGMOIDITIS

Question.-I am reporting a case that has puzzled a number of physicians, including specialists. Patient, man of forty-five, has for the past two years had chronic diarrhea. Some days there will be a dozen bowel movements, all painless, then for several days the movements will be normal. He is also diabetic, but, in my opinion, this is not the cause of the bowel trouble. I have diagnosed it as sigmoiditis. Have given high colonic irrigations, the return flow showing a large quantity of mucus. This does not come away now with the enemas, but the bowel movements remain unchanged. I have thought of Specific Medicines Geranium, Helleborus, and Myrica. May these be combined, or should they be given separately?

Reply. -From the description given, this is probably a case of chronic colitis and sigmoiditis. Of the remedies mentioned by the physician, Specific Medicine Geranium is the one most frequently employed, the other two being rarely indicated. Other Specific Medicines often thought of in this condition are Krameria (Colloidum) and Mangifera, Krameria being of especial value. Hydrastis must also be considered, on account of its tonic influence upon these structures. As regards combinations of these remedies. In our therapy, Helleborus has not played a very active part in bowel conditions, although Felter recommends it "when there are jelly-like passages in bowel affections." We have never combined it with Geranium, as there are so many other agents of positive action at our command which seem to be more clearly indicated. Geranium may be used singly, or in association with Hydrastis, Mangifera, Krameria, Bismuth Subnitrate, or Magnesium Oxide, but dependent upon existing conditions and indications.

For the internal treatment of chronic colitis and sigmoiditis a favorite prescription is:

R̄x Sp. Med. Geranium	3iv
Sp. Med. Krameria	gtt. xxx
Glyconda, q.s. ad	℥iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture every two to four hours.

For local treatment in chronic colitis, Specific Medicine Krameria is an excellent agent. It is a healing agent for the mucous membrane of the colon. For this purpose, use the Colloidum Krameria. Do not use an alcoholic preparation of Krameria, nor the distillate of Hamamelis, on account of its alcohol.

Of Specific Medicine Krameria (Colloidum), which is non -alcoholic, make a twenty per cent solution in water, lukewarm.. and introduce one or two ounces of this mixture through a proctoscope. This is done with the patient in the knee-chest posture, the medicine being allowed to gravitate into the intestine before lying down. When patient lies down, let it be upon the left side, turning over slowly to the back, then to the right side. The medicine is usually retained very well. This treatment is to be repeated every other day, twice, or but once a week, depending upon existing conditions in the individual patient. Following is the label for Krameria Colloidum, commended for the condition described:

### SPECIFIC MEDICINE KRAMERIA COLLOIDUM

Specific Use: For passive hemorrhage due to debility and relaxation; mucous discharges due to relaxed mucous membrane.

Locally: As an injection for vaginal leucorrhoea, with relaxed vaginal wall; dysentery after the active stage.

Dose: Sp. Med. Krameria, gtt. x to gtt. xxx, everyone to four hours.

Specific Medicine Krameria is strongly astringent and tonic. It acts favorably in chronic diarrhea, leucorrhoea, and menorrhagia. A native product of Peru, it has been used extensively in that country as a remedy in intestinal diseases characterized by diarrhea; as a corroborant in cases of enfeebled stomach; and as a local application to spongy and bleeding gums.-STEPHENS.

## PEACH-SEED OIL AND WILD-CHERRY BARK

Question.-In GLEANER 19, which is certainly overflowing with interesting and valuable information, I find a question regarding Peach-seed Oil in treatment of asthma. Peach seeds contain both

"fixed" and "volatile or essential" oils, the latter (in small amounts only) being probably a form of hydrocyanic acid. The bark of the wild cherry is used in remedies for throat and lung diseases, and it seems to me quite probable that Peach-kernel Emulsion would give relief from asthma.

Reply.-Peach kernels and the bark of the wild cherry, the latter especially, have long been used in medicine, both regular and domestic, and have been the basis of several home remedies held in high

repute. For example, during the writer's childhood "Ayer's Cherry Pectoral" was a standard home remedy, always kept on the shelf for use in incipient colds. The American Dispensatory says of Wild-cherry Bark:

"It has a tonic and stimulating influence on the digestive apparatus, and a simultaneous sedative action on the nervous system and circulation. It is therefore valuable in all those cases where it is desirable to give tone and strength to the system, without at the same time causing too great an action of the heart and blood vessels. Its chief property is its power of relieving irritation of the mucous surfaces, making it an admirable remedy in many gastro-intestinal, pulmonic, and urinary troubles."

In our opinion, it is not impossible that the sedative action above mentioned may be helpful in the direction of asthma.

## PACKAGE SIZE OF THE SPECIFIC MEDICINES

(Contributed)

If physicians could get the Specific Medicines in ounce packages, it would be fine for those dispensing their own medicines. Four ounces of most remedies last too long.

Comment.-The problem presented, of distributing the Specific Medicines in ounce containers, is one that many times has taken our consideration, but as yet we have not found this to be practicable, largely because of label requirements. While physicians who are thoroughly familiar with the uses of a given remedy could easily dispense with the suggestions on the label, other physicians, to whom this same remedy is not so familiar, would be greatly disturbed by the omission. Many years ago, we attempted to eliminate from the labels of the Specific Medicines much that is carried thereon, one object, among others, being the use of a smaller container, but the protests received from practicing physicians who were disturbed by the innovation were so numerous as to lead us to abandon the project.

In this connection, it might be added that label directions are desired not only by physicians to whom a given remedy is comparatively new, but by others who, through their use of parallel agents, in which the American vegetable materia medica is so prolific, have somewhat neglected a particular remedy, and wish to refresh their memories concerning it.

As an additional thought, we would add that the Specific Medicines are now so permanent in character that they may be used in confidence to the last drop, regardless of age. Thus, while the initial

cost of a four-ounce bottle is greater than the outlay for a smaller quantity, the final outcome is more satisfactory. To quote from a physician friend, "I have probably had a profit of five hundred dollars from a single bottle of Specific Medicine Gelsemium "

## ECLECTIC REMEDIES IN ALLOPATHIC PRACTICE

(Contributed)

I am an "Allopath"; graduated twenty-four years ago from McGill University, but strayed into other folds, through a Homeopath whose practice I bought out, and who broadened my "Humanities."

Having received Lloyd's literature from time to time, I tried Echinacea in some cases of blood poisoning. Since that time, I use this remedy in all infectious wounds.

I have now used many of the Specific Medicines for many years, and they have served me well. Comment.- These remarks concerning Echinacea as an internal remedy are supported by the experience of thousands of practicing physicians. "Iodized Echafolta," for external use, is now a favorite and is being employed increasingly.

### ALCOHOLIC CONTENT OF THE COLLOIDUMS

Question.-I understand that the Specific Medicines marked Colloidum are prepared without alcohol, or with so small a quantity of alcohol that they may be used for injections. Is this so? Specific Medicine Mangifera is not a Colloidum, and I believe it contains over thirty per cent alcohol. This remedy is supposed to be good for colitis, but it seems to me the alcoholic content might be harmful where there is great irritation and passive hemorrhage. In the Dose Book, Specific Medicines Spotted Spurge and Xanthium are commended for procto-colitis. Have you any literature telling of results when these remedies were used in injections for the colon?

Reply.--We have no reports from physicians covering the points mentioned. Specific Medicine Mangifera has long been used in treatment of rectal disturbances. We know of no kindlier vegetable astringent. Though not a Colloidum, it carries but twenty-three percent absolute alcohol. Whether this amount unfits the remedy for colonic injections we are unable to say, as reports from physicians do not cover this point. We accept that problems relating to therapy must be decided wholly in accordance with the clinical experience of qualified practicing physicians.

The alcoholic content of the Colloidums varies, as it does in the older form of the Specific Medicines. A few, such as Sanguinaria and Krameria, are wholly free from alcohol, but the greater number carry alcohol in varying amount. Colloidum Specific Medicine Geranium, Colloidum Frasera, and Colloidum Fragrant Sumach (*Rhus Aromatica*) are examples. In each case the exact amount of alcoholic content is printed on the label, in accordance with Governmental regulations. It varies in accord with each finished batch, the drug content being the standard,

Krameria has long been employed by physicians for colonic injections. In GLEANER 3 will be found a report from a physician who desired to use this remedy in a case of acute rectal congestion. A non-alcoholic form of Krameria (now known as Colloidum Specific Medicine Krameria) was devised for his use. His report was as follows: "The Krameria prepared for me some time ago was most satisfactory. I have used it in several special cases of acute rectal congestion, and with much greater benefit than I had been able to get from other preparations. My method of use is by irrigation, diluted with water to a strength of from two to twenty per cent." The label for Specific Medicine Krameria will be found on pages 1037-8.

### CHRONIC, NON-SPECIFIC URETHRITIS

Question.-Please suggest treatment for non-specific granular, posterior urethritis, and chronic seminal vesiculitis. Case is one of about twenty years' standing.

Reply.- Treatment of chronic conditions such as this will be more successful if some internal medication is combined with appropriate local treatment. According to the needs of each case, local treatments must be given. Among the many agents that may prove to be of benefit, Lloyd's Hydrastis must not be forgotten. Read carefully the Drug Treatise on Hydrastis. For internal medication, study the indications for Specific Medicines Staphysagria, Phytolacca, Echinacea, Pulsatilla, and Cannabis Indica. Then give these remedies individually, or in combination, as the case may require.

#### LLOYD'S IRON COMPATIBLE WITH NUX VOMICA AND FOWLER'S SOLUTION

Question.-May Nux Vomica or Fowler's Solution be prescribed with Lloyd's Iron? In other words, are these preparations compatible?

Reply.-We have often combined Nux Vomica with Lloyd's Iron, where each was therapeutically indicated. We have used Fowler's Solution in the same prescription with Lloyd's Iron, and have also alternated them whereby the action of each seems to be enhanced. In the treatment of chorea, as a general tonic following influenza, typhoid, and other exhausting diseases, we have used Nux Vomica, Fowler's Solution, and Lloyd's Iron in usual dosage, with much success. In chorea, the added action of the iron is helpful for the anemia that always accompanies this ailment. It acts very well with the arsenic, which is of special value in this condition.

Recently, we have substituted this combination, Nux, Fowler's Solution, and Lloyd's Iron, for the iron, quinine, and strychnine tonic formerly used, and find it of more positive therapeutic effect with debilitated patients, whose system needs iron. It has another great advantage in the taste. Iron and arsenic have long been recognized as possessing tonic properties especially influencing the nervous system and blood stream. Lloyd's Iron is kindly in its action, safe, and produces a gradual correction of disturbed body functions. In the treatment of the adenopathies of young children, Lloyd's Iron may well be combined with Phytolacca or Fowler's Solution. The cervical adenitis, so frequently encountered, is readily influenced by this treatment. For this type of cases, we like this combination much better than the Syrup of Iodide of Iron that we formerly employed.

#### GELBIA IN RESPIRATORY TROUBLES

(Contributed)

I consider Gelbia my most dependable remedy in pneumonia, bronchitis, and capillary bronchitis. It relieves asthma and dyspnea from whatever cause.

Comment.-This compound of Gelsemium and Lobelia is unexpectedly advancing in favor, without any sensational advertising. Like other meritorious remedial agents that serve the profession, Gelbia has, by reason of its intrinsic value, won its own place as a standard. It has a field of its own, and fills acceptably the niche it occupies.

#### LLOYD'S IRON IN PRACTICE

(Contributed)

I have used iron ever since I began to practice medicine, June, 1891, and have employed most forms on the market. Never did I get the results I desired until I began prescribing Lloyd's Iron. The next best iron preparation that I have used is Ferrum Phos. 3x. The Syrups of Iron that I have used are, in my opinion, of little value.

I accept that iron has an affinity for oxygen, carrying it to all parts of the body, giving strength to the walls of the blood vessels and color to the red blood corpuscles. Iron is therefore indicated where there is inflammation, regardless of disease name as in fevers, inflammatory and congested diseases. Lloyd's Iron, when used in fractional doses, is now my chief remedy. Large amounts of iron act oppositely to minute doses. When indicated in diseases of children, Lloyd's Iron is the febrifuge, par excellence. It is the child's sedative, no less than for adults. It is pleasant to take, but, above all, it is efficient. It is indicated in hyperemic or congested

conditions characterized by heat, pain, redness and swelling, quickened pulse, and increased circulation. Where there is a white or gray coating on tongue, mucous membrane, or tonsils, or where there is flour-like scaling from the skin, I give Lloyd's Iron.

Given with potassium acetate, Lloyd's Iron relieves skin diseases in a wonderful manner. For la grippe, nothing has better served me as an internal remedy, especially when combined with Specific Medicine Spongia. Recently I had a very stubborn case of chronic bronchitis in which the usual remedies seemed utterly to fail. At last I gave Lloyd's Iron, 5 i in ij iv of water sweetened to a pleasant taste, directing that teaspoonful doses be taken every hour till the acute symptoms were relieved, then every three hours. After the third dose the cough relaxed, and recovery was very rapid. In this case the patient had a white mucoid coating on the tongue, which disappeared on the administration of the Iron.

Comment.-We hope that physicians concerned in ailments mentioned by this correspondent will give us their experience to add to that of others already recorded.

### IRIS IN TREATMENT OF GOITRE

Question.-In what strength should Specific Medicine Iris be used for local application in goitre?

Reply.-In enlargement of the thyroid gland, we would advise the local use of Iris in the proportion of Specific Medicine Iris ℥i to Glycerin, ℥v. This remedy may also be given internally, for its alterative effect upon the glandular structure, the usual prescription being:

℞ Sp. Med. Iris	gtt. xv to xxv
Water or Simple Syrup	℥iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture four times a day.

Shake bottle before each dose is taken.

It is to be remembered that in large doses Iris is emeto-cathartic, and where it is used both internally and externally, its action should be carefully watched, the agent being discontinued for a time if any unfavorable symptoms occur. Very favorable reports have been made concerning the use of Iris in goitre, but again, it has disappointed. This should lead to further study as to the particular type of goiter in which it is indicated.

It should be remembered that the drug is very marked in its oleo-resin constituents, which cause an unsightly mixture when Specific Medicine Iris is added to an aqueous menstruum. Such a prescription should be well shaken before each dose is taken, to get the full remedial value of the medicine. In connection with goitre, the action of Specific Medicine Spongia should be considered. This famous old remedy, burnt sponge, has traveled from ages past to the present, and has never been discredited. In goitre, alternate Iris with Spongia, and note the results. We would be pleased to receive clinical reports from physicians regarding the action of these valuable alteratives as glandular remedies.

### OBSCURE INTESTINAL CASES

(Contributed)

In rereading some of my GLEANERS, I became much interested in the Case in Practice reported in GLEANER 17, page 591. I have met a number of similar cases, but it was not until I tested the urine that I knew positively what was the trouble. The cases I refer to are septic intestinal conditions, with insufficient intestinal secretions. The urine is nearly always highly colored, generally of low specific gravity. The finger nails are ridged and brittle, hair falls out, vision is poor, often double, and nerves are in very bad condition. Patients are small water drinkers but large eaters of meat, which too often is poorly masticated. They groan in their sleep and on getting up in the morning complain of being tired. There is more or less of gas in the bowels, the skin is yellow, the sclerotic coat of the eye greenish-blue in color, and many

times the teeth are loose, the gums bleeding. The pancreas is not functioning properly, and gall bladder is enlarged.

In cases such as this, change the diet, giving plenty of fish, chicken, mutton, and crisp bacon, but avoid beef, fresh pork, cooked cabbage, and any fruit containing citric acid. Give no cathartics, such as calomel, podophyllum, or magnesium sulphate, for these increase the trouble. Give echinacea, berberis, bismuth-subnitrate and milk of magnesia, syrup of pepsin and some form of arsenic, as indicated. Make urinary test every week. Expect good results.

#### LLOYD'S IRON FOR AGED PATIENT

Question.-My wife, seventy-five years of age, is thin and poorly nourished. She also has a catarrhal congestion of the throat and post-nasal cavities. I have been giving her various tonics, and hope that Lloyd's Iron will prove more beneficial than the agents she has been taking.

Reply.-Lloyd's Iron, in our opinion, will be very serviceable for this patient. We would advise that it be given in two to four drop doses, in water, before meals and at bedtime. The catarrhal congestion of the throat and post-nasal space can best be overcome by using Lloyd's Hydrastis, as commended by Dr. Amidon in GLEANER 29. Try the first prescription therein given, as follows:

R̄ Sodium Borate	gr. xxii
Colorless Hydrastis (Lloyd's)	m. xxii
Salicylic Acid	gr. iss
Aquae, q. s. ad	℥i

M. Sig.: Use in atomizer three times daily.

"Instructions should be given the patient that, following the use of this prescription, he should not expose himself to dust or change of temperature for a period of one-half to three-quarters of an hour.

"This prescription may also be used as nasal drops, with the patient in a recumbent position, with head lower than the plane of the body, four or five drops in each nostril, the position to be maintained for a period of from one to two minutes."-AMIDON.

#### VALUE OF THE SPECIFIC MEDICINES TO A PHYSICIAN

(Contributed)

For twenty years, in Ohio and Texas, I have used and prescribed the Specific Medicines. I write many prescriptions daily, and have no difficulty in having them filled, as all the downtown pharmacists here keep good stocks of your remedies. Have not for years prescribed the ordinary Fluid Extracts, as I find the Specific Medicine have many advantages. I feel thankful to your firm for the persistent research that has given to physicians the best possible agents for fighting diseased conditions.

Comment.-Letters such as the above stimulate to renewed effort. They reach us continually, and are always welcome. In this connection, we would add that we feel assured that manufacturing pharmacists generally deeply appreciate similar letters concerning the specialties evolved by themselves.

#### SKUNK CABBAGE, DRACONTIUM, IN ASTHMA

Question.-Dr. Harrington, who lectured in the Hahnemann Medical College in 1876, states in his Clinical Materia Medica that Skunk Cabbage, *Symplocarpus foetidus*, is a desirable remedy for patients afflicted with asthma. Can you direct me to any author who has published a full account of its action?

Reply.-We know of no authority who has written exhaustively of this drug. According to the American Dispensatory, the field of action of Skunk Cabbage, *Dracontium foedum*, Linne, *Symplocarpus foetidus*, Salisbury, is upon the nervous system, relieving irritation and with a

tendency to promote normal functional activity of the nervous structures. "It has been successfully used in asthma, whooping-cough, nervous irritability, hysteria, epilepsy, and convulsions during pregnancy and labor; likewise in chronic catarrh, pulmonary and bronchial affections." Skunk Cabbage entered into the composition of many of the early Eclectic compounds and is still retained in Acetous Emetic Tincture and Compound Emetic Powder. It is an important component of Libradol, an evolution of the old Compound Emetic Powder. Felter, in his new *Materia Medica, Pharmacology and Therapeutics*, says of Skunk Cabbage: "In large doses *Dracontium* will cause nausea and vomiting, dizziness, headache, and impaired vision. In small doses it is a stimulant, expectorant, and antispasmodic. It very markedly relieves nervous irritation with tendency to spasmodic action, making it a remedy of some value in nervous irritability, asthma, and whooping cough, and in chronic coughs and catarrhs. The drug needs restudy from a therapeutic standpoint, for it undoubtedly possesses a marked action upon the nervous system."

#### PLANTS IDENTIFIED. XANTHIUM AND LAPPA

Question.-I am sending for your identification the burrs of two plants common in this section. Please give me such information as you can concerning their uses, toxicity, etc., as well as the diseases in which they are likely to be beneficial.

Please keep my name on THE GLEANER list. I prize highly the many good things I find therein.

Reply.-These burrs are from two plants very common in many sections of the country, namely, *Xanthium spinosum*, Cocklebur or Thorny Clobur, and *Arctium Lappa*, or *Lappa officinalis*, which is the common Burdock of the roadside. Neither of these plants has toxic qualities. Both were favorites in domestic medicine of the olden times, and both are represented in our Specific Medicine list. We regret to say that as yet, excepting the labels, we have nothing in form for distribution concerning either. Hence we reproduce the labels, as follows:

Specific Medicine *Xanthium Spinosum* (Colloidum) Use: It is used in any disease where nervous excitement is attended by sweating, as a prophylactic against ague, as an anti-periodic when the patient is subject to profuse sweatings, and to prevent the recurrence of chills when they have been broken.

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

Specific Medicine *Xanthium Spinosum* is indicated in chronic cystitis, with hypertrophy of the bladder walls, accompanied by the following symptoms: Vesical tenesmus; sensation of weight in the region of the bladder and perineum; frequent desire to urinate, etc. It is recommended in those cases of vesical troubles which show the presence of mucus or blood in the urine, whether the hemorrhage originates in the bladder or the kidneys, as it exerts a soothing effect upon the entire urinary tract.

*Xanthium* has proven beneficial in the treatment of gonorrhoea by its specific action upon the mucous surfaces, in allaying irritation of the urethral mucous membrane. Reasoning from its known effects upon the mucous membrane of the urinary tract, we are led to conclude that it will relieve irritation of the intestinal tract when such irritation is accompanied by the discharge of mucus or blood; hence we would use it in enteritis, colitis, and proctitis, having as an accompaniment such characteristic discharge.

The remedy is also indicated in urinary deposits, such as gravel or small calculi. *Xanthium* has been administered with success in vasomotor reflex neuroses which induce profuse sweating; hence the remedy is indicated in malarial intermittent fever when accompanied by copious

perspiration. It may be used with good effect in those cases of la grippe attended by profuse perspiration.-, -STEPHENS.

#### Specific Medicine Lappa Officinalis (Colloidum)

Specific Use: To lessen irritation of the urinary apparatus, and increase secretion of urine, especially in cases where saline diuretics are contra-indicated. Also useful in chronic diseases due to abnormal condition, or taints of the blood. Dose:

R <sub>x</sub> Sp. Med. Lappa	3ss to 3iv
Water	3iv
Misc.	

Sig.: A teaspoonful every one, two, or three hours.

Specific Medicine Lappa, Colloidum, is a valuable alterative and tonic, used in the treatment of conditions of the blood which cause rheumatism and skin diseases. It acts as a diuretic by increasing the flow of urine, and quieting irritation of the bladder and urethra. When saline diuretics are contra-indicated in chronic cases, this remedy will be found useful. In rheumatism where there is no morbid structural change, it is of value. In the spring it is a safe blood purifier to stimulate the emunctories and help clear the system of the winter's accumulation of impurities, due largely to over-eating and a winter diet. Such a condition of the system is liable to create humors and congestion which affect the skin, and, cause various forms of eczematous papular and pustular eruptions.-MUNK.

#### SPECIFIC MEDICINES: THEIR VALUE TO THE PHYSICIAN (Contributed)

The Specific Medicines are the sheet anchors of my practice. To one trained by Locke and Watkins, no other preparations suffice. I find that patients prefer clean medicines, given internally, to serum medication given hypodermically.

#### CARDIAC COMPLICATIONS

Question.--The patient is myself, and I would greatly appreciate your professional suggestions.

I am fifty-six years of age, and since the age of twenty-six until the age of fifty I have had repeated attacks of acute rheumatism. In 1910 I had an unusually hard attack, and for the first time developed acute endocarditis, the ailment leaving me with a well-marked mitral regurgitation. Appreciative of my condition, I took things a little easier in my practice.

I never in my life had tonsillitis. My tonsils were unusually small, but when about 1912 I developed another attack of acute rheumatic arthritis, my left tonsil showed infection. On removal, the symptoms of rheumatism subsided. Seven years later such symptoms again developed. The teeth, being X-rayed, showed nothing. The right tonsil, on removal, was found to be infected. The symptoms of rheumatism then subsided, and have not since appeared. My heart gave me no special concern, as I had full compensation.

In the summer of 1926 I worked rather hard, had a heavy cold, and in August came down with a very severe attack of pleuro-pneumonia. Having little resisting power, I had rather a hard fight, but recovered. X-ray showed a pleural effusion on right side. A recent X-ray shows the effusion gone. There is, however, considerable thickening of the pleura, and there are also adhesions of the pleura on the right side. Due to these adhesions, the expansions of the diaphragm on the right side are somewhat limited.

There also appears to be fibrous organization in the lower lobe of the right lung, the result, no doubt, of the pneumonic condition. As shown by X-ray and clinical symptoms, my heart is considerably enlarged. I have very slight edema of the limbs, but no dyspnea. Can lie in any position

without feeling distressed. I do not exert myself too much, and consequently avoid dyspnea. Am taking Digitalis, Cactus, and Crataegus three times a day.

Reply.-We are not aware of any agent that will have any effect upon cicatricial tissue, regardless of its location. From the fact that there is but slight edema of the limbs and no dyspnea, we are led to believe that compensation is good. The whole problem now is to maintain this condition, which can be done only by careful watching, especially over physical effort. Overdoing in any direction must be avoided, whether it be physical, mental, or emotional. A "sensible" routine of living must be established and maintained. Fatigue and physical overdoing must be avoided. There must be plenty of rest, with rest periods during the day. The bowels should be kept free, kidneys well flushed, and skin kept in good condition by well-appointed baths. The foci of infection, the tonsils, have been removed, but the teeth, although now in good shape, must be carefully watched. Draughts and exposure should be avoided, as the last pleuro-pneumonia attack did its share in adding a burden to an already weakened heart.

Regarding medicines. The doctor is now taking some of the best cardiac tonics we possess, namely, Cactus, Crataegus, and Digitalis. But we would drop this word of caution. While Cactus and Crataegus are remedies that may be given over a long period of time without cumulative effect, the action of Digitalis must be carefully watched. It is a fine cardiac remedy, and may well be given with the Crataegus and Cactus. The Cactus should take care of the arrhythmia. It is to be remembered that Digitalis is brilliantly effective in auricular flutter and fibrillation. As a general tonic, whatever may be the prescription, we would advise the use of Lloyd's Iron. It improves digestion. The blood stream indirectly gives power to the myocardium, a very essential thing in this particular case. Nux Vomica may well be added.

Comment.-In his remarks upon Digitalis, Dr. Nellans evidently includes all preparations of this potent drug. Readers of our Drug Treatise on Digitalis (page 7) will recall that experts of the highest authority (Bulletin No. 48, Hygienic Laboratory, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C.) have recorded that Specific Medicine Digitalis stood lowest in toxic qualities of all specimens of Digitalis examined by them. It may be added that, as stated in that Drug Treatise, most of the toxic constituents of the drug are lacking in Specific Medicine Digitalis. We have never received a report of a death resulting from the cumulative action of that preparation.-L. B.

#### RELIABILITY OF THE SPECIFIC MEDICINES

Question.-A representative of another pharmaceutical establishment, calling recently upon the trade in this locality, quoted from your literature regarding the practical absence of hydrastine from Specific Medicine Hydrastis. He also mentioned that you state that the proportion of strychnine in Specific Medicine Nux Vomica is less than the proportion of that constituent in the drug.

Reply. The gentleman to whom reference is made seems to have a misunderstanding of the value of hydrastine in the preparation named. For many years this has been reduced to almost a minimum, not only in Specific Medicine Hydrastis, but also in Lloyd's Hydrastis, the original "Colorless Hydrastis," in which in former times it was in such excess as to prove an irritating constituent. These preparations were finally standardized to the satisfaction of the medical profession, since which time no change has been made or needed.

In like manner, the strychnine of Specific Medicine Nux Vomica stands low in proportion to the brucine content of that remedy, the standard being adopted as the result of reports, extending over a long series of years, that have come to us from practicing physicians. Strychnine, as well as brucine, is valuable, but strychnine so dominates crude Nux Vomica as to subjugate the action of brucine.

We believe that the balancing of these drug constituents now meets the needs of the profession, and judging from the quantity of Specific Medicine Nux Vomica distributed, the country over, and the satisfaction it gives, the preparation is now, in our opinion, practically perfect.

In directions such as this we are continually experimenting, our object being to improve our specialties among plant remedial agents. Such opportunities are afforded mainly through physician and pharmacist correspondents, who bring to our attention some fault that has to them become apparent. It is through such friendly cooperation on the part of our professional friends that we are enabled to study, not only the structural proportions desirable in plant preparations, but also the keeping qualities of our preparations after they leave our hands. It is our aim to bring our specialties to the very highest degree of perfection. Where there is an opportunity for improvement in a pharmaceutical direction, suggestions are deemed a favor. In serving one physician, we are enabled to serve others of the medical profession and, indirectly, the people as a whole.

### PRECIPITATES IN PRESCRIPTIONS

(From a Druggist)

Question.-Occasionally, in filling prescriptions of the Specific Medicines, I find that a dilution does not remain clear. For instance, recently I filled a prescription that called for Specific Medicines Grindelia, Agrimonia, Lobelia, and Sanguinaria, with ammonium iodide, syrup being the menstruum. After standing, a green scum separated that would neither go into solution nor settle. I probably dispense more of the Specific Medicines than any other pharmacist in this part of the State, and would much appreciate a word of advice on this subject.

Reply.- The precipitate noted in this prescription is due to difference in drug constituents, as well as to the natures of the different menstruums employed in making the remedies named, The drug Grindelia carries a large amount of resin, upon which it apparently depends for its therapeutic value. This resin precipitates when Specific Medicine Grindelia is added to water, or is combined with a remedy of aqueous menstruum, such as Specific Medicine Sanguinaria. The precipitate so formed should not be separated by filtration, for this would be to lose the desired action of Grindelia. Rather, the mixture should be well stirred before each dose is taken. However, the insight we now have concerning the adhesion problem leads us to accept as proven that in many directions a resin, or semi-resin, once considered the "active principle" of a drug, may be an adhesive agent of greater affinity for the active constituents than is the water. Hence, they together separate from water. We would say in general, as we have said many times before, that where a precipitate appears when one of the Specific Medicines is added to water, or when combined with another, the patient should be directed to shake or stir well the mixture before taking each dose, so as to get the full effects of each remedy. See "Companion," pages 21, 22, 23.

### SPECIFIC MEDICINE GERANIUM IN PRESCRIPTIONS

Question.-Specific Medicine Geranium does not seem to mix well with other remedies. Should it be dispensed in syrup or in some special menstruum?

Reply.-Geranium contains a large amount of so-called "tannates." The Specific Medicine Geranium, as formerly made, carried also extraneous materials insoluble in water, as well as in syrup or glycerin. It is now, however, made "Colloidum," and mixes practically clear with either of these menstruums. Should a slight precipitate occur, the mixture should be well stirred or shaken before giving each dose. In a future article, the peculiar characteristics of the tannates, near-tannates, or semi-tannates that dominate this drug will be discussed by J. T. Lloyd, who has this subject in hand.

### SIZE OF THE TEASPOON

(Contributed)

In your "Companion" you say, "If one minim of a Specific Medicine is added to one ounce of water, a teaspoonful of the mixture will carry one-eighth of a minim of the medicine." It is true that teaspoons are not always of the same size, so the "teaspoonful" will vary in amount. But if you care to make the test, you will find that the usual size teaspoon six times level full will fill a one-ounce bottle and therefore the dose of medicine in a teaspoonful is one-sixth of a minim instead of one-eighth. I am a constant user of Specific Medicines, and hope that what I have said will be accepted as a friendly suggestion.

Comment.-It is very true that spoons differ in size, and it is also a fact that the spoon of today is larger than in times gone by, when the old standard of "eight teaspoonfuls to the ounce" was established. But such is the force of habit, and so fixed is the method of giving medicine in "teaspoonful doses" that even in our own publications, as our correspondent has noticed, we have unconsciously followed (have not changed) the old standard in estimating the amount of a given medicine in a teaspoonful dose. Our thanks are due to our correspondent for calling our attention to this point, concerning which we have written before this date.

### ECHINACEA IN GOITRE

Question.-I am told that Echinacea works wonderfully in goitre. Please give me what information you can concerning this.

Reply.-In Ellingwood's New Materia Medica we find the following: "Dr. W. reports the treatment of at least five cases of goitre, three of which had exophthalmic complications, and all were cured, with this agent alone. The doctor gave the remedy internally in full doses, and injected from five to fifteen minims directly into the thyroid gland, externally applying gauze saturated with the medicine. As no other remedy was used, there could be no doubt about its positive influence."

Personally, we have applied Echinacea in goitre mainly for its alterative effect, but never relying on it alone. Other of the Specific Medicines that are of value in the medicinal treatment of goitre are Phytolacca, Iris, Cactus, Ergot, Passiflora, and Spongia. Each case must be carefully studied to determine whether it comes under medical or surgical treatment. Some cases are distinctly surgical, and cannot be expected to improve under any form of medical treatment.

In cases that are diagnosed to respond to medical treatment, certain general instructions must be given the patient, and these must be carried out to the letter, as medicine alone, without necessary cooperation of the patient, will be of little avail. In general, the physician must insist that the patient take physical and mental rest. The diet should be regulated so as to produce a reduction of the specific calorogenic action of food. Foci of infection must be carefully sought, and wherever possible, removed. The X-ray and radium should be carefully considered as an adjunct in the treatment of some cases. The administration of iodine should never be employed without the careful observation of the attending physician. The promiscuous use of this agent is to be decried, for while it is indicated and will prove of value in some cases, in other instances its use will aggravate the condition.

Of the Specific Medicines employed, we value most Spongia, Phytolacca, Passiflora, Ergot, Iris, and Echinacea. Phytolacca and Iris may be combined, or used in alternation. The remedy selected should be persisted in, as effects upon the thyroid are only gradually brought about. In the exophthalmic form of goitre, much nervousness and restlessness are often encountered. For this condition, we value the following:

℞ Sp. Med. Ergot	3i
Sp. Med. Passiflora	3ii to iv
Water, q. s. ad	℥iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture four times a day, to effect.

Among our best sedatives to use are Specific Medicines Veratrum, Gelsemium, and Aconite, each being given according to the specific indications presented. Quinine Hydro-bromide is another agent

that should be considered in the pharmaco-therapeutic management of goitrous patients. Quinine is said to be particularly effective in acute thyroiditis. (See following articles.)

### THE HEART IN GOITRE

Question.-Please give me some information regarding cardiac remedies useful in exophthalmic goitre. I have been using Crataegus in a post-operative case, but have very little information to go on.

Reply.- The circulatory derangements of exophthalmic goiter present a group of symptoms that constitute one of the most constant and outstanding features of the disease. Tachycardia is always present, the rate depending upon the stage of the disease, ranging from 90 to 160. The pulse-frequency is particularly influenced by effort and emotion. Inspection reveals a violent throbbing of the carotids, accompanying an increased cardiac impulse, the latter often displaced on account of the cardiac hypertrophy. The face is often flushed, the patient frequently complains of palpitation. In grave cases, erythema often develops. The heart sounds are intensified, and often murmurs over the apex are to be heard. The diagnosis of exophthalmic goitre presents no difficulty when we are familiar with the four cardinal symptoms that accompany it, namely, exophthalmus, enlargement of the thyroid gland, circulatory derangements, and tremor.

The management of the heart in goitre may be discussed under two groups, viz., general measures and special measures. Under the first, general measures, we must carefully outline the daily routine of the patient. Probably the most important thing, and the one that must be emphasized upon the mind of the patient, is the fact that REST is the best treatment for any diseased heart. The patient should rest, rest, rest. All excitement whatever that brings on emotional states must be avoided. The patient should go to bed early, take a nap after luncheon, have plenty of fresh air and plenty of good drinking water. As to the diet. He should eat and drink nothing that irritates the nervous system, and should avoid tea, coffee, alcohol, and tobacco. Very little meat should be eaten, then give only a little beef, mutton, breast of chicken or fresh fish not over three times a week. Eat plenty of cooked fruits, eggs, butter, rice, cereals, and drink plenty of milk, buttermilk, and fruit juices. Avoid beef soup, beef tea, and all meat broths. Constipation is to be met by proper treatment. Special measures include therapeutic agents to combat the circulatory derangements. Each case must be carefully studied, and the specific indications found for the specific medicines to be employed. The agents that have been found most useful in combatting the circulatory derangements, along with surgery, the X-ray, and organo-therapy, are aconite, veratrum, cactus, crataegus, pulsatilla, lycopus, digitalis, and the bromides.

Briefly summarized, the outstanding clinical indications for the above-named remedies are as follows:

Aconite.- The small, frequent pulse, feeble circulation.

Veratrum.- The full, strong, frequent pulse, surface flushed.

Aconite lessens the frequency of the heart's action, and removes obstruction to the circulation.

Cactus.-A feeble, irregular pulse, patient nervous, complaining of oppression and unpleasant sensations in precordium.

Crataegus.- This is particularly efficacious in combatting tachycardia. It acts as a tonic to the heart, imparting tone, and over-coming the rapid and feeble heart action. Pain and dyspnea are relieved by Crataegus, hence it is called for when the patient complains of these symptoms.

Pulsatilla.-By relieving irritation of the nervous system, Pulsatilla has, indirectly, a marked influence on the heart in goitre. It may be combined admirably with either Cactus or Crataegus.

Pulsatilla

is especially indicated with the patient if nervous and sad, and looks upon the dark side of life all the time. It routs pessimism in the individual.

Lycopus.-This agent controls vascular excitation. It is most valuable where there is a rapid and small pulse, the result of an irritable and irregular heart action. Accompanying this, there may be dyspnea and cardiac oppression. If there should be an acute engorgement of the organs of the chest, we know of no agent to excel Lycopus. It has a direct action upon the right heart.

#### PERNICIOUS ANEMIA FOLLOWING TOXIC GOITRE

Question.-I have a case of pernicious anemia in a girl of fifteen, with a heart nearly worn out from a toxic goitre. I have tried all the remedies known to me but without avail. Can you suggest a treatment that will raise the blood-cell count in this case?

Reply.-For raising the red blood-cell count we would advise the use of Lloyd's Iron, which has served us well in many instances. For the cardiac condition following toxic goitre, we would suggest

a careful study of Cactus. A prescription well worth trying here would be:

R̄ Sp. Med. Cactus	3i
Lloyd's Iron	3iss
Water, q. s. ad	℥iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture four times a day.

Check up carefully, and see if blood count is not increased. In goitre cases, we have found Specific Medicines Passiflora and Ergot to be of much value. The Passiflora exerts a very beneficial effect upon the disturbed nervous system, and the Ergot assists in controlling the extreme vascular disturbances usually present. These several replies to the physicians concerned indicate the need of study of both the disease and the remedy. Goitre is a perniciously increasing affliction, and of all ailments should not be a newspaper fad. Do not neglect surgery. Seek the surgeon's service early.

#### INTRAVENOUS USE OF SUBCULOYD ECHINACEA

(Contributed)

Have you reports from physicians who use Subculoyd Echinacea intravenously? For more than two years I have been so using it in such conditions as typhoid, pneumonia, and all blood dyscrasia conditions. I give it usually in 5 Cc. doses, every three hours, and sometimes in larger doses. I believe I have saved many lives by the use of this potent agent, thus administered.

I also use it with wonderfully gratifying results in cases of erysipelas. Conditions of this nature can be handled successfully by intravenous injections of this remedy. In such cases I give it in large doses, and would say, "Don't be afraid to put stress on the 'large.'" I have also given Subculoyd Lobelia intravenously for the relief of asthma, but have learned that for this condition a small dose is necessary.

Comment.- The subject of service, intravenous and subcutaneous, of any of the products of our laboratory, as with all other remedial agents, is the responsibility of physicians thus employing them.

See our "Companion" to our prices current, for special remarks on this subject. We would appreciate reports from physicians concerning their intravenous use of remedial agents, but we assume no responsibility for results.

#### ECHINACEA IN DISEASE OF THE PROSTATE

Question.-Would Echinacea be useful in treating diseases of the prostate and seminal vesicles?

Reply.-Echinacea might help, indirectly, in this direction, through its systemic tonic and supportive effect. Other drugs having a selective affinity for this portion of the genito-urinary tract are Staphisagria, Saw Palmetto, Sandalwood, and Pulsatilla. A careful study of these drugs should be made by physicians confronted with patients thus afflicted.

#### ECHINACEA IN PURULENT SUPPURATIVE OTITIS MEDIA

(Contributed)

My daughter, aged seven, contracted influenza with threatened pneumonia. Following this she had the mumps on both sides. The attack being severe and the little patient frail, this was followed by purulent suppurative otitis media. This I treated with a solution of echinacea and borax, using it as a wash two or three times a day.

She made a rapid recovery in about a week, and is now back in school. A slight defect in hearing is gradually being overcome. Another interesting case was that of a man injured while working with a wood-sawing machine. The patella was entirely gone, and the long bones of the leg were also injured. After thoroughly cleansing the wound I applied a solution of Echinacea, keeping the bandage wet, using at first 5ii (finally reduced to 3i) in ℥iv sterile water. Patient made a rapid recovery, practically without any pus formation. After recovery, one could scarcely notice any lameness.

#### ECHINACEA

(Contributed)

I have been exceedingly interested in reading your treatise on Echinacea, especially as regards the distrust exhibited in its direction by some laboratory writers. You have shown how easily other botanical substances may be mistaken for Echinacea, and I have been wondering whether the preparations discredited by these writers might not have been made from these substituted drugs, and not from the genuine Echinacea. I have no doubt many valuable remedies have been thrown aside for a like reason. Be this as it may, there is no doubt in my mind as to the efficacy of true Echinacea.

It is not necessary to assume that a remedy must have a direct chemical effect upon bacteria for it to have a germ-destroying action. The human body undoubtedly possesses the power to destroy such organisms, not only by the action of the blood corpuscles, but by other means that we do not as yet understand. A remedy may increase this germ-resistant power, without in any way falling into the class of direct antiseptics. I do not mean to say that Echinacea has no direct chemical antiseptic effect, but rather, that it has a revitalizing action upon those tissues that resist the action of pathogenic bacteria. In support of this theory I wish to mention an instance in my own experience with another non-toxic remedy, Calendula. An operation for appendicitis had been performed upon a tuberculous patient. Although the wound in the intestine healed quickly, the opening in the abdomen obstinately failed to close in spite of the application of any of the commonly used antiseptics, including the Dakin product. It is a well-known fact that wounds in tuberculous patients frequently fail to heal. After months of trial of the "regular" means, the doctors with whom I was in consultation were at their wits' end in regard to this case. I then proposed Calendula. Under the use of this remedy, and concentrated sunlight applied by means of a reading glass, the wound soon healed.

Now, no one would pretend to claim that Calendula can compare, in even the slightest degree, with such a substance as Dakin's formula in direct chemical antiseptic action, but the fact remains that Calendula can, and did, in this case impart a healing action to the tissues that the powerful chemicals had failed to accomplish. I believe in the same way the much-disputed, but yet proven, curative effect of Echinacea may be explained. In this connection, I would like to mention another remedy, sulphur. In old-time literature, sulphur is regarded merely as a mild laxative, almost nothing more. Homeopaths know, to an absolute certainty, that sulphur in potentized form is helpful in a very long list of diseases. In fact, no other remedy is more frequently or more successfully employed by them. Homeopathic authorities agree in recommending sulphur as an intercurrent remedy in practically every case where the indicated remedy fails to work, but in spite of all the indisputable evidence in favor of this grand remedy, which, in the hands of thousands of Homeopathic physicians, has saved thousands of lives, writers of the old school still regard it as "merely a mild laxative." The simple fact that the potentization of a remedy vastly multiplies its activity, is entirely too much for old-time ideas of curative action.

Comment.- This well-balanced, temperate communication merits praise and consideration. It may be summed up in that a fact is a fact, regardless of opinions or argument to the contrary. In time gone by, prejudice was the master of many good men. Now, this is true mainly of politicians whose hold on the people is fast waning. Our correspondent in a kindly way uses the term "old time." It may be of interest to our readers to know that thousands of "regular" or "old-time" physicians use and rely on Echinacea, which, in our opinion, is neither a poison nor a chemical antiseptic. It is better classed as a "supporter of vitality," as defined by Dr. Felter and our correspondent.

#### GELSEMIUM IN CROUP

(Contributed)

I find little mention in medical literature of a remedy that, in my opinion, is the sovereign of all for croup, namely, Gelsemium. I have used this for years, and regard it as a sheet anchor for this malady. Put one drop of Specific Medicine Gelsemium on a fragment of loaf sugar, let it dissolve on the tongue, and repeat, every half hour, as necessary. The spasm is very quickly relaxed, and the patient relieved. Very rarely is anything else needed. In the very young, I reduce the dosage.

Comment.-Physicians who have employed Gelsemium in croup are requested to give THE GLEANER editors an account of their experiences.

#### FROM THE LABORATORY STAFF

The new position of the pages "From the Laboratory Staff," has several advantages over the former location. Among them is the fact that with all the proof pages before us we can better summarize the problem as a whole, and can better select items to comment upon. Another reason is that the most valuable part of this publication consists of the leading editorial, connected with the communications from physicians, rather than the comments from the laboratory. So important are the contributions that come to us as often to lead us to give to them the space that had been reserved for our remarks.

As the "Laboratory Staff" pages now follow the text, they may be excised altogether, if needful, in order to give needed space to corresponding physicians. Just now Dr. Stephens has struck a vital problem. He states a self-evident fact that as long as there are sick people it is the physician's duty to help them to recovery. In our opinion the nihilist, for reasons best known to himself, reasons otherwise. He claims to be an authority as concerns both medicine and medication, but strangely enough seems helpless in the face of the sick man. Thus, seemingly himself incapable of handling the subject of disease treatment, he infers that others are likewise disqualified. Possibly little harm would be done by these men if their opinions were restricted to themselves.

Perhaps, however, they have neither patients nor experiences only pencil and paper. In these cases,

to voice themselves in such a way as to lead physicians to neglect their patients to their death, seems akin to second-degree murder.

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Possibly it might be inferred that an invidious distinction might be drawn in favor of physicians of this or that school of medicine. This would be a mistake. Schools as a whole are in mind. The most pronounced nihilists are not known by name or restricted to sect. And yet one name occurs to this writer, a pessimist of great renown as an author, was by a successful brother practitioner of his own school but of much greater experience, referred to as, "a pernicious pessimist." If any school of medicine is destitute of pessimistic nihilists, that school has probably few practicing graduates.

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Take any of the list of books presented on the back of this journal. Read what their authors record concerning medicine and medication. If acquainted personally, no need will there be for us to commend him as qualified to speak on the subject. If unknown, take our word, read his book. All recorded in this list are or have been experienced practitioners. They speak by authority. Contrast these men and their services with any pessimist whoever he may be. Consider that the experienced author aims to help humanity by balanced service and advice, the other by statements that, leading to distrust, may open the grave.

\* \* \* \* \*

Possibly a reader of this department may imagine that the pessimist is to be found only among physicians. If so, to disabuse one's self of that thought is in order. Surely, in pharmacy the pessimist now reigns, often supreme. Note how fads and fancies wedge themselves into pharmaceutical print. How persons overly schooled give advice to him who is experienced. How men who never stood behind the counter or handled the mortar and pestle seek by illogical advice to harass the man who knows. Even farther does the pessimist in pharmacy go than he in therapy. Consider that comparatively few apothecaries now write in their chosen field concerning pharmaceutical manipulation. Reluctantly have they relinquished the pen to one who knows better how to write, yet knows little or nothing concerning the actual practice of the art of pharmacy.

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Seemingly this is our pessimistic day. Quite the contrary. To consider a problem of the pessimist is not to become pessimistic one's self. Unless all sides are viewed, part only of any object is seen. Possibly a reader of these lines might infer that old-established medicinal agents are being forever displaced by fancies of the modern faddist. Never before has there been kinder reception given the vegetable materia medica. Never before has there been the general interest of physicians of all schools in the remedial agents that emanate from the laboratory where these lines are written, which is devoted wholly to the pharmacy of medicines. Nor has there ever been as generous a reception given them by physicians of America, regardless of school or "pathy."

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