

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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Readers of THE GLEANER will be pleased to learn of the high honor recently conferred upon its Associate Editor, Dr. Byron H. Nellans. At the last meeting of the National Eclectic Medical Association, in Lexington, Kentucky, he was elected President of the Association for another year. Doctor Nellans keeps well up with the times in his professional work, and will unquestionably conduct the affairs of the National Association as ably as he has accomplished in other directions, where responsibility has been placed upon him.

THE GLEANER

Cincinnati, Ohio, August, 1928

Number 33

EDITORIAL

THE ULTIMATE EFFECT OF DRUGS*

A. F. Stephens, M. D.

How often, and seriously, do we consider the ultimate, or end-effect, of our remedies? Is it not true that we rest satisfied if we know the primary effect and do not realize that the ultimate effect may be detrimental to life? When one thinks of the indiscriminate use of the many active drugs, he wonders if those who use them so indiscreetly know just what they are about. Does the doctor who prescribes digitalis for every case of nephritis know what that drug is going to do if followed to its ultimate effect? True, the patient may be water-logged; have an irregular heart action; is dyspneic and the kidney function perverted, but what of that? Does it always mean that digitalis is a safe drug to use and is never contra-indicated?

I am sure that if those who thus use digitalis were aware of the ultimate effect of the drug in most cases of nephritis, they would hesitate long before giving it to a patient, and would diligently seek for other means of relief. While the drug does steady the heart action as a primary effect; while it does increase kidney action, and in so far as it does this it aids elimination of the accumulated fluid in the tissues of the body; it does other and various things undesirable. What else does it do? What is the ultimate effect? In nephritis the blood pressure is nearly always above the normal and in many cases is decidedly high, rising to 240-260. The ultimate effect of digitalis is to raise the blood pressure. Do we desire this effect when the pressure is already too high? I think we will all admit that we do not, for as is the increased tension so is the tendency toward death. Therefore, beware the end-effect of this drug.

The primary effect of opium and its derivatives is to inhibit painful sensations. But what else will it do? What are its ultimate or end-effects? Following the drug to its ultimate, we find that it interrupts every secretion and excretion in the body; dries the skin and mucous membrane; locks the bowels; lessens the urinary secretion; weakens the muscular structure of the urinary bladder; checks liver action, as shown by the clay-colored stool; prevents elimination of waste products, thereby inducing auto-intoxication; and as a cap-sheaf leads the victim to an abominable and degrading habit. Are we willing to accept the ultimate effect of this drug in all cases of pain?

Do the benefits of its primary effect overbalance the evil of its ultimate effect? If the ultimate effect of morphine so overbalances in viciousness its primary effect for good, is it proper to accept the evil of the one that we may secure the benefit of the other? Is it not wise to make careful selection of our cases to be sure that the primary effect is so necessary that we can afford to take chances on the ultimate?

Did the doctor of old realize in any manner the ultimate effect of his large doses of calomel? Primarily, he sought its effect upon the liver, as he thought, and the bowels. Did he take into account its ultimate--intestinal irritation, loosened and rotting teeth, permanent rheumatic joints and ruined body?

- From E. M. Journal. July, 1920.

When he bled his patient nigh unto death, did he measure the ratio between the primary effect and its ultimate damage? Surely not, neither do we take note of similar conditions. And this brings me to the main object in writing this paper--the effects of aspirin in the flu epidemics of the past two years. Aspirin is as staple in drug stores and department stores as cathartic pills and cotton goods. Everybody takes aspirin. Doctors give it for almost every ache and pain, everything from a cold to corns, with the assurance that the drug is harmless. During the flu period almost every victim got his aspirin. Almost everybody believed in it because it relieved his distress and "couldn't do him any harm." The result was

that thousands died who might have lived had they been willing to bear discomfort for a little while. They died like flies around a plate of poison, although "science" did all that could be done to "save" them. May the good Lord deliver us from the science that kills. Many of these deaths were said to have resulted from pneumonia, but those cases of so-called pneumonia coming under my observation were, in reality, a hypostatic congestion of the lungs and did not show the symptom-complex of pneumonia at all. The primary effect of aspirin is exerted upon the sensory portion of the nervous system and destroys the power of the brain to receive the sensation of pain, thereby leading the patient to believe he is improved. The pain and the cause of it are still acting, but the patient does not know it. The sensory current flows no more to the feeling organ. What else does aspirin do? Ultimately it inhibits the vasomotor impulse, thereby destroying the contractile power of the capillary vessels.

Under the influence of the drug the capillaries lose their contractile force and extreme dilatation results. Having destroyed the conducting power of the vasomotors, turned the current off, the vessels fill to their limit and never regain their power to act. The patient dies drowned in his own blood, and they call it pneumonia. I do not say that all cases of flu that were given aspirin developed this condition, but I do say that, given a case of pulmonary complication, it is a dangerous thing to give aspirin. I do not say that the drug should be entirely prohibited under all circumstances, but I do say that, knowing the ultimate effect of the drug, one should carefully select his cases for its administration.

It is always well to go deeply into the action of all active drugs; to seek for their ultimate effect, and if found to outweigh its beneficial effect, to discontinue the drug in every case wherein it may endanger life.

FROM THE LABORATORY STAFF

A correspondent laments that both in medicine and in pharmacy physicians and apothecaries are drifting away from their professions. On the one hand, graduates in medicine are so-called experts, far separated from the needs of the general practitioner. On the other hand, the pharmacist is no less a scientific expert, dealing largely in materials outside the field of legitimate pharmacy.

The question asked is, where is it all to end and why this change? The Laboratory Editor of this page has not lost faith in that the conditions mentioned by his correspondent are but temporary. In his view, the pendulum will swing back, and in a balanced way schooling in both medical colleges and in colleges of pharmacy will yet be devoted to the fitting of physicians for practice, and apothecaries for the art of pharmacy established in times gone by. The time will come when education for the purpose of serving the people in these lines will be separated from "schooling to make specialists," to ply their arts under the assumed names, "physicians" and "apothecaries." Schooling that has little bearing on the practice of either pharmacy or medicine should, if acquired by specialists, not be complicated with misnomers that apply to individuals who are neither physicians nor apothecaries.

* * * * *

Comes now another lament, to the effect that practicing physicians and pharmacists are gradually coming to the opinion that they are not to be permitted to take part in discussions pertaining to their professions. In other words, that only "teachers" in big institutions or parties with plentiful funds at their disposal, in hospitals and endowed institutions are to be permitted to voice themselves in medical and pharmaceutical journals.

This problem we must very cautiously touch. The question as to the influence of funds donated to a teaching institution and the untoward influence of the donor is gradually being questioned in more directions than one. In our opinion, the donors would perhaps often be much surprised were they to comprehend that their idealistic presentation of a fragment of their fortunes to the good of humanity was not applied directly to service in the direction of the needs of the people as a whole. This, too, is a problem that is not very tasteful to the writer of this editorial, but he is not in the least discouraged in believing that, in the end reaction, the people's voice has not been silenced, but will yet be listened to by

those in authority, who are responsible to the donors as well as to the suffering public. Possibly, before the pendulum starts to swing back, conditions must grow worse.

* * * * *

Another correspondent refers to superstitions in the direction of parties who should know better than to permit a touch of occultsmic heresy to enter their minds. In meditating over this problem, an incident from our own experience comes to recollection. The writer, with his family and Dr. Munk, were traveling in Canon de Chelly, where lived once the lost people now known as the "Cliff Dwellers," whose record is left only in the homes they built in the bluffs or cliffs. As we ate our lunch an old Indian "medicine man" squatted to one side of the picnic lunch where we had camped, waiting the crumbs that followed the end of our meal. Said our guide: "The Navajos will not eat fish."

In surprise and wishing to test this statement, we handed the old man a can partly filled with salmon. He looked at it, smelled of it, and threw it away.

"Ask him why the Navajos will not eat fish," we questioned. Came the reply, as translated to us by our guide:

"In the early days of our people, the Aztecs (and he used the word "Aztecs"), came up to our land from the South. They killed many of our people and destroyed our homes. In our trouble we besought the Great Spirit, who took compassion on us and changed those Aztecs into fish. From that day the Navajos have not eaten fish, because the Navajos will not eat Aztecs or any other human being."

Meditating on that superstition, we turn our thoughts to medicine. Not difficult is it for us to remember when a remedy introduced by an "irregular" would not knowingly be employed in the practice of a member of the dominant school of medicine. Eclectic and Homeopathic remedies were ostracised, regardless of their value, the medicines being considered to be complicated with the "irregularity" of those who discovered them. Possibly this superstition of the Navajo Indian will wear out in time. Possibly the superstitious views of those who refused to use a remedy, because of its origin, have now largely worn out. Probably not altogether. Possibly most of our remedies, if traced back, would lead into superstition's camp. Possibly, too, the parties most dogmatic in their superstitions are not those most illiterate.

May we not, in connection with this subject, refer to a drug that, in its origin, surely dates back to irregularities' superstition? We have in mind hamamelis, "witch hazel," introduced by the Oneida Indians, fathered next by Homeopathic physicians. Came next the Eclectic physicians, all of whom recognized the worth of hamamelis, or "witch hazel." We refer now to the distilled extract, which was shown by laboratory tests of a very prominent, highly ethical physician to be "absolutely devoid of value," inert, "no better than 10 per cent solution of alcohol in water." And yet, Pond's

Extract of Hamamelis, or Distilled Hamamelis, wedged its way ever onward, increasingly so, into common use with the people as well as practicing physicians the country over. Enormous quantities of this remedy are now being distributed to the profession, and it is being used by them in confidence.

Might it not be well to end this subject temporarily by stating that the writer of these comments was surprised when two of the most talented physicians of Cincinnati in their prescriptions recently employed distilled hamamelis? One of these used in it a small amount of glycerin, while the other employed the pure distillate. In both cases, prompt relief followed its application to the eye.

These superstitions of sixty years ago, one hundred years ago, or even earlier, in the face of resistance on the part of those occupying positions unquestionable, are being verified to-day by parties fully competent as regards both schooling and practice.

Before us lies a package of a drug described by the sender as very efficacious in the direction in which he uses it. This man is an observant physician of another country than the United States. In describing this drug he speaks of it as "an erb." Possibly it is fully as efficacious as it would be if the name were spelled with an "h."

Question.-In gall stone colic or cramping pains, accompanied by much vomiting, the patient being unable to keep anything on the stomach, is it safe to use Specific Medicine Dioscorea with Gelbia hypodermically? Could the same be used intravenously, if needed? If so, should the Dioscorea be filtered or diluted with water?

Reply.-We would not advise the giving of Specific Medicine Dioscorea hypodermically. This remedy (as well as other Specific Medicines) is carefully prepared for internal use only, and no attempt should be made to filter or dilute it for hypodermic or intravenous therapy. When indicated, as in conditions above described, Gelbia alone acts very admirably. Along with the Gelbia injections, Specific Medicine Dioscorea may be given internally. In acute abdominal conditions, such as biliary colic, two to four drops of the Specific Medicine Dioscorea in a little hot water, every fifteen minutes, will often dispel the attack and make the patient comfortable. Vole would advise against the use of Gelbia intravenously. The subcutaneous injections alone will effect the desired results, as the absorption is rapid enough, and the dosage may be repeated as indications warrant.

ANGINA PECTORIS

Question.-I have a patient, farmer, forty-four years of age, with angina pectoris. His weight is about 175 pounds. His pulse rate is 56, soft and weak, with a systolic pressure of 130 MM. At present I am giving him Specific Medicine Crataegus. In some number of THE GLEANER you prescribed Crataegus with some other medicine for this affection, but I cannot now locate the item. Please advise me.

Reply.- The article to which our physician friend refers was probably the one in GLEANER 31, titled, Lobelia in Angina Pectoris. In this, Specific Medicines Crataegus, Cactus, and Lobelia were combined, each for its specific action, Lloyd's Iron being given in connection therewith as a systemic builder.

In our opinion, Specific Medicine Crataegus should be used with this patient. But the slow pulse would lead us to suggest that the symptoms presented be carefully checked up with reference to heart block. If this is present, do not use any Digitalis, but try Specific Medicine Belladonna. We have had very good results with this in heart block. With the blood pressure at 130, Veratrum is not indicated. Cactus and Macrotys may be employed in this case, if necessary.

BLEEDING PILES

Question.-What is the best remedy you have for bleeding piles?

Reply.-Among the Specific Medicines of which we would think in treating this condition are, Aesculus, Collinsonia, and Hamamelis. The last of these is often incorporated into a local application for the affected area. Aid of the surgeon should not be neglected.

SUBCULOYD LOBELIA IN SCIATIC RHEUMATISM

(Contributed) .

Subculoyd Lobelia is, according to my experience, a great remedy for sciatic rheumatism. Am now treating a case of this. After the first treatment, patient got out of bed without assistance. He is now walking without cane or crutch. Note results in cases of acute lumbago, in acute torticollis, and in that severe pain in the back, so common in the female. After thirty minutes they are usually quite relieved from pain.

Comment.-In close connection with the above is the following inquiry from another physician. This, with Dr. Nellans' reply, will unquestionably be read with much interest by physicians generally.

RELIEF OF PAIN IN SCIATIC RHEUMATISM

Question.-What can you suggest for the relief of pain in sciatic rheumatism? I do not wish to use morphine.

Reply.-We heartily agree with this physician's desire to give his patient relief without resorting to morphine. If he will acquaint himself with some of our pain-relieving remedies he will very seldom have to resort to the use of morphine to ease his patients. In the very painful affection named (sciatic

rheumatism) we have several remedies that are capable of affording relief. The physician must find and remove the cause, in so far as it is possible, by the removal of infected teeth, tonsils, etc. The elimination should be carefully looked after and the diet regulated. Among the Specific Medicines most frequently employed, and their efficacy proved by many of our successful physicians, are: Bryonia, Gelsemium, Apocynum, Macrotys, Rhus Tox, Jaborandi, Piscidia, Hyoscyamus, Passiflora, and Pulsatilla. This is certainly a goodly number from which to choose the individual remedy or from which to form a simple combination of remedies, as the case may warrant. Thus, for the sharp, shooting pain, Specific Medicine Bryonia is often combined with

Gelsemium or Apocynum. Accompanying rheumatoid conditions call for Macrotys. If the patient is highly agitated, Hyoscyamus is indicated, while Pulsatilla is employed where there is "nervous depression." We firmly believe that if the physician will acquaint himself with the remedies named, he will be able to afford much relief to his patients without resorting to morphine.

In connection with this reply by Dr. Nellans, we feel that we cannot do better than reproduce for our readers the late Professor E. R. Waterhouse's article on the Eclectic Substitutes for Opium, which appeared originally in our Drug Treatise on Opium. It was reproduced in GLEANER 24, but this is now long since out of print. We believe many of our readers will welcome this ever-timely paper.

The Eclectic Substitutes for Opium
By Professor E. R. Waterhouse, M.D.

When we remember how baneful are the effects of opium, how steadfastly it holds its victims in its clutches, how easily the pernicious opium habit is contracted, and how frequently this may be traced back to the injudicious employment of the drug by a physician, the question arises whether the helpful effects of opium are not more than counterbalanced by its negative influences, or whether it has not been more of a curse to mankind than a blessing.

The most liberal and charitable view of the subject prompts us in advising physicians to use as little of this drug as possible, keeping always well in mind the many other remedies that are capable of doing its vaunted therapeutic work, and which leave behind them no trail of woe. Yet after all is said, with two classes of physicians, the one too indolent to do much thinking, and the other minus the capacity for thinking upon the right lines, opium will continue to stand as the chief pain reliever.

Physiological Action of Opium.-Opium always destroys the appetite, but increases the thirst, locks up the bowels, and diminishes the secretions from the kidneys. This action of opium in retarding all the secretions of the body, save those of the skin, often causes irreparable damage and infections, as here opium locks the doors that, therapeutically, we wish to keep open.

Substitutes for Opium.-We have many remedies that, under specific conditions, become substitutes for opium. For instance, in the pains of rheumatism, the old-time teachings advise the administration of opium, but we may go through the many common cases of rheumatism without the use of opium in any of its forms. Where motion and cold increase the pain, and where quiet and heat alleviate,

Specific Medicine Bryonia soon relieves. Under opposite conditions, where heat and quiet aggravate and where motion and cold relieve, we administer Specific Medicine Rhus Tox. Where the joints are swollen and painful, hot and red, we use the salicylates; where the tongue and mucous membranes are red, the salicylic acid; if the same parts are too light in color, we use the sodium salicylate, applying hot packs made from a solution of sulphate of magnesium, two ounces to the pint of hot water. When the rheumatic action is directed to the body of the muscles, with a succession of tensive throbs, Specific Medicine Macrotys is indicated. Where the tongue and mucous membranes are abnormally white, with no great amount of coating up. on the tongue, we may do all we wish with sodium bicarbonate. with a dirty white coating on the tongue, we think of an alkali combined with an antiseptic, as sulphite of sodium, or a saline cathartic, 10 good, generous amount. Should the tongue carry a yellowish coating, we administer hepatic cathartics, and should the tongue and mucous membranes show an abnormal red, the anti-rheumatic needed is hard cider or lemon juice. Should the pain be about the plantar muscles, with or without cramps about the calf of the leg, we give a trituration amounting to 1-50

to 1-4 of a grain of sulphur, every hour, until the pain is relieved. Although sulphur is a cathartic when given in large doses, passing through unchanged, as sulphur, in small doses it loses its cathartic action, is taken up by the digestive juices, and after permeating the glands, is eliminated through the skin, as is proven by its action in blackening articles of jewelry the patient may be wearing, which does not take place when large doses are administered. Should the pain involve the sciatic or brachial nerves, give Specific Medicine Colchicum, using the hot pack of epsom salts solution. If the pain is not relieved, inject a hundredth of a grain of atropine, hyoscyamine or hyoscyne hydrobromate deep into the structure, in close proximity to the nerve.

Should the rheumatism be traced to a syphilitic origin, administer potassium iodide, in good generous doses. In the treatment of severe cases of colic, where, with some physicians, the use of opium is almost universal, should the tongue show an atonic condition of the digestive organs, give Specific Medicine Nux Vomica, tincture cajeput, camphor, ginger, capsicum, or small doses of Specific Medicine Lobelia, or possibly hyoscyamine, or Specific Medicine Stramonium or Cannabis. Should the tongue show irritation, we relieve the pains with Specific Medicines Macrotys, Pulsatilla, Ipecac, and hot packs, with mucilaginous drinks. Should the pains result from a wrong of menstruation, we think of Specific Medicines Macrotys, Pulsatilla, Viburnum, Polygonum, Hyoscymus, Gelsemium, etc., with the hot epsom packs. Should we desire an increased action of the skin, we would administer Specific Medicine Asclepias, or Pilocarpus, or any mild nauseant, and get the desired effect, minus the derangement of the secretions. In the treatment of dysentery, opium should never be used.

Should the disease appear after a season of constipation, start the treatment with a large dose of magnesium sulphate, and follow up with five-grain doses of the same drug, repeated about every hour or two, until the case is cured. If there be no constipation to start with, give the small doses from the start, and for the pain and tenesmus in the lower bowels inject warm starch water, to prevent the contact of the sore parts, giving hyoscyamine, if needed.

For the diarrhea of small children, where many physicians would use a preparation of opium, we give a dose of castor oil, or twentieth of a grain doses of calomel, every half hour, following with Specific Medicine Nux, Chamomile, or Ipecac. The only diarrhea where opium does no great harm is the purely atonic, with large, watery stools; but here again we may better give a solution of hematoxylon, two ounces of the solid extract to the pint of hot water, with tablespoonful doses, as may be indicated, or Specific Medicine Geranium may be used, or any of the many mild vegetable astringents.

In treatment of after-pains in labor cases, Specific Medicine Macrotys, with or without small doses of phenacetin, will relieve. In choreic twitchings, where opium is often exhibited, Specific Medicine Cypripedium will benefit the case in a short time.

In cases of nervousness precluding sleep, where too often opium is used, try Specific Medicines Pulsatilla, Gelsemium, Lupulin, Cannabis, Passiflora, Cactus, Hyopcyamus, monobromated camphor, or a sponge bath of hot epsom salts, as each is indicated.

For headaches, with bright eyes, flushed face, hot head, general condition of excitement, use Specific Medicine Gelsemium; with dull, expressionless face, dilated pupils, drowsiness, use Specific Medicine Belladonna; soreness of head, pain made worse by laughing, use Specific Medicines Bryonia and Macrotys; severe headaches, where patient is pale, with slow, sluggish pulse, where pain is relieved to some extent by assuming a standing position and throwing the head back, and made worse by lying down, use nitroglycerin, one-hundredth grain doses; in sick headaches, use generous dose of salts in hot water to carry off the contents of digestive tract; for the headache of "the day after the night before," use hyoscyamine, or. Specific Medicine Nux Vomica, if the tongue is light in color. In fact, I know of no case of headache where opium is indicated.

The various preparations of Hyoscyamus* form the most successful treatment for the opium habit known to therapeutists at this day, being the substances used in most of the secret opium-habit cures.

In the treatment of delirium tremens, opium is second to chloral hydrate or hyoscyne, in promoting the needed sleep. The thinking physician acquainted with remedies and indications can easily substitute

more harmless remedies for the opiates so often used, and by so doing will serve his patient better than with the latter. The deep rut into which so many physicians are prone to fall spoils any advance in therapeutics, and tends to therapeutic nihilism. Doctors should get out of this rut and do their own thinking. Books are too often written by machine men, who follow authority without thought as to other possibilities. Do not be "receipt-book" doctors, but learn the finer points in therapeutics, and their relationship to pathological conditions. Let us be sure of our indications, and above all see to it that we do not leave our patients in a worse condition than when we found them, which will be the case if, through our agency, a drug habit, such as the terrible slavery to opium, is produced in any individual.

GLEANERS APPRECIATED

Extracts From Correspondence

Have much enjoyed reading THE GLEANER, Lobelia Number. Would much appreciate the favor if you could mail me a copy of each number of THE GLEANER. They make mighty instructive reading, and I would like to file them for future reference.

Since this paper was written, Subculoyd Stramonium and Subculoyd Lobelia, both largely employed In treatment of opium addicts, have been introduced to the profession.-Ed

Your very interesting publication, THE GLEANER, is at hand. I find it so valuable that I would like very much to have it sent to me regularly.

Comment.- These are but samples of many letters of like import that have come to us. It would give us much pleasure could we supply back numbers of THE GLEANER to the hosts of physicians now desiring them; but, as we have many times stated in print, this is not possible. Only a few extra copies of each issue are printed beyond those required to supply the immediate demand. These are kept for the use of physicians who need information on special subjects, which can often be best supplied by forwarding a copy of THE GLEANER in which that problem is treated. Most of them are out of print.

LLOYD'S IRON WITH FOWLER'S SOLUTION*

(Contributed)

I am using considerable of Lloyd's Iron, and shall speak of the success I receive in treating anemia and cutaneous troubles, when this is combined with arsenic.

R̄ Lloyd's Iron	3i
Fowler's Solution	3i
Water q. s. ad	℥vi

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful in half a glass of water after meals.

The combination will do much that either, alone, will not accomplish. I wish I could have had Lloyd's Iron when I began to practice, in 1887.

LLOYD'S IRON IN STOMACH TROUBLE

(Contributed)

Mrs. M. had a very serious and stubborn stomach trouble, for which I used various remedies, with little apparent effect. Finally I put her on Lloyd's Iron. For several weeks there was little response, but finally she began gaining strength, and from then on improvement was rapid. She now seems, after a year's time, to be in her normal good condition of health. My office records were destroyed by fire, but the above summarizes the salient points in this case.

LLOYD'S IRON IN ANEMIA

(Contributed)

I wish to report a case that can be described only by the word "remarkable." Fifteen years ago Mrs. S., a farmer's wife, was suddenly taken with acute appendicitis. The appendix was at once removed. At the operation it was discovered that the appendix, the entire intestinal tract, the uterus, both ovaries, and both tubes were all affected with tuberculosis. A few months later we removed the uterus, ovaries, and tubes, and some months later still, two sections of the intestines, about eighteen inches in all.

Of course there was infection, pus escaping from the bowel, bladder, and vagina; fistulas galore, and for two years bowel movements were through the abdominal wounds only. Dr. Russell was the surgeon in charge, and he and I were the only ones who held out any hope of recovery.

More than forty physicians saw this case at my invitation, and everyone gave the "thumbs-down" signal. The patient insisted that she would not give up the fight, and I felt I should at least be equally determined and see to it that she got the best of everything we had.

* Many reports have been received by us from physicians concerning their use of Lloyd's Iron. From these we take a few, almost at random. They answer the inquiries we are constantly receiving from physicians regarding the field of this remedy

She recovered sufficiently to do housework, to care for her chickens and milk cows, and to go visiting and attend church. Three years ago a large lipoma was removed from her right scapula, and a year later, both middle turbinate bones. All went well with her until last August, when she began to fail in every way. She lost flesh, her strength failed, she could neither sleep nor eat, was irritable and hysterical and very anemic, hemoglobin index being 70 per cent, blood count 3,100,000. At this time I began using Lloyd's Iron, and the final results were most gratifying. She now looks the picture of good health. She has gained fourteen pounds in weight, is doing all her own housework, and helps take care of the sick in her neighborhood. As she has taken no other remedy, this happy result must be ascribed to Lloyd's Iron. I am of the opinion that no stronger evidence can be offered as to its efficiency.

Cases like this are the ones that require every ounce of the doctor's energy, but they are truly worth the effort. I try always not to worry about my cases, but here was one in which the wrinkles and crow's-feet came naturally.

LLOYD'S IRON IN ANEMIA (Contributed)

Have treated two anemic patients with Lloyd's Iron, one in a very weak condition, following operation; the other very nervous, suffering with cystitis. Both are doing well. Have also given it to my wife, who for several years has been in a weak and nervous condition, following an operation, and with great resultant improvement on her part.

LLOYD'S IRON AS A TONIC (Contributed)

I wish to report two cases in which Lloyd's Iron has proved a marvelous tonic, restoring the appetite, increasing flesh and bringing the patient back to perfect health.

CASE 1.-Baby girl, three years old. Had had worms for two or more years. Would go into spasms and remain that way for hours. When I was called I diagnosed the case as worms, and after expelling these, prescribed Lloyd's Iron, making a syrup, to which I added the preparation. One week after treatment the child had gained two pounds. In the next week she gained another pound and a half, and now weighs twenty-five pounds. Her previous weight had been eighteen pounds. Before beginning treatment she could take no solid food, but now can eat almost anything.

CASE 2.-Mr. J. A. J., aged sixty, came to me in a very serious condition; very edemic, no appetite, could not sleep. Legs so badly swollen they seemed ready to burst open. Having removed the cause for this condition, I prescribed Lloyd's Iron, and with results almost at once. In three weeks' time I hardly knew the man when he walked into my office, the improvement was so great.

LLOYD'S IRON IN DEBILITATED CONDITIONS (Contributed)

Have used Lloyd's Iron with four patients, and am very much pleased with results. One was a student at the university, suffering from catarrh of the head and bowels, much run down, and could not master his studies. In this case Hydrastis was used in conjunction with the Iron.

Another case was that of a young man twenty-nine, suffering from anemia and chronic constipation of years' duration, working on the coast-line railroad, and just dragging to his work. He has increased in weight about ten pounds and feels fine, never misses a day from work. Lloyd's Iron also proved very helpful as a tonic to a young lady after child-birth; much emaciated.

VICARIOUS MENSTRUATION

Question.-Which of your remedies will help in vicarious menstruation, and in what dosage should it be given?

Reply.-Senecio, with us, has worked admirably for this condition. It corrects this menstrual derangement very nicely. We prefer to give the remedy singly in the following prescription:

℞ Sp. Med. Senecio	3i
Water, ad	℥iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture four times a day. To obtain the results desired, this prescription must be persisted in. Senecio imparts tone to the female reproductive organs, the keynote to its use being atony of these structures.

HYDROCYANIC ACID IN PRUNUS

Question.-Kindly tell me how much hydrocyanic acid is found in Specific Medicine Prunus.

Reply.- The amount varies in proportion with the drug and weather conditions. By a reaction that is taking place in the drug itself, the hydrocyanic acid is being made continuously. This reaction occurs more readily when the drug is moist than when it is dry. The hydrocyanic acid escapes from the drug under both conditions, being sometimes totally absent in a bark that will revive its hydro-cyanic acid content on resting in moist air. Consequently, it is possible to answer only in general terms such a question as the above. It must also be remembered that hydrocyanic acid in peach seeds and bitter almonds is likewise in variable amount. If sweet almonds be made into a cream with bitter almonds, the reaction is quickened, by reason of the fact that the sweet almond carries a constituent that, reacting on the bitter almond, produces hydrocyanic acid. This is recognized in pharmaceutical literature.

PROFUSE RHINORRHEA, WITH SNEEZING

Question.-Kindly advise me if any of the Lloyd preparations are indicated in profuse rhinorrhea, with violent paroxysms of sneezing, not seasonal as in hay fever, but occurring at any time during the year. I occasionally meet with such cases, and must admit that the therapy applied is frequently disappointing.

Reply.- Two of the Specific Medicines stand out preeminently as being specifically indicated for the above-named symptoms. These are Specific Medicine Euphrasia and Specific Medicine Belladonna. The classic indications for Euphrasia are present, namely, "Acute catarrhal disease of mucous membrane, especially when attended by profuse secretion of acrid mucus from the eyes and nose, with heat and pain in the frontal sinus." To this may be added frequent sneezing-the typical "cold in the head and head all stuffed up," as the patient would express it. Here Euphrasia is without peer. The acute coryza readily yields to this agent, and the more acute the condition, the better Euphrasia acts. The following prescription is suggested:

℞ Spec. Med. Euphrasia	℥iii
Water, q. s. ad	℥iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture every two hours, given to effect.

To this prescription five drops of Specific Medicine Belladonna may be added. This serves to check the secretions and fits in very nicely to check the rhinorrhea. If the mouth becomes too dry, have the patient cut the dose in half by taking half-teaspoonfuls of the mixture instead of the full tea-spoonful. This combination of Specific Medicines Euphrasia and Belladonna has been very effective and positive in our hands.

INTESTINAL WORMS

(Contributed)

Treated two children for intestinal worms. Both were badly run down, hollow-eyed, and with bad breath. After getting rid of the worms I put them on Lloyd's Iron, which I made into a syrup, giving a teaspoonful before each meal and at bedtime. They gained several pounds in a few weeks and are now in fine condition. Father and mother are much pleased with the results.

STILLINGIA LINIMENT NOT A RENAL IRRITANT

Question.-Is there any danger in giving Stillingia Liniment to a patient who is, or has been, a sufferer from kidney disease?

Reply.-There are no drugs entering into the composition of Stillingia Liniment that would cause this preparation to be contraindicated in kidney diseases. In the case cited by the doctor, a patient had suffered from nephritis some four years before, but had been free from its symptoms until recently, when, after Stillingia Liniment had been given on sugar in three drop-doses for eight days, the albumin had made its reappearance. In our opinion, this reappearance of the albumin was the result of the infection that demanded the use of Stillingia Liniment, rather than a result of the Stillingia Liniment itself. We have used this preparation for many years, and it has never produced a nephritis. We have had patients, however, who have had an acute nephritis complicating some acute respiratory infection calling for the use of Stillingia. In these cases we have used the Stillingia Liniment continuously, and it did not in any way harm the patient. Hence we would say that we would use this agent where the indications call for it, even though the patient had been, or was then, a sufferer from kidney disease. The logical argument is, the sooner we terminate a respiratory infection, the quicker will a concomitant nephritis clear up. Stillingia Liniment is not a renal irritant, nor is it a "liniment" in the strict sense of the word, although it is very serviceable when applied externally in croup and laryngeal affections.

CHRONIC COLITIS, DYSENTERY, AND HEMORRHOIDS

Question.-For a period of years I have been afflicted with chronic colitis, dysentery, and hemorrhoids. Nearly all foods cause diarrhea and abdominal pain, with gas and meteorism. Bowel movements ten to eighteen in twenty-four hours. Blood occasionally, but usually from hemorrhoids only, or in close proximity to the anus. Any suggestions for treatment will be gratefully received.

Reply.- The following prescription should be helpful in this case:

R̄ Sp. Med. Nux Vom	gtt. xv
Sp. Med. Dioscorea	gtt. Ix
Sp. Med. Geranium	3 iv to vi
Glyconda, q. s. ad	℥ iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture every three hours, to effect, then before meals and at bedtime.

The abdominal pain and meteorism will be controlled by the Nux Vomica and Dioscorea. The Nux will, in addition, aid very materially in putting the stomach and bowel in condition, so that digestion of the food will occur. For chronic colitis and dysentery, Geranium is, in our opinion, the remedy par excellence. It is a positive astringent, is not irritating, and serves to tone up the bowel where there is relaxed, atonic, enfeebled mucous tissue, here evidenced by the numerous copious evacuations, which are very exhausting to the patient. Glyconda, a "Sugarless Neutralizing Cordial," is a most admirable vehicle, and in itself is to be recommended in chronic gastro-intestinal disorders where an alkaline digestant is indicated.

The hemorrhoids are secondary, in our opinion, to the debilitated and relaxed mucous membranes. When this condition is corrected, the passive hemorrhages will cease. As a local treatment to the colon through a sigmoidoscope, we would advise a twenty-per-cent solution of Colloidum Krameria in lukewarm water, using about an ounce at a time. This treatment may be given every other day for a few weeks, or until some improvement is noted, then twice a week, then once a week.

A bland diet should be observed, simple foods, and an avoidance of very hot and very cold foods at the same meal. The same holds good for sweet and sour foods at the same meal. Avoid condiments. As digestion improves, gradually add to the diet.

Cases such as this are chronic in character. One must be persistent in following it to get good results.

Comment.-Colloidum Krameria in rectal disorders is a remedy deserving a more extended acquaintance than it now enjoys. Its field of use is given concisely on the label following: Colloidum Krameria

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, every one to four hours.

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

HELENIUM TENUIFOLIUM A DANGEROUS WEED

Question.-I am sending for identification a weed that grows on the range in this country. It comes up before other grass or weeds, and in the early spring is about the only green feed that sheep can get. But it makes them sick, and some of them finally die. It is called here, "bitter weed." It presents a serious problem to some of the ranchers, as the losses have run into the hundreds. If possible, I would like to find some antidote or treatment. The seed seems to affect the stomach, as sheep regurgitate it partially digested.

Reply.- This plant is identified by Professor Aiken as *Helenium tenuifolium*, or Sneezewort. According to the American Dispensatory, it grows from Georgia west to Texas, and north as far as Kansas. According to Galloway (*American Journal of Pharmacy*, 1872),

"Spasms, with delirium and unconsciousness, were produced in four Negroes by this plant, while in animals the results were twitching of the muscles, violent convulsions, and death."

We find no treatment suggested for the poisoning produced by this plant, but we would suggest that the physician study in the line suggested by Professor Moseley, in the direction of the "Milk Sickness" caused by minute amounts of aluminum phosphate carried in *Eupatorium Ageratoides* (white snakeroot), and some other weeds, such as the Rayless Goldenrod.

The effects of "milk sickness" are so serious, and the antidote (common soda) so simple, that we reproduce, from *GLEANER* 7, 1915, the article, as follows: Milk Sickness Caused by *Eupatorium Ageratoides*

Question.- There is some dispute in the profession as to the cause of milk sickness. It is my belief that it is due to the bacillus lacti morbi, or to a plant known as *Eupatorium ageratoides*, a sample of which I enclose. From my experience with this disease during the summer drouth, I am inclined to believe that the plant named is the cause. Can you tell me if it has a poisonous alkaloid or other principle that will produce the characteristic symptoms of milk sickness, if given for some time, as in the case of cattle eating the weed?

Reply.-This disease is now believed by some chemists to be due to small amounts of aluminum phosphate, which are obtained by the animals affected, through the eating of certain plants.

Several years ago, Professor E. L. Moseley, of Sandusky, Ohio, published several monographs on this subject, and in answering our correspondent we can not do better than quote from him, as follows:

"Trembles and milk sickness are due to aluminum phosphate. In Ohio and Illinois, animals get the substance by eating white snakeroot (*Eupatorium ageratoides**), in New Mexico, by eating the rayless goldenrod."

"The greater prevalence of trembles in dry seasons is probably due to the animals being harder pressed for food. In the fall, however, after transpiration has been going on all summer, the leaves should contain more aluminum phosphate than earlier in the season, and this, together with the fact that the white snakeroot remains green after most plants have withered, accounts for the greater prevalence of trembles in the fall."

One of Professor Moseley's experiments was with a tubercular cow, which did not seem to be seriously affected by the amount of eupatorium consumed by her. Her milk, however, was fed to several cats and rabbits, which were soon affected by the disease. A small amount of butter was also made from the infected milk, which had the same effect as the milk, upon the animals to which it was fed. The antidote for milk sickness seems to be very simple, namely, the administration of a little soda, as shown by the following:

"A little soda generally prevents the aluminum phosphate from doing any harm. This was found true of the butter, as well as the aluminum phosphate, artificially prepared. Once potassium bicarbonate was tried instead of soda, with the same result.

"Two children had died from milk sickness caused by eating infected butter, After their funeral, their father became quite sick with the same trouble. Soda was given him and he made a speedy recovery. Soda put in the feed of his horses was followed by a noticeable improvement in their condition."

MEANING OF THE TERM "SPECIFIC" AS APPLIED TO REMEDIAL AGENTS

Question.-I am an Allopathic physician. Have been practicing for forty-six years. I read your literature with much interest, but have often wondered what you mean by the term "Specific Medicines." Do you mean that these medicines are stronger than other remedial agents, or that they are "specifics" for certain diseases?

This surely is not the case. The dosage, too, puzzles me. For example, take Specific Medicine Nux. The prescription given on the label is from five to ten drops in four ounces of water, a teaspoonful of the mixture being given at a dose. It seems to me that if an adult patient were to drink the entire amount at one time, it would have little effect. Please advise me.

Reply.-Our correspondent is correct in that the term "Specific" is NOT employed in the sense of an agent infallibly capable of curing a given disease. We can not better answer this question than by quoting from Dr. Scudder's Specific Medication, published in 1870, as follows:

"Many persons are in error regarding our use of the term 'Specific.' They think of a Specific Medicine as one that will cure all cases of a certain disease, according to our present nosology, as pneumonia, dysentery, diarrhea, albuminuria, phthisis, etc., and a person looking at the subject in this light, and guided by his experience in the use of remedies, would say, there are no specifics. "We use the term 'Specific' with relation to definite pathological conditions, and propose to say that certain well-determined deviations from the healthy state will always be corrected by certain specific medicines." The question of dosage is one upon which physicians themselves differ greatly. We have many times touched upon both the problems mentioned in this letter, but we continually receive so many inquiries on both subjects from physicians as to lead us, at the risk of being tedious, again to answer this question at some length.

* Several plants are known locally under the name "White Snakeroot." The species of *Eupatorium* here mentioned by Prof. Moseley, must not be confounded with *Eupatorium aromaticum*, from which the Specific Medicine White Snakeroot is made. They are closely related species, but the American Dispensatory dismisses the *E. ageratoides* with the three words, "Diuretic, diaphoretic and antispasmodic."

As is well known, there is a wide difference in the action of many remedies, depending upon whether they are given for their medicinal or their physiological effect. Thus ipecac, when given in the

large (physiological) dose, causes vomiting. But given in the small dosage (medicinal), commended on the label for the Specific Medicine, it relieves vomiting.

As regards the value of the small dose, properly administered, we cannot do better than quote from Dr. Stephens' reply to a correspondent (GLENER 10) as follows:

"A child grows most rapidly during the first two years of its life. For a large portion of this time its food is milk, and that milk, taken a few ounces a day, contains all the elements, inorganic as well as organic, necessary to its growth. "How much (rather how little) iron do we find in a quart of milk? How much potassium, sodium, magnesium, calcium, etc.? And yet all these are present in the child's food, and in sufficient quantity. A comparison of facts such as these, with the size of the smallest dose of medicine one may give, may change one's view of dosage."

We would suggest that the only practical way for one to study the action of the Specific Medicines is to begin with a remedy with whose action one is thoroughly familiar in some other make. If the remedy chosen be energetic in character, care should be taken before increasing the dose much beyond that commended on the label. For, even though its nominal drug strength be the same as that of the official Fluid Extract made from the same drug, so free are the Specific Medicines from plant impurities so abundant in the drug, and such care is taken in every step of their evolution, from the selection of the crude material to the finished product, as to make each of these remedial agents so efficient as to forbid comparison with other preparations. As an example we might mention Glyconda, which differs from the long-established Neutralizing Cordial of Wooster Beach, merely in the omission of sugar as one of its constituents. The elimination of this disturbing factor so increased the efficiency of the remedy that many physicians wrote to us, complaining because of its "increased strength." As a matter of fact, the actual drug strength of its constituents remained unchanged.

ECHINACEA VALUED

(Contributed)

I have filled thousands of prescriptions in my time, pharmacy being my profession, and want to say that my physician patrons find your Echinacea preparations far in advance of all others in its line.

THUJA IN EYE AFFECTIONS

Question.-I am desirous of securing a special oil of Thuja that can be used in eye disorders. Can you supply such an oil, distilled in olive oil or some other bland vegetable oil?

Reply.- Thuja carries a "Volatile oil that may be obtained by distillation from the drug, but, as stated in our Drug Treatise on Thuja, this product is an irritant, and, in our opinion, should not be used in treatment of the eye. The same applies to the preparation distributed by us under the name "Oil of Thuja," which carries the fixed as well as essential oils of the drug.

For treatment of eye affections in which the stimulating action of Thuja is desired, apart from the irritating constituents of the drug, the preparation known as "Long's Thuja" has for decades been commended by physicians, as well as is "Thuja Ointment," both of which are fully described in the Drug Treatise on Thuja. The following texts are from the labels for these preparations, giving their special fields of usefulness.

Thuja-Long's Formula*

(Non-Alcoholic)

A non-alcoholic plasma, prepared from fresh Thuja. This preparation can be used where an alcoholic extract is objectionable. It readily mixes with vaseline. When "Non-alcoholic" Thuja is ordered we send Long's Formula, as it is the preparation first used under the non-alcoholic name.

* so named for Dr. Thomas Long, the oculist, for whom this preparation was originally devised

Thuja Ointment

Use.- Thuja Ointment is one of the best local agents for the relief of trachoma, or granulated eyelid. A boric acid solution should be used to cleanse the parts, and then a small coat of ointment applied. . It also relieves some forms of hemorrhoids and rectal irritation, and eczema of a dry character.

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

(Contributed)

Please send me your Dose Book, Drug Treatises, and any other such literature you may have. I find these very convenient to refresh my memory as well as for much new and valuable information. About all the medicines I use in my practice are the Specific Medicines. I find them as dependable as medicines can be, and they are convenient to carry in my medicine case and to dispense. I do not use narcotics in any of my cases.

ODOR OF URINE

Question.-Patient seventy-three years of age, apparently in excellent health and active, has urinary troubles. About a year ago stopped hot drinks and began drinking two glasses (a pint) of milk at each meal. After a few months began to pass an excessive amount of urine, getting up two or three times at night. The urine began to have a 'peculiar odor, a sour, pungent smell, like the perspiration noted in a case some years ago. Urine showed: sp. gr. 1,020, no albumen or sugar, moderately acid. Could the milk have caused this change in the urine? What remedy will cure that peculiar, disagreeable smell?

Reply.-We have never known the odor of the urine to be influenced by the intake of milk in the quantity described. In fact, so far as the odor is concerned, none of our cases have ever been influenced by milk, taken in any quantity. In the case described the patient is seventy-three years of age. The fact that he is compelled to void urine two or three times at night would lead one to think there might be either some prostatic hypertrophy, a small bladder, or a chronic cystitis present, or else that the bladder was not completely emptied at each urination, some residual urine being left. Either of these conditions will cause a frequency of urination, and will influence the odor of the urine. In our opinion, it is not the intake of milk, but the individual condition of the genito-urinary tract that has influenced the odor of the urine.

We would hesitate to mention any remedy or remedies as a "cure" for the odor described. However, we have several agents that will exert a very positive influence in "odor urinae." Some of these are: Specific Medicines Epigaea, Fragrant Sumach, Uva Ursi, Hydrangea, and Saw Palmetto; also Lithium Benzoate. Each should be selected according to whether we wish to influence the kidney, the bladder, or the prostate gland. Care should also be taken that the bladder be completely emptied. If necessary, irrigations of the bladder with bland solutions may supplement the medical treatment. The cause of the urinary disturbance must be discovered and removed, wherever possible, and the suitable remedial agents administered.

SWAMP MILKWEED (ASCLEPIAS INCARNATA)

Question.-Please favor me with literature regarding the uses of Milkweed, *Asclepias Incarnata*.

Reply.- This variety of *Asclepias*, which is listed among the Specific Medicines under the name Swamp Milkweed, was introduced into medicine much later than the variety *Asclepias tuberosa*, which has long been employed by physicians under the name *Asclepias*. Like the other varieties of *Asclepias*, it has a favorable action upon the mucous membrane, its special field of usefulness seeming to lie in catarrhal conditions of the digestive and respiratory organs. While pages of Eclectic literature are devoted to the better-known variety, *Asclepias incarnata* was either ignored altogether or dismissed with a few lines by the earlier writers. Perhaps the first extended reference to this plant was that written by Dr. Felter for the American Dispensatory, which is given, practically, on the label of the Specific Medicine Swamp Milkweed, following. Other descriptions of Swamp Milkweed and its uses are to be found in Ellingwood's *New Materia Medica and Therapeutics* and Fyfe's *Modern Materia Medica and Therapeutics*. From these we abstract as follows:

Swamp Milkweed

Swamp Milkweed, *Asclepias Incarnata*

Physiological Action.-Emetic, diuretic, anthelmintic, stomachic. Swamp milkweed affects the heart and arteries like digitalis, and is a speedy and certain diuretic.

Specific Symptomatology.-*Asclepias Incarnata* strengthens the heart, and is given in small doses instead of digitalis, as a diuretic in dropsy. It often promptly relieves the general distress from extreme infiltration of the tissues, especially the dyspnea.

Therapy.-It may be given in coughs and colds, rheumatism from cold, painful stitches in the chest, with threatened inflammation of the lungs and pleura, asthma, chronic gastric catarrh, diarrhea, dysentery, dropsy, worms, erysipelatous diseases. It improves digestion, and is a good remedy to chronic catarrh of the stomach, and in catarrhal inflammation of the respiratory organs. It is both emetic and cathartic, and may be used with advantage in the early stages of dysentery and diarrhea

In rheumatic and catarrhal inflammations it should be given to produce slight nausea. It is also beneficial as a local and internal remedy in erysipelas and erysipelatous diseases. ELLINGWOOD'S MATERIA MEDICA AND THERAPEUTICS.

Asclepias Incarnata (Swamp Milkweed)

Part used.- The root.

Usual Prescription.

℞ Sp. Med. Swamp Milkweed gtt. xx to 3i
Water ℥iv

M. Sig.: One teaspoonful every three to four hours.

Indications.-Catarrhal discharges; chronic gastric catarrh; catarrhal inflammation of the respiratory organs; dysentery and diarrhea; leucorrhea; rheumatism from cold; dropsies.

As a diuretic in dropsy this drug is of considerable value. It strengthens the heart and often relieves the distress caused by infiltration of the tissues, especially the difficult breathing. *Asclepias incarnata* is diuretic, stomachic, anthelmintic, and, in very large doses, emetic.-FYFE'S MATERIA MEDICA AND THERAPEUTICS.

The uses and doses of this remedy are given briefly but comprehensively upon the label of the Specific Medicine, following:

Colloidum (*Asclepias Incarnata*) (*ASCLEPIAS INCARNATA*)

Specific Use.-In chronic mucous diseases of stomach; catarrhal discharges; leucorrhea, and in entozoic affections.

Dose:

℞ Sp. Med. *Asclepias, Inc* gtt. xx to 3 j
Water ℥iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful every hour or two.

Swamp Milkweed is both stomachic and a quick and reliable diuretic. It acts upon the heart somewhat like digitalis, but does not occasion the gastro-intestinal troubles that the latter does. It is used in some skin affections, as erysipelatous inflammation and chronic mucous diseases of the stomach. It is indicated by catarrhal discharges, and is useful in leucorrhea.-SCUDDER.

VARIETIES OF MILKWEED USED IN MEDICINE

From our latest Prices Current we extract the following regarding *Asclepias*, or Milkweed:

Asclepias.- Three species of *Asclepias* are used in medicine, the first and most important being *Asclepias tuberosa*, common names, Pleurisy root, Butterfly weed, Orange swallowwort, which is recognized in Eclectic medication as *Asclepias*. The second in importance, medicinally, is *Asclepias incarnata* (common names, Flesh-colored *Asclepias*, Swamp milkweed, Rose-colored milkweed). The third species, *Asclepias cornuti*, is the common Milkweed or Silkweed of this country. This is not recognized in our

Specific Medicine list, but was formerly listed among our Fluid Extracts as "Silk Weed."

PAINFUL MICTURITION FROM GONORRHEA

Question.-Kindly give me a prescription to relieve painful urination of the male from gonorrhoea.

Reply.-In our treatise on Hydrastis, sent free to physicians on application, much valuable information is given regarding methods to be followed in treatment of gonorrhoea and its after effects. Supplementary to what is there given in connection with the above request, we would add the following:

First make the urine alkaline, then use:

R̄ Sp. Med. Apis	gtt. v
Sp. Med. Eryngium	3 i
Water, q. s. ad	℥ iii

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

The diet should be one that will not irritate the kidneys. Plenty of water should be taken by such patients.

CAT - TAIL (TYPHA LATIFOLIA)

(Contributed)

The following use of the common Cat-tail may be of interest. It is used in a large cement factory here whenever one of the work-men has a bad cut, a crushed finger or foot, or any wound that may become septic. The roots are gathered in summer and dried. When needed, they are cut up and thoroughly pounded in hot water. A poultice is made of the mass, which is applied to the wounded part, with prompt healing results. The doctor in charge of this company's business says the entire countryside uses this treatment.

Comment.-Cat-tail is a heavy starch root. It has several domestic uses. The Indians employed the root as a food. This, however, does not disqualify it as a remedy. Rapidly the world of medicine and pharmacy is learning that a remedy that will cure a sick child need not be so poisonous as to kill a well man.

TRIBUTE FROM A HOMEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN

I have used the Specific medicines in my practice for many years. I consider them the "ne plus ultra" in pharmaceutical preparations.

WORDS OF APPRECIATION FROM A PHARMACIST

(Contributed)

Please accept my thanks for the literature you send me from time to time. I am learning something from each.

RATTLESNAKE FERN (BOTRYCHIUM VIRGINIANUM)

Question.-I am sending you for identification a plant known locally as "Snakeroot." Some of the old residents dig the root and make a tea of it, which they use in case of rattlesnake bite. It is a popular belief here that when a rattlesnake is cornered it bites itself. Should it afterward escape capture, they say, it seeks this weed and eats it as an antidote for the poison.

Reply.-Professor Aiken identifies this plant as Botrychium Virginianum, common names, Virginia Grape Fern and Rattlesnake Fern. It is found from Nova Scotia to Florida. and west to British Columbia and Arizona. It is also found in Europe and Asia. We find no mention of it in the Dispensatories. The popular belief regarding it mentioned above is new to us, although the common name "Rattlesnake fern" indicates its domestic reputation. We will appreciate reports from physicians regarding its use.

LOBELIA LITERATURE

Question.-Please send me literature on Lobelia, covering its uses and the different preparations made by you.

Reply.-In response to this request we forwarded literature on Lobelia, including our especial Lobelia number of THE GLEANER. We wish we might have included GLEANER 20, giving a history of the introduction of the drug by Samuel Thomson, more than a hundred years ago. That number of THE GLEANER is now, unfortunately, completely out of print. Let us repeat: if THE GLEANER files are broken, few copies to complete sets are available.

ECHINACEA IN SNAKE BITE (Contributed)

I have never found anything equal to Echinacea in treating blood poison or snake bite. I wish to report a case. A child was bitten on the toe by a large rattlesnake. Forty-eight hours later the foot was greatly swollen and black as ink. The foot was bandaged with a solution of equal parts Specific Medicine Echinacea and water, and Echinacea was given internally, ten-drop doses every two hours. Complete recovery followed.

Comment.- This report comes from a physician in a section of country where poisonous reptiles abound. Some years ago we issued a treatise on Echinacea in snake bite, based on reports received from a large number of physicians in Texas and adjoining States who had successfully treated bites of poisonous snakes, spiders, and scorpions by means of Echinacea, and with like good results. The evidence was conclusive as to the value of Echinacea in this direction, but in such vital cases as bites and stings of poisonous reptiles and insects no risk should be run. If called in time, cauterization and hypodermic injection should also be employed.

FIBROID TUMORS

Question.-Do you make any remedy for use in any way that will cause a fibroid tumor to atrophy?

Reply.-Speaking personally, this question can be answered only in the negative. Once a positive diagnosis of fibroid tumor is made, we know of no medicines that will influence such a condition.

Note that we use the term "medicines," and we also qualify by the statement that the diagnosis must be right. The best men of the nation are now carefully studying the effect of deep X-ray therapy and radium upon these tumors. The discussion of these agents is beyond the scope of this reply.

SODIUM SULPHITE

From an article in Ellingwood's Therapeutist, 1918, we extract the following regarding this remedy:

"Sodium sulphite is variously classified as an antiseptic, antizymotic, antiferment, a parasiticide, etc. In our opinion, it is all of these and even more. It is a conservator of life, and a most active one when specifically indicated. It must be remembered, however, that the soda salt acts best only when the mucous membranes are pallid. Given, then, a case with tongue broad, mucous membranes pale, the coating on the tongue light, dirty, pasty, sulphite of soda is the remedy.

"When the remedy is not indicated. In patients presenting certain typhoid or septic conditions, our readers have no doubt observed red mucous membranes, with a red tongue supporting a dirty white coat. If, in these conditions, sulphite of soda was administered, they have been disappointed because good results did not follow.

This distinction was brought vividly to our notice a long time ago, in consultation with a successful Eclectic physician, who ordered nitro-muriatic acid for the 'red tongue with a white coat' patient, and the effects were, to me, astonishingly satisfactory. "Bearing this distinction in mind, sulphite of sodium becomes a most efficient remedy in many cases in which there is evidence of sepsis. It is the remedy at certain times, and in some cases of typhoid fever. The cases in which an acid is indicated are

fully as frequent as are the sulphite of sodium cases. Or the same case may to-day need an acid, and in one, two, or three days after, may need the sulphite.

"In the line indicated, sulphite of sodium is an excellent remedy in some cases of scarlet fever, of cyanche maligna, of tonsillitis, of smallpox, of erysipelas, of diseases of the stomach or intestines; in fact, it is the remedy in any disease, of whatever nature, presenting the indications for it. It has been highly commended in chronic skin troubles, both locally and internally, as in tetter scabies, sycosis, impetigo, favos, etc. It has been praised in apthae and in stomach troubles accompanied by yeasty vomiting.

"Sodium sulphite may be given in a watery solution or in capsules. The solution is very unpleasant to the taste, especially after it stands for a time."

* * * * *

Physicians interested in this remedy should write for our Drug Treatise Number 19, carrying brief but comprehensive papers on the uses of Sulphurous Acid, Hydrochloric Acid, Carboic Acid, Sodium Sulphite, Sodium Phosphate, and Ferri Acetas. The uses of Specific Medicine Sodium Sulphite are given concisely on the label, from which we reproduce a part as follows:

"While the specific indication for the systematic influence of this remedy is plain-pallid mucous membrane, broad, flabby tongue, covered with pasty-white or pasty dirty-white coating-it would be much neglected if limited to this use. It is an excellent agent in many cases of flatulency bearing evidence of localized gastro-enteric fermentation, in which the tongue may evince no particular call for it.

Gastric discomfort, partially alleviated by eructation, borborygmus, and other evidence of gastro-enteric sepsis, is often speedily alleviated by its use, when the tongue presents a normal appearance. Here it must be employed tentatively. The specific indication usually applies to febrile states in which the systemic condition is a result of cumulative constitutional disorder, independent of any local septic condition.-WEBSTER."

THE OAK AND PERSIMMON

Question.-What information can you give regarding the use for medicinal purposes of the Oak and the Persimmon trees? What part of the tree is used, if any?

Reply.-From the American Dispensatory we quote as follows regarding the uses of the persimmon, Diospyros Virginiana. The parts used are the bark and the unripe fruit. We make no preparation of this drug:

"Uses.- Tonic and astringent. The bark has been used in intermittents, and both it and the unripe fruit have been found beneficial in various forms of disease of the bowels, chronic dysentery, and uterine hemorrhage. The infusion may be used as a gargle in ulcerated sore throat."

From the bark of the white oak, Quercus alba, we formerly made Specific Medicine Quercus, now discontinued. This was used where a pure, strong astringent was required, its special field being in relaxed mucous membranes, chronic diarrhea, and in passive hemorrhages, such as hematuria, menorrhagia, and hematemesis. For washes, douches, and enemas a decoction of the ground bark is commended.

VITILAGO

Question.-I have a case of vitilago. My books say this is incurable. Can you suggest anything helpful? I am using sodium cacodylate, seven and one-half grain ampules.

Reply.- The treatment of this skin disease of unknown specific etiology is as yet highly unsatisfactory. Cacodylate of sodium is considered by the leading dermatologists the one best therapeutic agent. They also recommend the use of arsenic in some form over a long period of time. With the Eclectic physicians, Specific Medicine Berberis is a favorite remedy in the treatment of chronic skin diseases, and in the condition named it is well deserving of a trial. Berberis has a very positive alterative effect, is a tonic, and when given over a long period of time in appreciable doses, has a very good effect upon chronic skin conditions. We would suggest ten to twenty drops of the Specific Medicine, well diluted in water, every four hours.

REMEDIES FOR RECTAL TROUBLES

Question.-I am especially interested in the use of Thuja in rectal troubles. What other remedies do you commend for rectal diseases?

Reply.-Many remedies are employed by Eclectic physicians in treatment of rectal troubles, prominent among which may be named Specific Medicines Collinsonia and Krameria. As the latter remedy is not so well known to physicians generally, we extract from GLEANER 3 the following report concerning its action:

"I have used Specific Medicine Krameria in several cases of acute rectal congestion with much benefit. My method of use is by irrigation, employing it in water, in strength of from two to twenty per cent."

Physicians will find in Niederkorn's Handy Reference Book, sent free to physicians on application, a chapter devoted to the Stomach and Intestines, pages 134 to 146. A careful study of the remedies named, with indications, may well be given to this section of Dr. Niederkorn's little book.

PAIN OVER KIDNEY

Question.-Following an appendectomy in 1918, I have had a thrombo-phlebitis of left leg, and have had to resort to enemas to relieve the colitis, which no doubt dates back to tropical dysentery, contracted in Porto Rico in 1918. Last winter I would wake every morning from four to five o'clock with such severe pain over the left kidney that I could not sleep longer. After getting up and exercising, this soon passed away. Now, if I sit quiet a short time I am conscious of the pain, but otherwise I seem (and look) well. Weigh 190. I first thought the pain muscular, then from the colon, but lately have become suspicious of kidney stone. As yet, no treatment instituted has done any good.

Reply.-Let us make two questions out of the symptoms presented: First, the management of the chronic colitis following tropical dysentery in 1918; second, the probable causes for, and treatment of the severe pain over left kidney.

In our opinion, the colitis may be best treated as follows: Take of Specific Medicine Geranium 3 iv; Specific Medicine Mangifera, 3i, and Glyconda, q. s. ad \mathfrak{z} iv. M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture every four hours. In chronic cases this is an excellent prescription. In cases of acute colitis, Specific Medicine Nux Vomica, Colocynth, Aconite, or Ipecac may be given, according to the indications presented, using very admirably Glyconda as a vehicle, this being in itself a good remedy for such bowel disturbances.

In some of these chronic cases a solution of Specific Medicine Krameria, applied locally through the proctoscope to the diseased surfaces, will effect quick and permanent relief. The severe pain over the region of the left kidney that awakens from sleep but is relieved by exercise, would seem to be of a muscular origin and not nephritic, as the pain from a renal calculus is usually aggravated by motion, particular horseback riding. If the pain be muscular or due to some renal congestion, hot, moist heat applied to the side should afford relief. Libradol not only supplies the moist heat when applied locally, but its medicinal effect is usually at once apparent.

It is an excellent reliever of pain and a relaxant. Internally, we would think of Specific Medicines Gelsemium and Macrotys, in sizable doses; Gelsemium, gtt. 40, and Matrotys, gtt. 90, to the four-ounce mixture of water. In the acute case, a teaspoonful of the dilution may be given every hour to effect.

If a kidney stone is suspected, check up with the X-ray. The stone usually shows, although occasionally a stone may be present and not show on the plate, owing to its chemical composition. Then, too, the renal calculi usually have a very definite pathway of referred pain down the ureter and into the scrotum and testes on the affected side. If there is a gravelly deposit in the urine, with an accompanying backache or severe pain over the kidney, Specific Medicine Triticum is especially indicated.

LITERATURE APPRECIATED
(Contributed)

Thanks for the package of literature sent me. I have put a substantial leather cover on the Prices Current and the Dose Book. It makes a very neat and a very serviceable volume. I am certainly receiving much valuable information that has been helpful in my practice from your literature.

Personally, I feel that if the medical profession the country over were real students of the American materia medica, the number of operative cases for the surgeon would be lessened. I may be an extremist on the subject, but it affords me much pleasure and satisfaction to see my patients get well after I have made a close adjustment of remedies applicable to their ailments.

ENURESIS

Question.-What remedies have you for Enuresis?

Reply.-As Dr. Stephens so aptly replies in a preceding number of THE GLEANER, it is very necessary to determine whether the incontinence of urine is caused by lack of muscular tone or an irritation of the urinary tract. These are conditions quite opposite in character, and the remedies helpful in one might very easily prove harmful in the other condition. If the incontinence is due to lack of muscular tone, study the action of cantharis, belladonna, nux vomica, ergot, and kali phos, 5 x. If to the latter condition, we would think of eryngium, apis, fragrant sumach, ipecac, gelsemium, and veratrum.

The field of usefulness of these remedies is given, briefly but very comprehensively, on the labels of the Specific Medicines. See also our Dose Book, sent free to physicians on application. Dr. Stephens also advises a thorough examination to determine if there be any external irritation, which often occurs from a highly acid urine and lack of cleanliness of the external parts. Mothers are often careless in the matter of having the children keep themselves clean, and from this cause spring troubles.

Let us reproduce from GLEANER 12, long since out of print, the following articles on Enuresis:

INCONTINENCE OF URINE IN CHILD

Question.-I have just started using Specific Medicines, and am greatly pleased with the results. I have a case of incontinence in a little girl, and would like to know if you can suggest anything in the line of the Specific Medicines that will aid me in the treatment.

Reply.-It is necessary to know whether the incontinence is due to lack of muscular tone, or to an irritation of the urinary tract. If to the former, we advise a study of cantharis, belladonna, nux vomica, ergot, and kali phos, 5x. If the difficulty is dependent upon irritation, then a study of eryngium, apis, fragrant sumach, ipecac, gelsemium, and veratrum is in order.

Be sure to examine thoroughly to see if there is any external irritation, which often occurs from a highly acid urine and lack of cleanliness of the external parts. Mothers are often very careless in the matter of having the little girl maintain the necessary ablutions to keep clean, and from this cause spring troubles.

INCONTINENCE OF URINE IN CHILD

Question.-Can you give me suggestions concerning Eclectic treatment of the following case? A boy, five years of age, has for a year been troubled with incontinence of urine. In the daytime, when playing, this condition is worst, rendering it necessary for him to void his urine every few minutes. There is, in fact, a constant desire to urinate. There is no pain or burning sensation. The urine seems normal, in both constituents and amount.

Reply.-The trouble is evidently a neurosis. The question is, upon what does this depend?

If the boy has not been circumcised, do this at once. If this has already been done, see that the parts are kept scrupulously clean. Examine for pin-worms, and if present, remove them. In fact, remove all causes of nerve irritation, then give the following:

℞ Specific Medicine Pulsatilla	3 ss
Specific Medicine Cannabis	gtt. xv
Kali phos. (in powder trit. 5 x)	3 ii
Aquae, q. s. ad	℥ iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful every two hours.

A report, after carrying out these instructions for a reasonable length of time, would be appreciated. We would also suggest that the field of influence of Specific Medicine Fragrant Sumach be studied, as given on the label.-S.

APPRECIATIVE WORDS FROM A FRIEND

I have been using your medicines for thirty-five years, and prefer them to any others I have ever tried. Please send me another copy of your Dose Book. A professional friend has walked away with the one I had.

THUJA IN BURNS

(Contributed)

In your treatise on Thuja and Colocynth I was surprised to find no mention of the value of Thuja in the treatment of burns, but in GLEANER 32 I find a formula in which Thuja is included for an ointment for burns. I would like to report a case of a child three years old who had been severely burned on the face by falling on a hot stove. This case was treated with an ointment made from fresh Thuja leaves. The burn healed quickly, without leaving a scar. I have treated other cases of burns with Thuja ointment with like happy results.

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THE GLEANER, from time to time, has carried articles on the therapeutic uses of the Subculoyds. Back numbers in your files will furnish valuable information on these preparations. On some, we have special literature that will be gladly sent to physicians on request.

The Subculoyds that in our opinion are now firmly established are as follows, their relative importance, as shown by sales, being indicated by their numbers in the list:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 Lobelia | 5 Veratrum |
| 2 Gelbia | 6 Stramonium |
| 3 Echinacea | 7 Ergot |
| 4 Gelsemium | 8 Apocynum |
| 9 Echinacea and Inula Compound | |

These are the cream of the fifty-one Subculoyds prepared by us at various times for physicians' use, the remainder being still subjects for investigation. Of the number given, Lobelia far outstrips all others.

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