

The GLEANER

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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

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Number 40

EDITORIAL

A. F. STEPHENS, M.D.

During the "Great Depression" through which we are passing at the present time, extra thought must be given to cares resting upon the physician who prescribes a remedy, the pharmacist who prepares it, and the patient who pays the bill. But as regards price, all concerned must think, first, of the efficiency in drug action, as applied to the treatment of disease.

Doctors desire to do the very best they can for their patients. Pharmacists wish to furnish exactly what the physician prescribes. Patients hope to recover their health. All desire to keep the cost of medicine as low as possible, within the limits of successful treatment. But in these times, many have not the income necessary even to care for the normal cost of living. The hardships of disease, when added thereto, bear heavily.

As a matter of course, a person in a position to pay the bill would not let the price of a prescription, or the physician's fee, deter him from the service of an expensive remedy if there were no other remedy attainable.

Physicians cannot, however, follow every experimental fad or fancy that comes as a "new remedy," said to be used by natives of some "distant land."

If the physician is merely a figure-head, whose duty it is to prescribe according to the dictates of the man in the wilds, then he needs no cerebral development. He becomes an automaton, answering only to "gee" and "haw"-good old farm words as applied to horses.

Multitudes of "New Remedies" have proved 'unworthy. Many, heralded as "panaceas," are now either wholly discredited or are still in the doubtful stage. Either they will be found to be serviceable or they will not. The attitude of the introducer seems to be, "Try them out. If they fail to accomplish, forget them."

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Over one hundred years ago, the American Materia Medica began to occupy the thoughts of intelligent, acutely observant physicians, as well as laymen, who hopefully studied the vegetable products of America. From observations at the bedside, the most invaluable lessons were learned. These observations were announced by the discoverers, and were repeated by others. When the conclusions derived therefrom proved the remedy to be of service in practice, it was accepted by the profession. One of the lessons thus learned was, that what a given remedy does once, it will do again and for all time, if conditions be the same, and if there be no conflicting complications.

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Another lesson was, that one remedy cannot be expected to overcome all the abnormal factors involved in any disease. A symptom was learned to be, not a disease, but a cry of Nature, "An evidence of disease." (Dorland.)

For example, the term "pneumonia" is a word covering a number of symptoms, each demanding changing treatment, as the disease progresses and the symptoms change. If information on this subject is desired, read any Eclectic treatise or book dealing with this ailment.

Every sick person is a law into himself. No two individuals are exactly alike. This every physician knows. The disease factors that appear in each must be studied. But the patient must be treated, not the symptoms.

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From the observations reported by a host of physicians, there grew up a system of practice based, largely, upon the study of symptoms. To this system, over half a century ago, was given the name "Specific Medication." To Dr. John M. Scudder must be awarded the credit for handling this great subject, in a manner never before applied to disease treatment.

The remedial agents thus established are prescribed in very small doses, water being usually the vehicle for their administration. Most of them were old in practice in his day. Few were "New Remedies."

To these preparations Dr. Scudder gave the name "Specific Medicines," a term now established the world over.

FROM THE LABORATORY STAFF

In the leading editorial of this number of THE GLEANER, Dr. Stephens has touched the "Great Financial Depression," as well as other problems, in a manner that must appeal to physicians generally.

There can be no rational controversy over facts, but from the side of the pharmacist, possibly another view could be taken of some of the problems. However, the question of expense concerns all alike. But this is not a new subject. Let us quote from Lloyd Brothers' "Companion and Prices Current," 1925, a few statements bearing directly on this problem.

Price. Doses of even the most expensive of the Specific Medicines must be calculated in the fraction of a cent, the cost as a rule being the fraction of a cent. For example, Ipecac is one of the most expensive Specific Medicines. The dose is from one-tenth of a minim to one minim, which would make one cent pay for from 12 to 120 doses. Nux Vomica, one cent will furnish from 40 to 400 doses. In like manner the cost per dose of the principal Specific Medicines is proportionately inexpensive.

"Money value should not, however, govern where life saving is at stake. If a dose of medicine costing twenty-five dollars (of some rare substance) will save a life where an old friend fails, seek it and give it. But, practicing physicians must economize, both for themselves and their patients."

This leads to the thought that the "most expensive" may be the cheapest. For example: Specific Medicines have never been made, sold, or used as cheap medicines. The opposite is the fact. For half a century a four-ounce bottle of a Specific Medicine has been more expensive, bulk for bulk, than any fluid extract or tincture of the drug. Indeed, for many years the charge against them was that a quart of common tincture could be purchased for the price of a four-ounce vial of a Specific Medicine.

But physicians learned that the greatest bulk for the least money ("just as good, but cheaper") was very expensive in the end. Quality was their standard, not cheapness.

In corroboration of this view, for fifty years there has been a steady increase in the use of Specific Medicines. Few physicians of practical experience are concerned in the "Just as good but cheaper" substitutes.

* * * * *

Investigation, as well as thoughtful observation, is constantly widening the field of service of many plant preparations.

Should we attempt to dwell upon all the problems presented in this direction we might have to consider every member of the vegetable Materia Medica. Many long-established agents employed constantly by one physician may be neglected by, or be unknown to another. For example: We might ask what proportion of THE GLEANER readers use Piscidia. To those who have not employed it, the uses given on the label, as reproduced below, may be of service:

Specific Medicine Piscidia is valuable in the treatment of pain of nerve origin in any part of the body, but is of particular value in the treatment of neuritis and neuralgia of the tri-facial and cervical plexus.

In the eustachian neuralgias following tonsillectomy it usually gives prompt relief. Piscidia may be associated favorably with other indicated remedies-Amidon.

* * * * *

Glyconda is so rapidly becoming a favorite in many directions as to imply that practicing physicians have learned that it has some general function not yet fully determined. But as afore stated, should we attempt to consider every phase of every remedy on our list, a volume the size of Felter's Materia Medica would be the result.

GLEANINGS AND COMMENTS RINGWORM OF THE FOOT

"ATHLETIC FOOT"
CLOYCE WILSON, M.D.

So many inquiries have come to us, and so much has appeared in recent medical literature, regarding this condition, that we shall devote a few words to its consideration.

Ringworm of the foot is one of four forms of this ailment, due to an infection of the skin by a vegetable parasite, a fungus, trichophyton. The affection is variously known as "Athletic foot," Trichophytosis, etc. It has a predilection for the nails, spreading to the interdigital skin and to the sole of the foot, and more rarely to the dorsum of the foot. From handling the feet, the lesion may appear upon the hands, especially between the fingers. It may be accompanied by eczema, and there will be severe itching, oozing, and the formation of crusts. It is common to (but not entirely confined to) those who frequent swimming pools, gymnasia, or other places where people walk in bare feet in damp places. Hence the name "athletic." It is fairly easy to heal, but has a tendency to recur, either from a new infection, or a latent infection of the deep layers of the skin. Many physicians believe that it is never entirely cured. At any rate, once attacked, the patient must use constant vigilance to prevent its return.

The keynote to the treatment is ANTISEPSIS. All foot coverings should be sterilized by boiling. In the case of shoes, it is best to require new ones, as old shoes may carry the infection and reinfect the foot.

As a preliminary cleansing, we have used Borax, a tablespoonful to the quart of hot water, using enough of the solution to cover the feet well, and allowing them to soak for twenty minutes, daily. The solution is allowed to dry on the feet, to be followed by an appropriate dressing. What is such a dressing? Salicylic acid in some form seems to be almost a specific. However, it may become very irritating to some individuals and produce a secondary inflammation of the skin. A 2% solution in alcohol is very useful. It may also be combined (2%), with Benzoic Acid (5%), in a Lanolin base, and applied as an ointment. Recently, we have been using a 2% mixture of Asepsin in a Lanolin base, because of its non-irritating qualities and its high antiseptic value. One successful physician reports that he uses high test gasoline as a local cleanser, once only, followed by alcohol as a further cleanser, and the use of a salicylic acid paste, locally, once daily, with very good results.

Sulphur has been found very valuable, a dram to the ounce of rose water, rubbed into the lesions thoroughly. This is also a very good prophylactic, a large vessel being left standing where swimmers or athletes may dip their feet into it as they come from the pool. Ammoniated mercury ointment has also been recommended, and Tr. Iodine, although this last should be used sparingly around the toes, as we have seen some severe sloughing from this agent in this part of the body. Echafolta Cream is commended as a soothing and healing application.

Prevention of infection is necessary, wherever people live close together, and by proper prophylaxis much may be done to eradicate this disease. Many pools require (and furnish) sandals made of paper for those entering the water. Many require examination for such skin diseases, before patrons enter the pool. It is thought that some cases occur from trying on shoes in the shops. There is no doubt that the practice of repairing old shoes and selling them, has helped to carry on this infection. This phase of the problem has been much neglected by our health officials.

Moisture favors the growth of this fungus, which is also favored by the warmth of the feet. Consequently, keeping the feet dry, with frequent changes of sterilized foot coverings, aid in the cure. In another article in this number of THE GLEANER, mention is made of the use of Sanguinaria in Ringworm. This may possibly be of help in the variety of ringworm here under consideration.

BATHING POOLS AS SOURCE OF INFECTION

Public bathing pools present a problem in connection with the subject of "Athletic Foot." Those in charge, are glad to do all in reason to make them safe. According to our present knowledge, the water of the pool is not thought to have a major role in transmitting the infection. The entire subject resolves itself into the maintenance of scrupulous cleanliness. A daily emptying and scrubbing of the pool with soap and hot water before refilling, is essential. Chlorine treatment of the water is popular, and the use of the ultra-violet light. This has the added use of preventing, to some extent, the so-called "swimming pool conjunctivitis." Showers before entering and after leaving the pool, add to cleanliness. Inspection of bathers by properly trained observers would help, but might cause some resentment.

Those who know they have any active skin infection, should be taught not to enter the pool, and regulations should be enforced. The steps and approaches to the pools are the worst offenders, and should be frequently scrubbed with hot water and a strongly alkaline soap. Direct contact with surfaces where active cases have walked, is perhaps the most common way of becoming infected.

Lately, many bathing places furnish slippers of paper or similar material, or the bather is required to furnish his own. Because of their low cost, these may be destroyed after one use.

PHYTOLACCA FOR "GATHERED" BREAST

(Contributed)

More than once have I prevented women from having a gathered breast by prescribing Specific Medicine Phytolacca, twenty drops to the dose, every three hours. It has given most excellent results.

Comment.-In our opinion, this dosage is larger than is necessary. Equally good results could, we believe, be obtained by using not to exceed a dram to the four-ounce mixture, giving it in teaspoonful doses every two, three, or four hours.

Phytolacca is an energetic remedy, and in large doses is a gastrointestinal irritant, capable of producing violent emesis and hydragogue catharsis.

COUGH AND VOMITING DUE TO REFLEX ACTION

Question.-My wife, about thirty years of age, wakes up mornings badly nauseated and coughing, vomiting a thick, yellowish fluid. She coughs some during the day, but with little secretion. Sometimes after eating certain foods (to-day it was beef stew) her stomach is extremely sour. Cough syrups do not help. I now have her on cod liver oil and creosote, which have helped some, but not much. There is no suspicion of pregnancy.

Reply.-From the description given we would say the vomiting and cough are due to a reflex condition. We would strongly suspect, first, an inflammation of the gall bladder, with or without stones; and, second, a regurgitation of bile. The remedy indicated is Chionanthus. For the hyperacidity nothing is better than Glyconda. Our prescription would be:

R \bar{x} Sp. Med. Chionanthus 3j
Glyconda, q.s., ad ℥ iv

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

We do not believe cough medicines are here indicated, but rather that they nauseate. When the cough and vomiting have been somewhat relieved, we would think of Hydrastis, as many conditions similar to this are caused by atony. Our prescription would then be:

℞ Sp. Med. Hydrastis 3ss
Glyconda ʒiiss
AquaDest., q.s., ad ʒiv

M. Sig. A teaspoonful of the mixture after meals and at bedtime.

The diet should be carefully regulated, with no meats and no coffee. Tea is allowed. Toast is better than plain bread. Cereals, fruits, and vegetables, especially green, leafy vegetables, are commended. No vinegar or highly seasoned foods. Plenty of good water. Milk and buttermilk if they agree.

RINGWORM

(Contributed)

You may be interested in knowing that I have used Sanguinaria in treatment of ringworm. I have used the Fluid Extract, also the Tincture of Sanguinaria, most successfully. I have not employed the Specific Medicine, but believe this would give equally satisfactory results.

For years, I have used the method of touching the ringworm with a few drops of the Tincture two or three times daily, and this has done the work.

I would like to add that I much appreciate THE GLEANER, and your other publications. I frequently advise other practitioners to procure and use the "Specific Medicines."

Comment.- The local use of Sanguinaria has been lost sight of in the past few years, probably to the loss of the medical profession.

We would be very glad to hear from others who have had experience in the local application of this remedy.

A word of warning as to the use of Sanguinaria might be added. If too frequently applied to a susceptible individual, an escharotic effect might easily follow, with a consequent sloughing. Formerly this medicine was used, for just this effect, in the so-called cancer pastes.

ARTHRITIS, CHRONIC, RHEUMATIC

Question.-I am using Libradol for a knee joint trouble that I have had for forty-two years. Wish to avoid surgery if possible.

Reply.-our correspondent evidently has a chronic rheumatic arthritis. There are several opinions regarding the treatment of these lesions. The surgical treatment usually aims at producing a solidification of the joint, known as ankylosis. If there is some motion and little pain, something may be done by medication, but necessarily, after forty-two years, one should not expect too much or one will be disappointed.

Locally, nothing is better than the use of Libradol, applied on retiring and left on during the night. In the morning remove and bathe in hot water and massage with cocoa butter dissolved in alcohol, using one ounce of the cocoa butter to eight ounces alcohol.

For internal treatment we would commend the following:

℞ Spec. Med. Phytolacca ʒi
Glyconda.
Water, aa, q.s., ad ʒiv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture three times a daily.

This prescription, perseveringly followed, will do much to improve the condition.

DYSMENORRHEA

Question.-My daughter, sixteen, has dysmenorrhea. Will you kindly give me a helpful prescription for this condition?

Reply.-We would suggest the following:

℞ Sp. Med. Black Haw ʒi

Glycyrrhiza.

Water, aa, q.s., ad ʒiv

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

A SUGGESTION: KEEPING BOTTLES CLEAN

(Contributed)

I have a suggestion for those who wish to keep the bottles, labels, and corks of their Specific Medicines neat and clean. Remove the bottom from the carton, which may then be slipped over the bottle each time it is used.

SINGLE REMEDIES PREFERABLE IN PRESCRIPTIONS

Question.-Is it better to use but one drug to meet a large part of the indications presented in a given case, or is it advisable to combine two or more drugs to cover more symptoms? Is there apt to be a clash when drugs are combined, or will they assist each other.

Reply.-It is always best to keep a prescription down to the simplest form possible to meet the most important conditions (indications) presented. However, other drugs may be added to assist the action (synergists), where further indications are well-marked. If the indications be read correctly, no conflict will occur.

In this connection we take the opportunity of presenting an ever timely editorial that appeared in GLEANER 8, long since out of print, titled:

Synergists and Antagonists

It has been requested that we say something about the synergists and antagonists of Specific Medicines. Being limited in space, we can but briefly consider the subject by giving a few illustrations that we trust may lead to an intelligent association of remedies when prescribing specific medicines.

Briefly defined, a synergist, as applied to a medicine, is one that acts as a co-operating agent with the principal remedy, while an antagonist is one whose action is opposite to that of the principal drug.

To illustrate in a general way, those drugs whose action is classed as sedatives are synergistic to each other, as also are those of a class whose action is stimulating or exciting to the physiological processes. On the other hand, a member of the class of stimulants is antagonistic to a member of the sedative class, and vice versa. Two drugs that act as relaxants and increase secretion are synergistic to one another; also, two agents that contract tissue and diminish secretion are synergistic, one to the other. Two agents, one of which increases secretion, and the other diminishes secretion, are antagonistic to each other. From this it is readily to be comprehended that drugs antagonistic to one another should never be incorporated in the same prescription, or administered at the same time, but only such as are synergistic should be so combined.

To illustrate specifically, the action of gelsemium is sedative, relaxant and antispasmodic, being indicated by flushed face, bright eyes, contracted pupils with full, rapid pulse, high temperature, and great nervous excitement, often terminating in convulsions in children. On the other hand, belladonna is stimulant to capillary circulation, a corrector of circulatory congestion, and is indicated by pallor, dull facial expression, dull eyes with dilated pupils, coolness of the surface, drowsiness, hebetude with a tendency to stupor or low form of delirium, depressed nervous tension, etc., all of which are the exact opposite of the symptoms outlined as indications for gelsemium. Hence, to administer gelsemium and belladonna at one and the same time is to administer two drugs that must necessarily act to neutralize each other, with the possible result of one gaining a slight ascendancy through greater activity or larger dosage, which effect, however, must fall far short of the normal force of the remedy. But were we to substitute veratrum viride for belladonna we would have an agent whose action lowers blood pressure by subduing cardiac activity, lessening arterial tension and quieting nervous excitement, thereby acting as a synergist to gelsemium. On the other hand, aconite, whose action (in medicinal doses) is to raise the blood pressure will act as a synergist to belladonna.

Let me state here that while seemingly aconite and veratrum should be synergistic and are by some physicians often combined in the same prescription, they are, in reality, antagonistic one to the other, because of the fact that the former increases the blood pressure, while the latter diminishes it. It is understood, of course, that if aconite is administered in doses to physiological (poisonous) effect, it is then a heart depressant and will lower the pressure; but we do not think of aconite as ever indicated in this manner.

As a final example, we may mention nux vomica, which acts as a powerful stimulant to the motor tracts of nerve structures. If one wishes to quiet nerve irritation and to restore exaggerated motor impulses to a normal balance, he would certainly not administer nux vomica or its alkaloid, strychnine, in conjunction with any drug that he would use as a nerve quieter, for the reason that nux vomica would be antagonistic to any remedy whatever, so used. For instance, one would not combine nux vomica with stramonium, passiflora, cannabis indica, or others of the group, and expect to accomplish the same results as if the nux vomica were omitted. And yet, this is just what is being done almost daily, because of a failure to take into account the difference in action of different drugs.

Taking this brief analysis as a basis of investigation, anyone may construct a very accurate table of the synergists and antagonists in Specific Medicines if he will but study carefully the specific indications for remedies as given in all our Eclectic publications.

By a careful perusal of the many articles appearing in our current literature, the fact will be observed that drugs which are, by all the evidence we possess, antagonistic in their action are very often combined in the same prescription, thus showing that the writer has not fully grasped the subject of synergists and antagonists in medicine. And, while in many cases results were reasonably satisfactory, how much more so would they have been had the law of synergism and antagonism been strictly followed.

A successful practice depends, not alone upon the simple administration of drugs, but on their proper correlation to suit the particular case in hand. This can be done only after a full and thorough acquaintance with their several properties, action and reaction, one with the other. Their likes and dislikes must be taken into consideration, for drugs have their likes and dislikes, as men have them.

It is to be hoped that the remarks herein expressed will lead to a deeper, truer, and more thorough study of drug action in the direction indicated. If they do, the credit must lie with the physician who, by request, inspired this editorial. We certainly thank him for suggesting the matter to us.

MITRAL REGURGITATION

Question.-Patient, forty-one, has mitral regurgitation, with failing compensation; breath short on exertion, ankles swollen in afternoon; nervous. Please suggest treatment.

Reply.-For this condition Apocynum is the remedy. We would suggest the following:

R̄x Sp. Med. Apocynum	3 iv
Sp. Med. Echinacea	3 iv
Water, q.s.,ad	℥ iv

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

THYROIDECTOMY

Question.-Am just recovering from an operation for removal of a goitre, following which a considerable amount of blood was lost. Am not recovering my strength as I should, and would be glad of suggestions for a tonic.

Reply.-As a tonic we would suggest the following:

R̄x Sp. Med. Echinacea	3 i
Sp. Med. Cactus	3 i
Sp. Med. Pulsatilla	3i
Lloyd's Iron	3 iii
Water,q.s.,ad	℥ iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture before meals and at bedtime.

FUNCTIONAL DISORDER OF STOMACH

Question.- This winter I have suffered a loss of function of my stomach aperture. It will not open for about four hours after meals, when the formation of gas causes spasmodic movements of the pylorus. What drugs will properly empty the stomach before fermentation occurs? I have established a tolerance for nux vomica, so that it no longer benefits me.

Reply.-A careful examination must be made to determine whether the disturbance is really functional, or if there is something organically wrong with the stomach. In the latter condition, surgical measures will probably be required, But if there is nothing surgical, we would suggest as follows: The diet should be carefully supervised, giving only the simplest of well-cooked and easily digested food. The meals should be taken dry, by which we mean that no fluids be taken with the meal, in order that the digestive juices may be thoroughly mixed with the food, undiluted by fluids, such as coffee, tea, milk, or even water. The bowels should be kept laxative, and plenty of water taken between meals.

The remedies we most frequently employ in pyloro-spasm are:

Nux Vomica, Belladonna (Atropine), Lobelia in small doses, Hydrochloric Acid, if there be a deficiency of this, and occasionally Sodium Sulphite, which is not so often indicated. Glyconda is also an excellent remedy. It is a fine ant-acid, it serves to stimulate gastric digestion, and is a fine agent to prevent fermentation. With a little Nux Vomica added, it is a wonderful stomachic.

A prescription well worth a trial in cases such as this is the following:

R̄x Sp.Med.NuxVom gtt.20
Sp. Med. Belladonna gtt.10to 15
Glyconda,q.s.ad oz 4.

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture after meals and at bedtime.

In all cases of disturbance of stomach evacuation, we would carefully check up all indications, with special reference to some possible mechanical obstruction, such as might be caused by adhesions, malignancy, etc. In this event, such wrongs must first be corrected before much reliance can be placed upon any internal medication.

IMPOTENCE. CARDIAC DROPSY

Question.-I am desirous of a remedy for impotence in the male; also for ascites in heart trouble.

Reply.-Among the Specific Medicines most frequently employed for impotency are Pulsatilla, Staphisagria, Saw Palmetto, and Phosphorus, A careful study of these remedies and their application according to the individual requirements of each patient will often be productive of success.

We have some splendid remedies for ascites of cardiac origin, namely, Digitalis and Apocynum, used together or in combination with Potassium Acetate. Other remedies to be considered in this condition are Adonis, Cactus, Polytrichum, Apis, etc. Were we to mention but one drug from this list for special study in dropsical effusions, we would name Apocynum. It is a remedy well worth trying in cardiac dropsy.

BEE STINGS

Question.-I have a patient very susceptible to the sting of the common honey bee, showing a marked anaphylactic reaction with each sting. I would appreciate any information concerning desensitizing her against this,

Reply.-As a desensitizing agent, we would suggest the internal use of Specific Medicines Apis and Rhus Tox. in the following prescription:

R̄x Sp.Med.Apis., gtt.v
Sp.Med.Rhus.Tox gtt.v
Water ℥iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful four times a day.

In Lloyd Brothers' Drug Treatise on Apis, sent free to physicians on application, will be found a discussion of the use of this remedy in the treatment of stings of bees and other insects.

ECLECTIC REMEDIES

(Contributed)

Thank you for the July number of THE GLEANER, which I have read from cover to cover, finding the material presented interesting and instructive. Some of the formulas given for certain conditions seem to me very logical, and I shall try them on the first opportunity.

I am not a graduate of the Eclectic school of medicine, therefore many of the drugs mentioned in the formulas given are foreign to me, but as I continue to read your literature, I feel sure these remedies will become a part of my equipment.

Comment.- This is presented as a specimen of letters received by us continually from physicians who wish to become more familiar with vegetable remedies used by the Eclectic physicians. Experience has shown that where these vegetable remedial agents are once tried, in accordance with the indications for their use, they do not disappoint.

SPECIFIC MEDICINES IN HOMEOPATHIC DILUTIONS AN INQUIRY FROM INDIA

Question.-Kindly let me know whether your Specific Medicines can be used in Homeopathic dilutions?

Reply.-We cannot answer this question better than by reproducing from GLEANER No.6, long since out of print, the following:

The Specific Medicines may, in emergency cases, be employed as substitutes for the Homeopathic "Mother Tinctures," and many Homeopathic physicians so use them, mixing one part of Specific Medicine with four parts of alcohol. If a precipitate separates, as occasionally occurs, only the clear overlying liquid is valuable, and should be decanted or filtered off, for use. Considering the filtrate as the "Mother Tincture," the first decimal dilution is made therefrom by mixing one part with nine parts of alcohol; the second dilution by mixing one part of the first dilution with nine parts of alcohol, etc. We commend to our Homeopathic friends the fact that the Homeopathic pharmacists prepare their remedies with the utmost care for their special purposes, and that where these can be obtained they should be employed by Homeopathic physicians.

EQUISETUM, SCOURING RUSH

Question.-Kindly give us full information regarding Equisetum sciropoides, one of the common "Horsetails." This request comes from one of our staff members who has seen some very beneficial results from its use in leg ulcers, and wishes to know if you make a preparation from this plant, carrying the alkaloids.

Reply.-We do not find this particular species of Equisetum mentioned in any of the publications at our command, but it is probable that it has qualities closely related to those of the official species, Equisetum hyemale, from which we make Specific Medicine Equisetum. Equisetum, as analyzed by F. J. Young (Amer. Jour. of Pharmacy, 1886) is free from tannin, alkaloid, or glucosid. Mucilage, sugar, and a soft green resin were shown to be present. "Silica enters largely into the composition of these plants, on which account they have been used to scour, rough polish, etc." (Amer. Disp.) From GLEANER 15, long since out of print, we extract the following concerning this plant:

Equisetum, commonly known as Scouring Rush, Horse-tail, and Shore-grass, is a perennial plant growing in the Northern and Western States, on wet ground, river banks, swamps, and woods. The whole plant is medicinal, and imparts its properties to water. It may be used in the form of infusion or decoction of the green stalks, and some physicians claim to get the best results in this way. But the Specific Medicine Equisetum is more convenient and satisfactory.

The form of enuresis in which Equisetum acts most favorably is the cystic dysuria of elderly men, where there is constant desire to urinate and dribbling of urine. It applies to cases of enlarged prostate and to those where stone is suspected. There is always an irritable condition of the bladder in the Equisetum case. The remedy acts well when combined with Eryngium. The usual dosage is:

R_x Sp. Med. Equisetum 3ii

Water

℥iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful every two or four hours.

The front label for Specific Medicine Equisetum is as follows:

Specific Medicine Colloidum Equisetum

Specific Use.-A mild and simple diuretic, invaluable in gravel and irritation of urinary organs, with dysuria, and pain after urinating; also in suppression of urine and dropsical affections.

Dose.-Sp. Med. Equisetum, gtt. v to xxx in water every two to six hours.

PRIMARY ANEMIA FROM TRICHOMONAS INTESTINALIS

Question.-For some time I have suffered from anemia. A recent laboratory examination of feces indicates that for many months I have suffered from trichomonas intestinalis, which probably is the cause of the anemia. Would you advise Echinacea or other of your agents to remove these parasites?

Reply.-According to Dorland, Trichomonas is a genus of parasitic protozoa occurring in the form of flagellate ameboid cells. Trichomonas intestinalis occurs in the feces of typhoid and other intestinal diseases. It may produce acute or chronic diarrhea, with abdominal pain or distress.

Prophylactic treatment consists in thoroughly cleansing green foods liable to contamination by excreta of the lower animals. Medical treatment is symptomatic, with such rectal or colonic flushings as may be indicated.

Among the internal remedies for promoting the better "tone" of the gastro-intestinal tract, we would mention Nux Vomica, Hydrastis, Geranium, Mangifera, Gentian, Xanthoxylum, and Krameria, which may also be employed locally, properly diluted, to the intestinal tract. Lloyd's Iron is an excellent remedy for building up an impoverished blood stream. If much "sepsis" is present, or an alterative is needed, Echinacea should be considered.

TINCTURE VESICARIA

(Contributed)

In my practice, I have found Tincture Vesicaria to be a valuable remedy in chronic cases of albuminuria and some other kidney diseases.

Comment.- The above comes to us from a physician friend of many years' experience. Much do we appreciate the favor when a busy physician takes the trouble to write us, telling his use of remedial agents. Since the remedy is not as widely known as it deserves to be, we take the liberty of reproducing the label, as follows:

Tincture Vesicariae

Made from the fruit of Physalis Alkekengi. This drug, which is an old German remedy, under the name Fructus Alkekengi, has recently been extensively advertised in this country under the name Vesicaria, as a remedy in kidney and urinary diseases.

Dose.- Ten to twenty drops.

ACNE, WITH DYSPEPSIA

Question.-I have had acne, complicated with dyspepsia and nervousness for the past four years. Any helpful information will be highly appreciated.

Reply.-In this case we would advise the following:

℞ Sp. Med. NuxVomica	gtt.10
Sp. Med. Berberis	3 2
Sp. Med. Pulsatilla	3 1
Glyconda, q.s. ad	℥4

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture before each meal and at bedtime.

The Nux is given in this particular case because it should care for any disturbance in digestion. Pulsatilla acts to overcome nervousness, while Berberis is given for its alterative effect, it having a very beneficial influence upon chronic acne. The diet should be well regulated, and the bowels kept well open.

Comment.-It will be noticed that in this prescription, as in many others presented in THE GLEANER, several remedies are combined. This is in accordance with strict Eclectic methods of medication, each agent being given for its "specific" effect, as shown by the analysis.

ORBITAL NEURALGIA

Question.-Please suggest remedies for neuralgia of the left orbit.

Reply.- The causes of orbital neuralgia are so varied that it is impossible to give any specific treatment that will apply in all cases. A careful examination should be made, and search instituted for the cause of the neuralgia, this being removed, wherever possible. However, the cause being found, it is still often quite difficult to establish the exact etiological factor.

Among the Specific Medicines employed in treatment of orbital neuralgia may be mentioned Bryonia, Rhus tox., Gelsemium, and Piscidia. Occasionally one finds conditions for the use of Macrotys, Pulsatilla, and Euphrasia. Locally, we would commend the use of Libradol.

LOW BLOOD PRESSURE

Question.-What do you commend for low blood pressure? Reply.-For low blood pressure, other conditions favorable, we are now using, in a series of cases, the following prescription:

R _x Spec. Med. Belladonna	.gtt. x
Spec. Med. Nux Vomica	gtt.xv
Lloyd's Iron	ʒiii
Water, q.s. ad	ʒiii

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture before meals and at bedtime.

The remedy and treatment should be persisted in. In every case we have raised the systolic pressure. In one case, in a period of three months, we were able to raise the pressure from 96 systolic to 112 systolic. There is not only a raising of the blood pressure, but the patients have, to use their expression, "a better sense of well-being." The appetite is improved, as is also digestion and strength. Patients do not tire as easily, and the color of the skin and mucous membranes is improved, due, no doubt, to the iron.

THE DRUG TREATISES APPRECIATED

(Contributed)

Let me thank you for the very valuable Drug Treatises I received some time ago. I have so much admired their scholarly workmanship and the material contained therein that I have had them bound in book form, library buckram, under the title, "Eclectic Materia Medica Studies." Bound as they now are, they represent a beautiful collection of valuable material. I would suggest that other physicians preserve them in like manner. At the small expense necessary for binding, they would have a valuable volume of professional information to be found nowhere else.

Comment.- This suggestion is thoughtfully made. These Drug Treatises carry much historical and professional information which would be impossible of attainment outside a library such as that built up under the auspices of Lloyd Brothers. This carries nearly every work published, in all languages in its field, which includes botany, chemistry, pharmacy, and phyto-chemistry. To the foregoing we will add that the physician writing his views so candidly is a professor of Physiology and Public Health in a university not Eclectic.

NEPHRITIS

Question.-I have a child nine years old, very ill with nephritis; some puffiness of eyes and face; fast and labored breathing; very rapid pulse. No indications yet of uremic poisoning. Please offer suggestions.

Reply.-Prescribe a milk diet, with fruit juices and plenty of water, unless it increases edema, indicating that the kidney is impermeable to fluids, in which case give only enough water to satisfy thirst; no salt in food at any time.

Use hot packs to produce profuse sweating, and open bowels thoroughly. The idea is to carry off the poisons by the skin and bowels, when the kidneys cannot function. Hot colon flushing is an important method of relieving kidney congestion, and of instituting better functioning. Internally, Aconite is our best agent. This may be combined with Asclepias. If the pulse is strong, small doses of Jaborandi may be substituted. Apocynum should assist in overcoming the puffiness of the eyes and face, by increasing the urinary output, both of solids and fluids; in addition. it imparts tone to the heart. During convalescence, Lloyd's Iron should be thought of as a reconstructive. Keep the patient warm and avoid chilling of the body surface.

DRYNESS OF MOUTH, WITH EDEMA OF FEET

Question.-I have a patient sixty-five years old, with persistent dryness of fauces, voice weak, and glands thoroughly drained of any secretion. There is edema of feet and penis. Several years ago I used some of your remedies with great benefit, and would much appreciate suggestions for this case.

Reply.-For this patient we would advise a careful study of Specific Medicines Phytolacca and Jaborandi, Phytolacca having a marked influence upon the glandular structure, while Jaborandi is one of our best agents for increasing secretion. We would advise the following combination:

R̄ Sp. Med. Phytolacca	3i
Sp. Med. Jaborandi	gtt.xv
Water, q.s. ad	℥iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture, four times daily.

In xerostomia (dry mouth), a search should be made to determine the underlying cause, such as diabetes, neurosis, etc. Until the remedies take effect, the chewing of gum often relieves.

SUBCULOYD LOBELIA IN TIC DOULOUREUX

Question.-A patient suffering from tic douloureux about three years ago used Subculoyd Lobelia with good success, and has since been free from the ailment until recently, when two injections, three different times, did not relieve. Is there danger of using too much of this remedy? Patient is very nervous and for some time has not rested well at night.

Reply.-Subculoyd Lobelia is an energetic emergency remedy. one of the conditions in which it is indicated being tic douloureux. Here it is given subcutaneously, in from 20 to 40 minim doses, repeated hourly for three injections, if necessary. With men who use tobacco the dosage may be largely increased, because of the fact that the active constituents of Lobelia are related to those of tobacco, to which tobacco users are inured. When the spasm has passed, a diligent search should be made for the cause of the disturbance. To remove the cause is to cure the patient's ailment.

LLOYD'S IRON

(Contributed)

Have been using Lloyd's Iron in secondary anemia and inflammatory condition with very satisfactory results. This preparation of Iron is agreeable to the taste, does not blacken the teeth, nor does it nauseate or disturb digestion. Clinical improvement is rather quickly observed.

VARICOSE VEINS AND ULCERS

Question.-What do you suggest in treatment of varicose veins and ulcers?

Reply.- The standard treatment for varicose veins is rest, with proper support, which is best supplied with an elastic stocking. Unfortunately, the condition manifests itself most often in those who are necessarily much on their feet, as barbers, clerks, and washwomen. Hence, support of the weakened vessel wall by means of bandages and elastic stockings is necessary, the latter being the better, as it is difficult for the ordinary individual to apply a bandage to equalize pressure upon the weakened parts, a thing very essential.

If an ulcer has made its appearance, it should be thoroughly cleansed with Asepsin Soap. Among the best applications to use are "Thulo," Echafolta Cream, and Mayer's Ointment.

The patience and ingenuity of the medical profession have for many years been tried by this aggravating condition. The methods of treatment commended are legion, which in itself is testimony to the fact that all are but experimental attempts to control this bothersome ailment. If preventative medicine has any virtue, here is one instance in which its worth should be proven, for preventive measures should be instituted to preclude the formation of such conditions. Once they have developed, the patient must keep himself constantly under the watchful eye of the physician.

Following are the labels for the principal preparations named in the above reply:-L. B.

Thulo

AS PREPARED FOR A. F. STEPHENS, M.D.

Uses: An oleaginous stimulant, used in ulceration of tissues, with tendency to slough; in varicose ulcers, ulcerating epitheliomata, chancroids, rectal ulcers, and, similar affections.

Directions: Apply on gauze, directly to the affected part. In the rectum, it may be freely applied by anointing the finger and passing it well into the bowel-STEPHENS.

Echafolta Cream Formula: Echinacea, Petrolatum (white) and white wax

Qualities: A soothing dressing, made first for Dr. T. J. Daniel, who introduced it to the profession. It is invaluable in all cases demanding an antiseptic dressing. Useful in Hay Fever.

Directions: Apply freely, covering the affected part completely.

Also administer Specific Medicine Echinacea internally.

Uses: Old sores, bed sores, chronic ulcers, old tibial ulcers, chapped hands, carbuncles, boils, scrofulous and syphilitic nodules, snake bite, insect stings, caked breast, etc. These and all other septic disturbances yield to Echafolta Cream, but the indicated remedies such as Phytolacca, Hamamelis, etc., should be given internally.-DANIEL.

Mayer's Ointment

(Compound Lead Ointment)

Use: Mayer's Ointment is largely used as an efficient application to indolent ulcers, cuts, abrasions, and in several skin diseases. Am. Disp. It quickly destroys all fetid matter, removing foul odors in wounds, and stimulating healthful conditions.

PALMAR ECZEMA

Question.-In the treatment of palmar eczema would you recommend the following:

R̄ Sp. Med. Rhus Tox	gtt.x
Sp. Med. Echinacea	ʒiii
Sp. Med. Phytolacca	gtt. xxx
Aquaedest., q.s. ad	ʒiv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful four times a day.

Reply.-In such cases we prefer Specific Medicines Berberis and Iris in place of Echinacea and Phytolacca, using them in like doses as in the prescription given.

For the sphere of action of these and other remedies, read Scudder's "Specific Medication."

SCIATICA

Question.-What remedy (or combination of remedies) is most applicable in treatment of sciatica?

Reply.- This is a very practical question, and one for which we believe we can give helpful suggestions. The remedies of which we would naturally think are Bryonia, Gelsemium, Macrotys, Apocynum, and Jamaica Dogwood. We have recently had three cases of sciatica, one complicated with lumbago, which is often an accompaniment. A prescription which served well in these cases was:

R̄ Sp. Med. Bryonia	gt,t.v
Sp. Med. Macrotys	gtt.xxx
Sp. Med. Gelsemium	gtt.xv

Water, q.s. ad

℥ii

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

Occasionally we encounter a case of pure sciatica where Bryonia and Jamaica Dogwood, combined in their usual dosage, acts best. Apocynum is to be thought of in cases of long standing. In acute cases, where the physician is called early, this is not often required, the above prescription being usually sufficient to effect early relief. But where the ailment has been hanging on for some time, Apocynum is an excellent agent. In these long-standing cases, there is probably some edema in the nerve sheath that is influenced by the Apocynum. It may be given alone or in combination with Bryonia.

COLLOIDAL OENANTHE IN EPILEPSY

Question.-I have a son, twenty-eight, who for fifteen years has been afflicted with epileptic attacks, averaging about one a week. Can you suggest any method of treatment that will be helpful in his direction?

Reply. *

"The treatment of a chronic case such as this must be individual, that is, no set rule of treatment or medication is applicable. A thorough examination of the patient is essential, so that whatever is abnormal may be detected and remedied, if remediable. For example, I have in some cases found anemia present, in others preputial adhesions, in others teeth infection, and in still others, focal infections. All such abnormalities must be corrected. For medication I employ the bromides, especially calcium bromide, valerian in large dosage, calcium lactate in large dosage, with parathyroid tablets; at times, kermes mineral, epsom salts, caroid with bile salts, but nearly always Colloidal Oenanthe, which appears to lessen the malaise after convulsions.

"Then, there are hygienic measures that should be followed, In some cases, tepid baths are necessary-in cases when the skin is dry and perspiration is evidently interfered with. In other cases, a cold-water sponging of the spine is admirable. The diet must be regulated. In general, but little meat is allowed, and eggs, cheese and fish are regarded as meat, since they are largely protein. A milk diet is most often the suitable regimen, with vegetables in plenty. The vitamins are essential in the diet-yeast, cod liver oil, and oranges provide these.

*By Dr. Edward A. Tracy, for whose use Colloidal Oenanthe was perfected. Physicians and readers are referred to our Drug Treatise on Oenanthe, carrying articles by Dr. Tracy and Dr. Adlerman, specialists in treatment of nervous diseases.

"The doctor who treats this young man should know of all these things. He should carefully observe this patient for the indications, for using these various remedies, and should persevere in their use. Improvement should result, but a cure in such a chronic case is generally difficult. In the treatment of such cases there is no rule of thumb method. The prognosis in this case I could not give without six months' careful study of his reactions to treatment.

"With incipient epilepsy, thank God, it is different. By following the directions formulated by me and presented in the Drug Treatise on Oenanthe, any physician should be able to cure cases of this character."

THUJA NOT COMMENDED FOR ABDOMINAL INJECTION

Question.-Is it advisable to use Thuja as an injection in the abdomen for ascites? I have used it for hydrocele with the best results, and am therefore tempted to try it for ascites and will appreciate any information you can give as to the possibility of any benefit to be obtained here. I have a case on hand, twice "tapped," two gallons of fluid being removed each time. There was an extensive anasarca, that has been almost overcome. Patient has bad heart, evidently a myocarditis.

Reply.-We would consider the use of Thuja in this case a dangerous proceeding. The object of its use is to induce a slight inflammatory action, which, in the peritoneum, might perhaps result in a general peritonitis.

INDICANURIA

Question.-What remedy do you suggest for indican in the system, with numerous bacteria and nervous headache in form of migraine, from once to twice a week?

Reply.-For the formation of indican, putrefaction is essential, the condition usually occurring as a result of putrefactive processes in the intestinal canal. Pathological indicanuria occurs in carcinoma of the stomach, in certain forms of gastritis, and in conditions associated with inhibited peristalsis of the intestine, as constipation, intestinal obstruction, and peritonitis. A putrid bronchitis, empyema, abscess, and gangrene of the lungs would also increase the indican.

It will readily be seen that the treatment, to be successful, must be directed to the cause. Remove this, which means to see that the body is thoroughly eliminating waste products. The kidneys and bowels should be kept in good condition, and the skin doing its proportionate share in eliminating toxins from the system.

It is probable that the headaches mentioned are part of the symptom complex, a result of the putrefactive process in the intestinal tract. Once a normal peristaltic action is restored and the putrefactive process routed, the headache and other allied symptoms will disappear.

It would be difficult to name any one particular remedy for the condition described. Proper attention to the diet and hygiene, regulation of bowel evacuation, etc., are of prime importance. Some of the remedial agents frequently employed for their action upon the gastro-intestinal tract are Nux Vomica, Chionanthus, Podophyllum, Berberis, Echinacea, Cascara, Xanthoxylum, Capsicum, Glycyrrhiza, and Salol. The individual case must be carefully studied and the individual agent selected to meet the indications present. When we consider the fact that indicanuria may occur in many diseases, it is readily understood that the treatment must be directed to the cause, rather than to the symptomatic treatment of the effect.

BITTER TASTE IN MOUTH

Question.-Can you suggest something to counteract an exceedingly bitter taste in the mouth? Patient is a woman of seventy who has been thus bothered for several weeks.

Reply.-The cause for a condition such as this must be sought for and removed. Carious teeth, pyorrhea, infected tonsils, post-nasal "drip," granular pharyngitis, gastric disturbances, hepatic torpor, intestinal stasis with its accompanying auto-intoxication, all are factors in the production of this annoying symptom. Treatment, to be successful, must be directed toward removing the cause.

Careful attention must be directed to the oral hygiene. When used in proper proportions, Aseptafotha as a mouth wash or throat gargle is very efficacious. Often, a small dose of Nux Vomica, dispensed with Glycyrrhiza as a vehicle, will improve the digestion, tone up the stomach and effect relief. The addition of Specific Medicine Chionanthus, or Dewees' Podophyllum Laxative, will exert a kindly influence upon the liver, bile passages, and intestinal tract, overcoming torpor or sluggishness of these parts, and followed by marked improvement in general health. Read literature on these remedial agents.

It is surprising to note the number of aged people afflicted by this complaint—a very bitter taste in the mouth. When this is due to carious teeth, pyorrhea, etc., as suggested, prompt relief follows removal of the cause.

AVENA AS A NERVE TONIC

Question.-A man sixty-two years old has been using morphine eight years, taking as high as fifty grains a week. Last August he stopped taking it, took no "cure," just quit. He has no craving for the drug, but can sleep only a short time at night. He has a good appetite, weighs over two hundred.

He complains of weakness, no energy. Wants to sit or lie down constantly. He urinates as often as six times a night, has hard work holding the urine when the call comes.

I have tried Cactus, Lobelia, Fragrant Sumach, and lately Stramonium, with no effect. Have also given Dioscorea for gas and acidity. He sleeps from about 7.30 P. M. till about 11.30, then rolls and tosses until 3 A. M., after which he may get a couple hours sleep. What can you advise for this patient?

Reply.-We would advise the following:

℞ Sp. Med. Avena 3i
Water, q.s .ad ʒiv

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

We believe that if anything will serve in this case, Avena will equalize the nervous system, and at the same time possibly have a favorable influence on the bladder. Specific Medicine Avena is a dependable nerve tonic and stimulant, and should overcome the weakness of which the patient complains. However, morphine craving is difficult to meet. We would be pleased to have a further report on this case.

JAMAICA DOGWOOD. PISCIDIA ERYTHRINA

Question.-Please send me literature on Jamaica Dogwood.

Reply.-Our Drug Treatise on Hydrastis (condensed) and Piscidia was promptly forwarded this inquirer. Piscidia is a remedy not as well known as it deserves to be. This is due in part to the fact that the true drug is very difficult to procure. For a considerable time we were forced to decline to furnish the preparation under our label, but it pleases us now to state that Specific Medicine Piscidia is again available to those desiring it. Its action and uses are given, briefly, on the label, as follows:

Specific Medicine Piscidia (Jamaica Dogwood)

Specific Use.-A powerful anodyne, useful in neuralgia, especially in the tri-facial and cervical types.

Dose: ℞ Sp. Med. Piscidia. ʒ j to ʒ iii

Aquadest.q.s.ad.....ʒ iv

Misc. Sig.: Teaspoonful every two or three hours.

Specific Medicine Piscidia is made from the bark of *Piscidia erythrina*, a leguminous tree, growing throughout the West Indies, Texas, Florida, and Mexico, as well as northern South America. It represents the drug minim to grain according to our study of the natural therapeutic constituents of the crude material.-L. B.

Specific Medicine Piscidia is valuable in the treatment of pain of nerve origin in any part of the body, but is of particular value in the treatment of neuritis and neuralgia of the tri-facial and cervical plexus.

In the eustachian neuralgias following tonsillectomy it usually gives prompt relief.

Piscidia may be associated favorably with other indicated remedies.-AMIDON.

For the information of our readers, we extract from Felter's *Materia Medica, Pharmacology and Therapeutics*, some items concerning Piscidia that may be interestingly useful. Note the caution advised by Felter in its use.

"Action and Toxicology.-Jamaica dogwood controls pain and produces sleep by its narcotic action. It increases salivary and cutaneous secretion, slows the pulse, first increases then lowers arterial tension (due to the heart weakening), dilates the pupils, reduces reflex activity, may induce convulsions, and proves narcotic to man and animals. Nausea, vomiting, and convulsions have followed a half-drachm dose of the fluid extract. Death, in animals, is caused by either heart failure or respiratory paralysis.

"Therapy: External.-Reputed to relieve toothache due to exposed dental pulp, etc., and has been advised locally for the relief of pain in hemorrhoids.

"Internally.- Jamaica dogwood is used to relieve pain, overcome spasm, allay nervous excitability, and produce sleep. It may be cautiously used in the insomnia of the aged and in those of an excessively nervous temperament.

By many it is advised where opium is not desirable in controlling pain, as in neuralgia, painful spasms, and in carcinoma. In whooping-cough, in which it has been advised, it should be used with great caution. It has never been used to a great extent by Eclectic physicians, and in children and the feeble it should be employed with caution, on account of its tendency to produce convulsions, even though it may satisfactorily relieve pain."

THE SUBCULOYDS IN COLDS

A physician who has been in active practice for fifty years writes: "I can still report good success with Subculoyd Lobelia in colds.

For a person of one hundred and forty pounds, my first dose is 2 Cc. of Subculoyd Lobelia, with 1 Cc. of Gelbia. This combination gives, I believe, better results than Lobelia alone."

Colds. What are they? Everyone knows the common cold, with its discomfort, difficult breathing, sometimes a cough, always with inflammation of the mucous membranes, especially of the nasal passages and their accessory sinuses, sometimes with extension to membranes of the ear, many times the throat, the bronchial tubes, the bronchioles, and the lung tissue itself.

The danger from a cold lies in its power to weaken the resistance of the individual and pave the way for a more serious illness, such as pneumonia, pleurisy, and acute otitis media. These are but a few of the dangers resulting from colds, not to mention loss of time from regular occupation and pleasure, and lowered sense of well-being.

To the close student of disease, the cold seems to be a reaction to some irritating agent. Fatigue, extremes of heat and cold, worry, anxiety, improper nourishment, dissipation, insufficient rest, injury, nervous shock, some one of these or a combination thereof, temporarily lowers the bodily resistance, and the cold comes on.

Prevention is the ideal mode of combating colds, but many times this is not possible. General care of the health, with plenty of rest, will do much to avert colds.

Too many physicians are of the opinion that the duration of a cold is not influenced by treatment. "Nothing but a cold," is the attitude that is held. However, those who know and use the vegetable remedies understandingly, feel confidence in that they have efficient remedies that act quickly and surely, and that influence the temporarily upset physical condition, bringing it back to normal. In other words, treatment of colds does avail. In the multiplicity of cold remedies, which the laity use without the least understanding of their action, many of them dangerous to the heart and nervous system, in the number of remedies nearly as dangerous, prescribed by some members of the medical profession, in the use of bacterial extracts with a highly theoretical explanation of their effects, with but little practical results, what a comfort to have, and use, gentle and yet efficient remedies that influence the disordered organism, bringing it back to health. We have long had such remedies as aconite, gelsemium, euphrasia, belladonna, bryonia, asclepias, phytolacca, macrotys. Now we have the improved, quick action of remedies by hypodermic action, safe, accurate, and efficient, the Subculoyds.

BREAKING THE CIGARETTE HABIT

Question.-Please suggest some method for breaking the cigarette habit.

Reply.-We have used the Silver Nitrate and Gentian method of treatment, which consists in daily painting of the throat with 5% Silver Nitrate solution. Then the individual is instructed to chew a small piece of gentian root whenever there is a craving to smoke. The silver nitrate seems to prevent some of the craving, and renders the taste of tobacco smoke very unpleasant. Instead of the root, one could use Specific Medicine Gentian, as in the following prescription:

℞ Sp.Med.Gentian 3 iij

Water, q.s., ad ℥ iv

M. Sig. A teaspoonful of the mixture, as required, for the craving.

We have had some success with this treatment, only, however, when the patient really wants to quit, and assists in every way possible. The cigarette habit is so easily formed and so insidious in its effects, that the victim usually becomes a confirmed user of the weed before he is aware of the fact.

ESSENTIAL HYPERTENSION

Question.-What Specific Medicines do you recommend for treatment of Essential Hypertension?

Reply.-In essential hypertension we have for some years used Specific Medicine Gelsemium, giving it as follows:

R_x Specific Medicine Gelsemium. gtt. xxx

Glyconda, q.s., ad. ℥ iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of this dilution after meals and at bedtime.

Lately some of our writers have found the use of Glyconda, alone, to be beneficial in this condition.

Other remedies that may be indicated here, are Phytolacca, Veratrum, Lobelia, and Cactus, using each according to its definite indications.

CACTUS IN LONG-CONTINUED DOSAGE

Question.-I am using considerable Specific Medicine Cactus, and get good results from its use. Is there any objection to giving this remedy indefinitely, in cardiac neuroses? I usually prescribe Cactus in four or five doses, daily, the patient taking about thirty drops daily.

Reply.-We have had no reports of untoward results from the administration of Specific Medicine Cactus over long periods. We have found some susceptible individuals who complained of minor subjective symptoms, such as slight giddiness and tremor, when, given large doses, such as twenty drops at a time. Upon reduction of the dose, these symptoms disappeared.

To our mind, no bad results would result from the dosage mentioned by our correspondent, even if kept up for an indefinite time. Usually, however, we give Cactus as follows:

R_x Specific Medicine Cactus. ℥ iss

Water, q.s., ad. ℥ iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of this dilution every four hours, or as directed by the physician.

THE SUBCULOYDS ARE PERMANENT PREPARATIONS

Question.-I have used Subculoyd Lobelia for a number of years. Had good results from its use in a severe case of asthma. Does this preparation deteriorate from keeping?

Reply.-We consider the Subculoyds to be now practically permanent. And with the rubber stopper now employed, through which the hypodermic needle may be thrust, contamination from without is reduced to a minimum.

Our process of making plant hypodermics began with Ergot, in 1880, this preparation being, as far as we know, the first of the plant hypodermics to be used in medicine. This hypodermic, known for many years as "Lloyd's Ergot," is still in use, and we have yet to hear of a case of infection from its use. The same is true of the Subculoyds generally, as shown by reports received from practicing physicians.

Some years ago, Dr. Richard J. Lambert, of Chicago, made an extensive investigation to determine whether infection would follow the use of these plant hypodermics. His report, covering over twenty five hundred injections and the use of more than one hundred and fifty bottles of different Subculoyd preparations, was presented to the National Eclectic Medical Association in 1917. It covered a period of more than two years, the record being of cases treated in his general practice, and in the Jefferson Park Hospital, Chicago, and St. Joseph's Hospital, Elgin, Illinois. Dr. Lambert states as follows:

"The bottles were opened in the hospital and allowed to remain in the medicine case from one week to a month, and were used on a variety of cases. In private practice the bottles were opened and carried in an ordinary medicine case, and used directly from bottle to patients on all kinds of cases. A number of bottles have been allowed to stand on the shelf in the office for several months, and used on different patients and cases. In all I have used, and have personal knowledge and records of, over 2,500 hypodermic injections of the Subculoyd preparations without a single infection.

"I find most patients complain of pain at the site of injection, but this soon passes away in the average case. Usually there is some induration, due to the distention of the tissues with so much fluid. This sometimes leaves a hard lump that at times remains for several weeks, but will eventually be absorbed.

"Under ordinary antiseptic conditions I think no physician need have any fear of producing abscess or infecting any patient by using the Subculoyds. I always use a glass graduated hypodermic syringe, which is cleaned thoroughly with alcohol before and after every hypodermic injection. I also thoroughly cleanse the site of injection, and wipe with alcohol. I find it advisable to apply a hot pack immediately after giving the hypodermics. This relieves some of the pain, and also assists absorption."

SARRACENIA IN MALARIA

(Contributed)

Some forty years ago I was in a malarial district in Georgia. Nearly every member of the family with whom I stayed was under the doctor's care for ague. I had with me a bottle of Specific Medicine Sarracenia, and during my several weeks' stay, took this three times daily. Never lost a day or an hour from work, though I had always been susceptible to malaria. Since that experience I have found this remedy very effective in treatment of malaria.

SPECIFIC MEDICINE SPONGIA

Question.-I am interested in the ailments mentioned in your Dose Book under the heading "Spongia," namely, goiter, chronic pharyngitis, and tonsillitis. I would very much like to have more detailed information on the various uses of this preparation, especially showing the uses of combination of Spongia with bichromate of potash and aconite. I presume the Spongia is administered internally, and not used merely as a paint or gargle.

Reply.-Spongia is a remedy that will well repay considerable study. Many authorities claim its action to be due to its iodine content, but analysis reveals other elements, such as bromine, sodium, and magnesium. Those who have had success with Spongia attribute its value to its complex structure. In goiter it is useful in simple enlargement with defective thyroid secretion. Its use must be continued over a long period, and in the small dose, as for example:

℞ Specific Medicine Spongia 3 j

Water, q.s., ad ℥iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful after meals and at bedtime.

It is best to administer Spongia alone, rather than combined with vegetable agents. The same holds true of potassium bichromate. We prefer to administer the latter in tablet form, gr. 1/100, every four hours, where the secretion from the throat is thick, yellow, and tenacious. Spongia is applicable in chronic pharyngitis, croup, and tonsillitis, where tissues are thickened and secretion scanty and tenacious. In nearly every case of acute throat trouble Aconite is needed, because of its special affinity for the tissues in this region. Many times Belladonna is also indicated, where there is a condition of dusky red membranes. Where there is glandular involvement, phytolacca is indicated. Usually, the case calls for all three remedies. Then the following may be given:

℞ Spec. Med. Aconite

Spec. Med. Belladonna, aa .gtt. v

Spec. Med. Phytolacca 3 ss

Aquae Dest., q.s., ad ℥iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the dilution every two to four hours, according to indications.

Spongia is a remedy that will well repay further study. It seems to exert its influence in and about the tissues of the neck. For further details concerning Spongia and its uses, see Lloyd Brothers' Drug Treatise on Spongia, sent free on application to members of the profession.

CHRONIC PROSTATITIS

Question.-I have a case of chronic gonorrhoea. The smear is, and has been for some time, been negative, but the condition does not seem to clear up. The discharge is not large, nor is it yet "pusy."

Patient continues to have a thin substance at the meatus, rather frequently but not constantly. Complains of impotence, and is much concerned about this. He is forty-nine years old. Had a cystitis three years ago, and since then has not been able to function as before. Erection is only partial. He is nervous, and has a slight elevation in blood pressure. I would much like to help this patient. He looks much younger than his age, can run, and gets around like a young man of twenty-five. Has no heart lesion, and in other respects than those mentioned, is normal.

Reply.-In our opinion, this is a case of chronic prostatitis, a sequel of the gonorrhoea. We would recommend gentle massage of the organ per rectum, with the internal administration of the following:

℞ Sp. Med. Fragrant Sumach
Sp. Med. Staphysagria, aa ʒj
Glycyrrhiza, q.s., ad ʒiij

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful every four hours.

The urethral injection of Lloyd's Colorless Hydrastis is in such cases very useful. I combine with this, Zinc Sulphate:

℞ Zinc Sulphate gr.v
Lloyd's Hydrastis ʒiij

M. Sig.: Use as an injection three times daily.

Beside the prostatic massage (twice weekly), we have found the gentle, careful use of a well-lubricated, cold steel sound very helpful; just to the prostatic urethra, not trying to penetrate the prostatic portion.

Once these conditions are relieved, we believe the impotence and relative high blood pressure will take care of themselves.

CHRONIC ADENITIS

Question.-What do you advise in a case of chronic adenitis?

Reply.- This question, we take it, refers to chronic cervical adenitis. Lacking a description of the individual case, our answer must be general.

In children, unless there be abscess formation, this condition is most amenable to medical treatment. Remedies useful in restoring the glands to normal are: Phytolacca, iris, Bryonia, Fowler's solution of arsenic, berberis, potassium iodide, and syrup iodide of iron. These remedies are applicable according to their several indications, and more particularly in the cases of simple enlargement.

Much may be done by the use of the indicated remedy. In adult cases of chronic cervical adenitis we are usually dealing with a more serious and stubborn infection-sometimes tubercular in origin. Naturally, surgery is here the indicated treatment. Again we may be dealing with syphilitic taint, and while the above named remedies are useful adjuncts, antiluetic treatment must also be used, such as the arsenicals, potassium iodide, etc. Berberis and phytolacca are especially useful in aiding the removal of broken down tissue.

CHRONIC ECZEMA OF HANDS

Question.-What remedies do you commend in treating chronic eczema of the hands?

Reply.-In chronic eczema we have a particularly stubborn skin disease. Treatment, to be successful, depends largely upon our ability to find the cause, or causes, of the condition, and their removal. Among these causes are: physical, extremes of heat and cold; chemical, irritating substances, food reactions, blood dyscrasia, syphilis, occupational, and many other causes. The accurate determination of the immediate and remote causes constitute more than half the cure.

Among the remedies that have been successfully employed, according to their several indications for internal use, are Fowler's solution of arsenic, nux vomica, apis, rhus tox., berberis, phytolacca, and echinacea.

Locally, it is often very useful to use, first, a very stimulating ointment, such as Howe's Juniper Pomade, following this, later, by a soothing preparation, such as Echafolta Cream.

We have had very good success with the following:

℞ Sp. Med. Echinacea

BismuthSubnitrate, aa 3 i

Lanolin

Vaselin, aa, q.s., ad ʒi

Ft. Ungt. Sig.: Apply to affected parts twice daily.