

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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For index to this number, see Third Cover page.

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THE GLEANER

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Number 29

EDITORIAL

LLOYD'S IRON

By A. F. Stephens, M.D.

Lloyd's Iron marks a departure in the development of an old remedy for the treatment of disease. The importance of iron in relation to organic life cannot be overestimated. The longer one studies its action in the human economy the more he comes to realize that its presence in living tissues, whether vegetable or animal, is of the utmost importance. After forty years' study of iron as a remedy for disease, I find its field of usefulness practically unlimited. The farther I go into the subject the more am I astonished at what I discover. The more I discover, the greater the incentive to continue the research.

As is well known, iron plays an important part in the physiological life of man. It is the most important element in the red blood cells. Without it they could not function. It constitutes about one-third of one per cent of hemoglobin, and gives color to the blood. Without it the blood could not carry and distribute oxygen to the tissues, the oxygen-carrying power of the blood corresponding to the iron content of hemoglobin. With a deficiency of iron, the CO₂ saturation would be incomplete, muscular contraction could not take place, the vessel walls would lose their contractility, and blood stasis would result. Without it all the functions of living tissue would cease and death result. Iron, then, is a necessity, both in health and disease.

Iron is deficient in all cases of anemia, in all exhausting diseases, in all congestions, and in all inflammations. From this, one may readily see the importance of iron, therapeutically. Iron in its organic state is present in fruits, vegetables, and the flesh of animals. By reason of our food, under normal conditions, we receive whatever amount of iron we need. Should nutrition be disturbed, the amount of iron assimilated is lessened and anemia results. If the bodily functions are held at the normal level, there is no lack of iron, and the processes of life are carried on in a normal, physiological manner. If from any cause one fails to appropriate the necessary quantity of iron, or if through lack of proper food the iron content is lowered beyond the normal, we soon show the effect of deprivation. Every physician realizes the importance of iron as a constituent of the hemoglobin of the blood. It is of like importance in the hemoglobin of muscular fiber. In the blood it regulates the oxygen-carrying power, as well as controls the CO₂ saturation of the return current.

In the muscular structure, it governs contraction and relaxation. These functions point the way to its use in medicine. The beginning of all inflammations is congestion. The vessels relax and fill with blood. The vessel walls lose their power to contract; the blood remains in the affected area, and we call it congestion. The relaxation of muscular fiber is due to the absence of the normal stimulus. The power to contract is dependent upon the iron content in the muscular fibers. A logical conclusion is that if we furnish the iron to make up the deficiency, then contraction will follow and the congested area will clear up. The threatened inflammation will disappear. This effect I have observed so often that I KNOW whereof I speak. I have seen a congested lung, the first stage of pneumonia, accompanied with pain, suppressed cough, slight dullness on percussion, a temperature of 105°, with every symptom of a developing pneumonia, clear up in from twenty-four to forty-eight hours when iron was given early. When iron is so given, what we recognize as the stage of hepatization will seldom follow, and the case will convalesce in the second stage. Nor is this a single, isolated case. My experience covers a period of forty years' observation, and I feel that, after a lifetime of study, I am competent to speak authoritatively on the subject.

It is not only in inflammation of lung tissue that iron thus acts. It is applicable to all inflammations, wherever found. In all grades of exhaustion we find a deficiency of iron.

In typhoid fever, scarlatina, diphtheria, tonsillitis, laryngitis, pharyngitis, etc., iron is always indicated and should form a part of the treatment. In all infections the body needs the utmost service from the blood. Here the blood cells soon become exhausted and are incapable of making a fight for the life of the patient. Iron is indicated as one of the needed remedies.

In all cases of anemia, simple or pernicious, the red cells are deficient in the iron content. Here iron must be supplied with our other treatment. The above explanation I think plainly indicates the various uses of this indispensable life agent. The only question that remains is: What form of iron shall we administer?

I have headed this article "LLOYD'S IRON." This is a preparation of iron unknown until recently, and it is a form of iron that will both mystify you and amaze you. Heretofore when we have administered iron, we had to take into consideration the strongly acid content of the fluid preparations, or we had to give it, one might say, as iron dust. The acid preparations, such as the Tincture of Chloride of Iron or Howe's Acid Solution, were objectionable because of their acid content. One could never mix them with a vegetable remedy. To do so was simply to give the patient a quantity of poor ink. If they were given in alternation with the vegetable remedies, we made ink in the stomach. Not so with Lloyd's Iron. If with this you desire to administer any vegetable agent that may be indicated, simply add the iron to your prescription, and no black ink follows. If in treating inflammation you desire to administer veratrum, aconite, belladonna, ipecac, or any other vegetable drug in connection with iron, simply add whatever amount of Lloyd's Iron is desired, and the solution remains practically unchanged.

The dose of Lloyd's Iron should be small. Be careful not to overdose. Never overload the system with any remedy. Remember, iron is needed in the human system in very small amount, but when there is a deficiency, however small, there can be no recovery until that little is furnished, either through food or by medicinal doses. Ordinarily, a few drops to a drachm of Lloyd's Iron should be added to half a glass of water, and a teaspoonful of the dilution given every hour or two in acute cases. In chronic cases the interval between the doses should be lengthened.

In closing, let me state as follows: **IRON OF VEGETATION IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT, IF NOT THE MOST IMPORTANT, REMEDY FOR DISEASE IN THE ENTIRE FIELD OF MEDICINE.** When I make this statement, I do so after a lifetime of study and use of the materia medica. Lloyd's Iron might be called "Lloyd's Discovery." It may be used to fortify nearly every agent given for a specific purpose. It is the only preparation of iron that has ever fully satisfied me.

FROM THE LABORATORY STAFF

The End Reaction. Unquestionably, the end reaction as regards any substance now used in medicine or in pharmacy, cannot yet be recorded. The far back past must be studied for the beginnings of whatever is employed, the experiences of the present being, in a systematic way, added thereto. Together they constitute the present end-reaction of whatever now is, but do not embrace what may develop in the future. Thus the end reaction now may, half a century hence, be considered as but a minor part of what will then be known, in the passing along of pharmacy and of medicine. Let us take a few examples, the texts being derived from the present GLEANER, our remarks commenting thereon, not in any direction completing any subject, either past or present.

The editorial of Dr. Stephens comes first to view. In reality, this is a summary of personal experiences in the passing along, the beginning being forty years back. What Dr. Stephens says is therefore neither theory nor surmise, but a balanced review of half a century's study. The pharmaceutical preparations of iron then in use, and the plays upon words in their names, now astound one who, like ourselves, was involved therein and can think that far backward. As an example, Syrup of Iodide of Iron then stood conspicuous as a standard remedy of the Pharmacopeia. Deficient was it, however, in that, as made by the Pharmacopeial formula, it was not a stable compound. Strangely enough, pharmacists accepted that, to avoid alteration, it must be kept in the dark, a process that actually hastened its decomposition. In the dark, the preparation turned red very quickly, the red color resulting from free iodine, liberated by reason of the unstableness of the compound.

A row of these bottles being placed in the window where the sunlight struck them, the red liquid quickly changed to colorless, a fact that led to experimentation. To one of these, a few drops of hypophosphorous acid was added. It was discovered that the syrup thus treated, underwent no visible alteration in the dark. This is recorded among this writer's contributions to pharmacy, as voiced in pharmaceutical literature, half a century ago.

Dr. John King had a favorite iron compound, as in fact was true of every physician of those days, in whatever section of medicine he was located. For example, a very prominent old-school Cincinnati physician, Dr. Lehman, induced the writer to prepare for him a Compound Syrup of Iodide of Iron and Manganese, which he used very extensively. Other physicians employed such compounds as the various citrates and tartrates, as well as other ordinary iron salts. These formulas required, as a rule, very little pharmacy in their manipulation.

The favorite of Dr. John King was pyrophosphate of iron. Scarcely a prescription did he write where iron was in his opinion serviceable, that did not contain more or less pyrophosphate of iron. But these prescriptions were, when compounded with vegetable products, very hideous, pharmaceutically, by reason of their loads of dirty precipitates. Nauseating even to the sight were they, by reason of their black color and tannate products, which dominated all iron compounds when combined with vegetable preparations. This phase of the iron question Dr. Stephens has handled most admirably from the therapeutic side. The present writer merely takes the liberty of mentioning the rocky road that, in search of the end reaction with iron, he followed during these fifty years' experimentation.

Let us hope that we now have an iron compound devoid of the imperfections of the many that have preceded it. It is not a something new, recently begun, but the result of a trailing, wandering, wobbling series of experiments from times gone by.

Consider next the subject of Nux Vomica and Strychnine, page 953. Surely there needs be little discussion of that article, which embraces both the pharmacy and the therapy of Nux Vomica. The service rendered by this agent, the writer of these notes comprehends from experience, is invaluable. The cork from a tiny vial of Specific Medicine Nux, cautiously but frequently touched to the tongue, brings relief in the way of strengthening the vocal cords, that is akin to the marvelous.

In this connection, the taking of the preparation in capsules, or the use of either strychnine or brucine pellets, does not accomplish the same result. Seemingly, the need is the touch of bitterness, with whatever else accompanies it, upon the tongue and the fauces.

Let us next consider the Cactus subject. This perplexing problem, "Cactus," like Echinacea, bobs up eternally. Physicians of all schools employ it, satisfactorily to themselves, in the treatment of ailments where laboratory experimentation is defective in results. Strangely enough, some of the disappointed laboratory experimenters consider themselves as "Authority," few in number though they be, as contrasted with the many thousands of physicians practicing medicine over the United States, who succeed with this drug, where the test-tube experimenter has failed. The experience of this writer with Echinacea, which, like cactus, has been damned "by laboratory authority," is to establish that remedy, to his own satisfaction.

No amount of theorizing, and no amount of laboratory experimentation can, with him, brush out an established fact. He believes that in this, practicing physicians and apothecaries of America agree. Some persons might infer that lack of laboratory experience leads to these opinions. If so, no effort need be made to change their views.

Pass now to Lobelia. It may offend some readers prejudiced against Samuel Thomson, a man long dead, to have the writer of these remarks state that in his opinion, Lobelia as a remedial agent, stands supreme as contrasted with the use of any other American drug, excepting perhaps Echinacea and Cascara sagrada.

The writer may perhaps be biased in this opinion, because unquestionably Lobelia three times saved his life, which with him is a mighty good argument. Reports from thousands of practitioners (the term "thousands" is used conservatively), show conclusively that an army of American physicians consider Lobelia to be irreplaceable in their practice. In this connection it might be well to refer to the fact that it took nearly one hundred years for orthodox European leaders of the medical profession to accept that Cinchona, introduced by the despised Jesuits, was anything other than a "quack" drug.

Note the prescription given, page 960, under the title "Cardiac Dropsy." This prescription embraces two standard remedial agents, one, potassium acetate, that has been official, practically from the beginning of the United States Pharmacopeia. The other, apocynum, perhaps the most disagreeable and the nastiest of all American drugs, long antedated the first Pharmacopeia. Apocynum is yet such a favorite with physicians who are acquainted with its qualities, as to put it into the first class, as concerns its service. Not very far from Lobelia do we find it in the list of physicians' favorites. By "physicians," we mean physicians experienced in the direction of general therapeutics.

We refer to Helenium tenuifolium, page 957, not because it is a remedy familiar to many physicians, but from its use as an adulterant. The roots of many of the heleniums are gathered, indiscriminately, by ignorant or careless collectors and unfortunately often drift into commerce under the name Echinacea. As intimated in the article referred to, Helenium may have an exceptional value, afar from that of Echinacea, but it is certainly not Echinacea.

Concerning the tomato in therapy (page 958). This vegetable came into use as a food, in comparatively recent times. Half a century ago, it received somewhat of a black eye, because of a noted increase in cancer, about the time of the increased use of the tomato as a food. Naturally the two were connected, and inasmuch as cancer was known first, the tomato was discredited because of its supposed part in the furthering of that ailment. Indeed, to our recollection, owing to reckless newspaper comments, about 1864, many persons refused to use the tomato as a food.

Discussions concerning salicylic acid and the salicylates seem to be reviving, as regards their differences, based upon their origins. The problem is admirably handled in the very brief reply given to a correspondent, page 960. In our opinion it would be well for every physician and pharmacist to turn to that article, and consider what is said therein. Often, a very small amount of a by-product does good service, or conversely makes a mighty trouble.

If anyone connected with the practice of medicine is better qualified to speak concerning treatment of scorpion bites, or rather stings, than are physicians located where that creature is common, we do not know who such a person may be. Surely not the laboratory man afar off, who perhaps never in his life has seen a scorpion, or noted the effects of its sting on a human being. Note that our contributor, page 961, gives information concerning this problem in a most interesting and instructive manner. To this we will add that we will be pleased if observant physicians situated in Mexico and other semitropical countries, will give us their experiences.

The subject of the sting of a honey bee, page 962, is of interest. Reference is therein made to our Drug Treatise 21, in which is recorded a death following the sting of a single bee. The contributor giving his experience might, in our opinion, have used Libradol as an outward application to counteract the pain of the bee stings. Libradol almost instantly antidotes the painful effects.

Asclepias (page 963), an old, old remedy, is used by American physicians under its various common names. We hope physicians in Oklahoma will give us the experience of the country people, as well as their own, in the use of any species of Asclepias native to Oklahoma, in the direction of dropsy.

Of course it is comprehended that the term "dropsy" is a blanket name, commonly applying to many ailments of various origins. As a first step in this line of research, facts concerning the uses of this species of *Asclepias* are the essential thing. These facts must come from parties knowing them.

One of the wonders that come in the line of therapeutics, is the unexpected popularity of a drug with physicians, in directions where it would not be suspected of being other than an item that, in the passing along, employed by but a few physicians will fade into disuse. We are now thinking of Mulleined Oil (page 964), a preparation that was first, conservatively and resistingly as well, placed upon the Lloyd Brothers' list. It was by us accepted as being questionable in its effects. As is well known, the house of Lloyd Brothers does not desire to feature any preparation that in any way is not generally serviceable.

Strangely enough, Mulleined Oil, used only in minute amounts in ear troubles, has become one of the drug features of our laboratory. Gathering a supply of the fresh flowers employed in its manufacture, is no easy problem. Every generation probably imagines that its members are so important that when they pass away, a vacuum never to be filled, will be left. While occasionally an individual accomplishes phenomenal results, it is not true, even then, that his loss is irreparable. In fact, a person may become so self-opinionated in egotistical directions, as to make him even a final weight upon others, instead of an inspiration to his fellows.

In thinking over the names of men whose faces rise to memory as apparently irreplaceable both in pharmacy and in medicine, regardless of school or section, one is brought to the conclusion that whoever imagines himself all-important, is obsessed merely with self-arrogance. And yet, a modest veteran can do what a stuffed student can not. For example a novice, regardless of schooling, by reason of lack of experience would be incapable of writing the balanced editorial that introduces this number of *THE GLEANER*. Experience, thoughtfully formulated, is the one great necessity.

However, in other directions, younger minds, coming into the work with the enthusiasm of youth and the up-to-date instruction they have received from balanced, experienced teachers have exceptional advantages. Thousands there are now, co-laborers in the work. To such as these the answers to correspondents, written by Professor B. H. Nellans, M.D., will appeal. Take for example his article on Pain-Relieving Medicines, page 965. Brief to terseness, each sentence stands out clear and lucid, with information that will be welcomed by physicians, of whom there are yet many, to whom the remedies mentioned are not wholly familiar. And Dr. Nellans is but one of many enthusiastic members of the younger generation of physicians, who are now doing their part as teachers, and in serving inquiring members of the profession. We constantly consult these "coming in" authorities, who by their qualifications lead us to seek information on their specialties. Seldom or never are we disappointed.

This is forcibly shown by the transactions of the National Eclectic Society, for example, in handling problems such as presented by *Oenanthe Crocata*. Probably no other man of our school than Dr. Adlerman, with whom nervous diseases are a specialty, could so well have handled the problem. And yet, he is not averse to being classed as "modern." This reminds us that, increasingly, owing largely to the articles of Dr. Adlerman of New York, and Dr. Tracy of Boston, Colloidal *Oenanthe* is creeping, persistently, into a well deserved, foremost place in the treatment of epilepsy, especially among children.

Occasionally, without intrusion, we can allude to complications that come in a business way, in connection with pharmacists concerned in the vegetable *materia medica*. Abruptly and unexpectedly, the demand for *Oenanthe* exhausted the green drug stock in our establishment. This fortunately occurred at a time when in England the drug was in its prime, and our collectors were thus able to supply the green root, preserved in alcohol, without a drug famine following the increased demand. However, that famine was close at hand.

Turn now to page 968. Read there the article on Horse Chestnut. Consider then the fact that this is one of the most complicated drugs employed by the medical profession. Fruits of the buckeye, *Aesculus glabra*, and the horse chestnut, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, appear much alike.

Indeed, we have more than once refused consignments of buckeyes that came to us as horse chestnuts. Nuts from both species of trees are as a rule, furnished under the general name "Aesculus," which includes both. Taking it all in all, the horse chestnut subject must be, with physicians and apothecaries as well, a questionable problem. The two roots, the bark of the roots and of the tree, are all, with some parties, "Aesculus."

The correspondent inquiring regarding dialysis and electro dialysis, page 969, is in pretty deep water if he proposes to consider the problem of either or both in ultra-scientific directions. It will be noted that, for good reasons, we have attempted, with the Specific Medicines, to affiliate the subject of colloids and near-colloids, long one of our studies, under the trade-marked blanket term, "Colloidum." This permits a certain amount of pharmaceutical elasticity in thought and action that in our opinion is essential. Enthusiastic persons who attempt, in an ultra-scientific way, to define the "Colloids" with too excruciating exactness, will discover this fact if they liberalize research. In our opinion, our many years' experience in the study of the Colloids, long before the subject became 'of general concern, enables us to speak advisedly on the subject.

We appreciate the contribution from the Oklahoma physician who (page 970) gives us information on the subject of "Wild Root." Should other physicians be acquainted with the domestic uses of this drug, it would please us to hear from them. The subject of drugs used, in "domestic medicine," is one that for many years has taken our care. It is not always possible for us to comment, in print, immediately, upon letters that come to us in such directions, but records are always made of such contributions, the data furnished being finally credited to the reporting physician. If there be any vegetable drug or food of consequence known, that did not originate with "the common people" we cannot recall it.

Speaking of Collinsonia, page 970, leads us to remark that a few years ago, a practicing physician well known throughout the country visited our laboratory for the purpose of taking notes regarding the products of the American materia medica. His object, be it said, was far from friendly. As he passed from one department to another, he appeared to be impressed, more and more, with the fact that the parties who had suggested or planned his visit, themselves needed information concerning the problem as a whole. From a somewhat hostile beginning, he mellowed as discussions followed, and at last surely comprehended that a mighty prejudice might have a very frail foundation. Passing through the room where the Specific Medicines were being finished for the market, he picked up a bottle of Collinsonia. "This medicine," said he, "I employ in my practice constantly, and consider it one of the most valuable of all the preparations I use," mentioning the manner in which it was of service to him. After he had finished, our reply was, "The remedy you have thus eulogized is one that has been 'damned by Authority' as inert." His answer was a play on the words we had used, the words quoted being merely reversed.

GLEANINGS AND COMMENTS NUX VOMICA VS. STRYCHNINE

Question: What is the best method in which to administer strychnine by the stomach? Should it be given in the form of Nux Vomica or as Strychnine Sulphate?

Reply: In answering this question, let us start by quoting from Fearn's Eclectic Therapeutics in the Eclectic Medical Journal, June, 1926, page 298. He says of Nux Vomica as follows: "Therapy. Let us start out right. We are now considering Nux Vomica, not Strychnine. And yet, too many write and talk as though nux vomica and strychnine were synonymous. They are not. No one appreciates the worth of strychnine more than I do, but I realize that when we are considering Specific Medicine Nux Vomica, strychnine is only a fragment of that preparation. I believe the skilled pharmacist could take Specific Medicine Nux Vomica and get from it not only strychnine, but brucine, and whatever else there may be of value. We then use Specific Medicine Nux Vomica as a tonic and as a stimulant."

To continue a step farther: The question submitted is qualified to this extent, that the strychnine is to be administered by the stomach. This leads us to believe that the intent is, that the agent is not to be used as an emergency remedy for some acute condition, for in that case the physician would invariably resort to the hypodermic method of employing it. This leads us to counter with the question, "What are the conditions calling for this agent?" For upon the condition to be treated would depend whether Nux Vomica were to be selected, or its alkaloid, Strychnine.

For example, in atonic conditions of the gastro-intestinal tract, hepatic torpor, sluggish portal circulation, chronic gastritis of chronic alcoholism-indeed, in any condition where the keynote is atony and poor innervation, we prefer Nux VOMICA. For these general conditions, the dose should be small, not to exceed one drop.

STRYCHNINE SULPHATE, given hypodermically or orally, is to be preferred in those cases where an emergency remedy is needed, as in cardiac collapse and shock. It is also to be preferred in nervous, sexual, and bladder disorders. However, our personal experience with Strychnine Sulphate as an emergency remedy has been very disappointing, particularly in cardiac collapse. So many other remedies act more promptly, such as caffeine-sodio-benzoate, camphor in oil or ether, that we have discarded strychnine entirely.

As a general tonic we now use Specific Medicine Nux Vomica, with the new preparation of iron and phosphorus known as LLOYD'S IRON, and this positively has every tonic we have used in the past completely eclipsed. In Specific Medicine Nux Vomica we figure that we get all the strychnine the patient needs, and with Lloyd's Iron we have a combination that, in our opinion, cannot be beaten. 'vVe have but one other comment to make: Our own experience with Specific Medicine Nux Vomica. lasting over sixteen years, has proved to us conclusively that this is reliable, of uniform strength, and makes a beautiful solution. If the physician will try just one bottle of this preparation, he will find it to be the standard of comparison for all preparations of Nux Vomica.

CACTUS IN ANGINA

Question: A serious case of angina pectoris of long standing came into my hands about a month ago. Patient has by spells severe pains and dyspnea, with the upper part of the thorax "full of heart," a condition I diagnose as greatly dilated ascending aorta was confined to his bed, and a bad dream, or emotion when awake, brought on severe spasm, spreading over the entire chest and to both arms and up into the neck, especially on left side. He has improved all along the line, except that pulse is getting weaker. For the past ten days has been sitting up a half hour once a day. Has returning appetite, and bowels are now in good condition. As a tonic to strengthen the heart, he has taken internally the following:

R̄x Sp. Med. Cactus,	3 ii
Sp. Med. Crataegus,	3 ss
Glyconda q. s. ad,	℥ iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the mixture four times a day. To this combination I am inclined to add a drachm of Lloyd's Iron, or to give this separately, halfway between doses of the prescription. Please give me your opinion on this point. Am making a special study of heart remedies, particularly of Cactus. In Ellingwood's Materia Medica, a foreign writer is quoted as giving half a dram of Cactus three times a day in aortic lesions with faulty compensation. Have you any reports on Cactus to justify increasing the dose from minims v to minims xxx or xl (figuring six teaspoonfuls to the ounce)?

Reply: We find no fault with the above prescription as a heart tonic. In our opinion, Lloyd's Iron would be a very good thing for the patient. The more we use this remedy, the more we are convinced that it is a very valuable adjunct to our heart remedies. By its action upon the blood and nerve tissue, it is bound to impart strength to the system in general, and this aids very materially in building up the cardiac reserve force.

For the acute paroxysm of angina, we would advise trying Subculoyd Lobelia. This, in our hands, has been very efficacious, given in doses of from 30 to 60 minims every half hour to hour, depending upon the severity of the attack. Occasionally we have had to resort to Nitroglycerin, one of the agents par excellence for angina. Now as to Cactus: We usually employ this agent in small doses, the ordinary prescription being written so that two drops are given at each dose. We have, however, employed it in thirty-drop doses where the condition is urgent, as in anginal pain and dyspnea, and have found its action very prompt. On two occasions, where the pulse was very weak and intermittent, we have given a teaspoonful of the Specific Medicine Cactus at a dose. The response was very prompt, the irregularity disappearing and the pulse gaining in volume. and the patient began to breathe more easily. There were no bad after effects that would lead us not to repeat this dosage, should the occasion present itself.

Where Cactus is to be given over a long period of time, we would advise starting with a dose of from two to five drops, gradually increasing the dose as the condition of the patient warrants. When giving Cactus, we invariably add to the prescription Specific Medicine Nux, for occasionally we have noticed that Cactus, alone, will aggravate the very condition we are trying to relieve, but when combined with Nux, its value is enhanced.

MUSCULAR ATROPHY FROM SPINAL CONCUSSION

Question: I have on hand a case of spinal concussion. The patient fell from tree, and after the lapse of several years, symptoms of muscular atrophy appeared. The muscles of the gluteal region on the right side are the more affected, to such an extent that there is little support for the leg on that side. I am using massage, electricity, and some remedies, as indicated. Will you kindly send me a list of remedies helpful in promoting muscular nutrition, muscular regeneration by acting on the nerve centers? I wish to improve blood, nerves, and muscles.

Reply: Among the drugs that particularly influence the blood stream, blood supply, and nourishment of tissues (we are mentioning only those that may be of benefit in the case in question), are Echinacea, Berberis, and IEsculus. The action of Aesculus is probably strongest on the spinal nerves.

WHAT ARE THE SPECIFIC MEDICINES?

(From a Professor in a College of Pharmacy)

Question: Please give me such information as you can regarding the products of your laboratory, especially the "Specific Medicines." Wherein does their specificity lie? Is it in careful and accurate drug selection, in special manipulation or in strength. in therapeutic activity, or in all of these. I shall much appreciate your reply. Pharmacists in this state use considerable of your products, and we want our students to have authoritative information regarding them.

Reply: As so frequently stated in our literature, the term "Specific Medicine" has, from the time of its first use by Dr. Scudder, been understood by physicians employing these medicines, to indicate that the remedies thus designated "specifically" represent the desirable qualities of the drugs from which they are obtained, according to our study of those drugs. Physicians accept that they have a "specific action" when administered in disease conditions but do not accept that they are in any wise a "specific" for any named disease, as for example, a "specific for consumption," or a "specific for asthma." As regards their pharmacy, there is nothing "mysterious," beyond the special study that has been devoted to each drug. For more than fifty years continuous research and experimentation have been conducted in our laboratory in the direction of plant medicinal drugs, the object being to overcome defects in preparations therefrom, and to improve their therapeutic efficiency. The greatest care is exercised in their direction, beginning with the selection of crude materials, which extends even to the locality from which certain drugs are obtained. Occasionally we are unable to obtain crude material in the quality we require for the making of the Specific Medicines, and are obliged to mark that preparation "None," even though the market may be flooded with commercial specimens of these same drugs. Not less care is devoted to the menstruum selected for extracting the therapeutic qualities of each drug. In some instances hundreds of experiments have been instituted, extended over years of time, before the menstruum best fitted to some particular drug has been determined.

Another important factor in the excellence of the Specific Medicines is the "Colloider," employed only in the laboratories of Lloyd Brothers. By means of this, plant products that may be injured, or their virtues almost totally destroyed by continuous boiling, are manipulated with a minimum of heat, applied for perhaps the fraction of a second. The consequent improvement in the product is well known to physicians.

And not the least factor in the development of the Specific Medicines as they stand to-day, have been our studies in the line of chemistry known as "Colloidal," which with us has been a feature for the past forty years. The textural constituents of all plant drugs approach a colloidal condition. The juices of all plants are watery liquids, often holding in solution resins and gums of the plants. These natural juices we have aimed to parallel, when possible, by a juice-like representative of the drug. In this study, success has been attained to such an extent that we can now, in the list of the Specific Medicines, call attention to a class formerly made up of structures non-soluble in water. The trade-mark term under which these are announced as laboratory specialties is Colloidum. Thus, "Colloidum Specific Medicine Sanguinaria" indicates that the constituents of blood-root, as found in the Specific Medicine, are in a colloidal condition as nearly like the plant juice as we can parallel it. This we consider a great advance in pharmaceutical plant preparations, and reports from physicians indicate that the remedies thus designated are very effective, therapeutically. Some, indeed, are so much more effective that physicians have written asking why we have so increased the "drug strength" of the remedy. It will be seen then that each of the Specific Medicines is a thing in itself, the evolution of long continued study of the drug from which that particular medicine is obtained. Its menstruum, and likewise its method of manipulation, are selected with special reference to the character of this one drug, as long continued research has shown to be best fitted to its requirements. Please read our remarks in the "Companion."

HELENIUM TENUIFOLIUM

Question: I am sending the whole plant of a weed that grows abundantly in this coastal country, from six to twenty-four inches high, according to situation. The Negroes boil it in water, and use it as a cure for chills and fevers. It is very bitter to the taste. The Negroes say that in rheumatism and fevers they get good results from the boiled down juice, by bathing the parts affected with it, and taking it internally. I would like to know if it has a recognized place in medicine.

Reply: This plant is identified by Professor Aiken as *Helenium tenuifolium*, or Fine-leaved Sneezewort. Of this variety of Sneezewort the American Dispensatory says:

"*Helenium tenuifolium* is native to the United States, from Georgia west to Texas, and north to Kansas. This species is poisonous. According to Calloway (*American Journal of Pharmacy*, 1872), spasms, with delirium and unconsciousness, were produced in four Negroes by this plant, while in animals it resulted in twitching of the muscles, violent convulsions, and death." We as yet make no preparations from *Helenium*. The official variety, *Helenium autumnale*, is said to be tonic, diaphoretic and errhine. It is reported valuable in chills and fever and other febrile diseases. This same species comes to us from the Ozark Mountains, Arkansas, with the report of its being used locally for malarial chills and fevers. We would be pleased to hear from other physicians concerning this plant.

A SUFFERER FROM THE PAREGORIC HABIT

Question: I have a friend addicted to the paregoric habit, contracted through severe stomach trouble from which he has suffered nearly all his life. Other than this indigestion, he is not an invalid. He is now almost sixty-three years old, is a fine man with an interesting family, and is very anxious to break off this habit. He takes from eight to ten ounces daily, and has got to the point where he cannot attend to his affairs without this stimulant. I am very anxious to help him, if possible, and wish you would send me such literature as you have on this subject.

Reply: Our physician correspondent does not state what kind of stomach trouble led his patient to the formation of this habit. In our opinion, treatment of the habit, to be successful, must go back to the cause of the formation of the habit. Unless this be cured, we would expect the resulting pain to lead to a recurrence of the paregoric habit. Drugs acting upon muscles with the idea of improving muscular nutrition are Macrotys, Bryonia, and Arnica. Arnica is a wonderful stimulant to the spinal nervous system. Agents acting upon nerve cells (tonics, simulants), are Nux vom., Hydrastis, Xanthoxylum, and Avena. From the history given we would think of some of the Schuessler tissue remedies. We give non-styptic iron in connection with any vegetable remedy acting as a tonic or stimulant.

CHRONIC URTICARIA

Question: I have a case of giant urticaria, ten months duration, that fails to respond to medication. Can you suggest something helpful?

Reply: The treatment of chronic urticaria necessitates, first, a very careful search for the cause of the disturbance, before we can hope to effect its removal. The diet must receive very careful attention. Proper functioning of the body is vitally necessary, especially as it relates to the- elimination of waste products from the body. The urine should be carefully examined, digestive disturbances overcome, the bowels kept freely open, and the patient alkalinized. Internally, we would suggest the use of Apis me!. This is a good renal eliminant, and is one of the best agents that can be used where there are red rashes on the skin that burn and sting. We would advise the use of the following:

R̄ Sp. Med. Apis, gtt. v
Water, ℥ iv

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the dilution every one to four hours, to effect.

In clearing up these chronic urticarial cases, a careful study of Belladonna, Rhus tox. and Echinacea, using each according to the specific indications present, will assist very materially.

THE TOMATO IN THERAPY

From the Homeopathic Recorder, of August, 1924, we abstract the following regarding a garden vegetable introduced as an ornamental plant and considered to be toxic. After it came into common use as a food, it was long held in suspicion by the laity as a "cause for cancer."

"Dr. J. S. Hooker, Manchester Square, London, England, reports a good cure of a case of cancer of the stomach, apparently in the very last stages of the disease. The patient was given a pound of tomatoes a day; after taking these for two or three months the cancer was loosened from the stomach and thrown up in a mass. The man got better, and lived to be eighty-six, in perfect health. The early fathers of the Botanic School of Medicine used to make a syrup of the ripe tomato and gave it with good success for skin diseases. This remedy is useful in rheumatism when there is a sharp pain in right deltoid and pectoralis muscle, pain deep in middle of right arm, a tingling along right ulnar nerve."

In 1865, "Tomato Pills" were used in Cincinnati. It was then argued that tomatoes were the cause of cancer, hence the Homeopathic use of the tomato as a curative agent.

LOBELIA IN HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

Question: What is the dose of Lobelia when used to reduce blood pressure?

Reply: This is a very practical question, and is answered from our own personal experience with this agent. While we do not as often find the indications for Lobelia in high blood pressure as those calling for the use of Veratrum, when we are confronted with a case needing Lobelia, it seldom disappoints. The cardinal symptoms calling for the use of Lobelia in high blood pressure are, in our opinion, as follows:

Given a case where there is vascular congestion, as evidenced by a full, oppressed pulse, respiration labored, with a sense of heaviness in the chest, the patient usually complaining of "upset stomach," slightly nauseated, with an accompanying dull, heavy headache, with usually some dizziness, the tongue broad and coated, every symptom and action pointing to an absolute "lack of tone," Lobelia will relieve the overburdened heart by stimulating vascular circulation.

It removes the congestion that has been throwing additional work upon the heart. When this congestion or stagnation of the blood current is removed, the blood pressure falls in proportion as the overburdened heart returns to a normal functioning against a normal resistance. In small doses, Lobelia is one of our best vascular stimulants. Our usual prescription in such instances would read:

R̄ Specific Medicine Lobelia,	gtt. xxx
Water,	℥ iii

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

When given in such doses, Lobelia gradually overcomes the "sluggishness" of the circulation, tones up the entire intestinal tract, and imparts a tonic effect upon the sympathetic nerve system. The agent may be given over a considerable length of time.

CONCERNING NIEDERKORN'S HANDY REFERENCE BOOK

"Dr. J. S. Niederkorn's Handy Reference Book (1925) is at once concise and practical. I am glad to include this valuable little book in my library."

"I have had a copy of the first edition for years, and it is well worn and marked up, as I keep it always on my desk. The new book is vastly improved by the index."

"Thanks for Reference Book. It's fine."

"Kindly accept my very best thanks for the copy of Doctor Niederkorn's 'A Handy Reference Book' you sent me. Both this and the former edition have been very much appreciated by me."

"I have received a copy of Handy Reference Book, and find it very useful in my practice."

"Please accept my thanks for copy of Niederkorn's 'Handy Reference Book,' just received. It is a valuable work, and I am glad to have it on file."

Comment: The above are extracts from a very few of the letters that have reached us concerning the Second Edition of the Handy Reference Book. They voice the sentiment of hundreds of practicing physicians.

CARDIAC DROPSY

Question: For nearly three months I have suffered from cardiac dropsy. Have taken several of the Specific Medicines for this ailment, but none of them seem to act on the kidneys as they should. Am seventy-four years of age. What treatment do you advise?

Reply: A prescription that has afforded us great success in such conditions is as follows:

R̄ Spec. Med. Apocynum,	ʒi
Potassium Acetate	℥i
Water, q. s. ad,	℥iv

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

The apocynum will act upon the dropsical condition, and the potassium acetate is employed for its action on the kidneys. The diet must be carefully regulated. The bowels must be kept well opened, and the skin must also be kept in good condition. The keynote to the entire situation is elimination. The heart must be carefully watched, and such cardiac agents administered as Crataegus, Cactus, Digitalis, and Convallaria. Lobelia may be used to combat the indications calling for their respective use. At the age of seventy-four, any remedy taken must be used persistently, as cardiac dropsy at this age requires time for its control.

THERAPEUTIC ACTION OF SALICYLIC ACID AS MADE FROM DIFFERENT SOURCES

Question: Please explain the difference, if any, in the therapeutic action of Salicylic Acid and Salicylate of Sodium, as made from oil of wintergreen and from oil of birch, or from carbolic acid.

Reply: This subject is one over which there has been much controversy during the past three decades.

Authority that we accept as unquestionable differs widely, one claiming that there is no difference in the agent, whatever may be its derivation, others claiming that Salicylic Acid and Sodium Salicylate are better, therapeutically, when obtained from wintergreen oil than when made from oil of birch or the synthetic product obtained from carbolic acid. As we look upon the subject, there are several lines of thought connected therewith, a few of which we will mention.

1. Even though the ultimate analysis of a substance may show that it has exactly the same number of atoms of combination, regardless of origin, this does not necessarily indicate that the molecular arrangement may not be very different as concerns the individual substances. It is therefore possible, in our opinion, for an entirely different action, or at least different to a degree, to follow the use of a Salicylic Acid made from oil of wintergreen, and one from oil of birch, and especially from the synthetic product from carbolic acid.

2. The subject of by-products is important. Even a small amount of a foreign material may exert a therapeutic influence upon a drug. For example, Salicylic Acid and Salicylate of Sodium, as obtained from vegetation (upon which the reputation of the drug was established) carry by-products entirely different from those occurring in the synthetic product obtained from carbolic acid. The effect of these by-products has not as yet been scientifically determined.

3. This applies very materially to the natural acids obtained from vegetation. In fact, we have for decades put upon our label for Salicylic Acid the statement that it has an off color, seldom being pure white, due to the presence of foreign substances obtained from the crude drug, and which were present originally with the preparations that established the value of Salicylic Acid. This is very important, and should be considered in connection with the subject. As a final thought, we would call attention to the fact that an inorganic substance, perfectly harmless in itself, may, when combined with other substances, in themselves harmless, produce an active poison. For example, calomel is a chloride of mercury, and may be given in quite large quantities without untoward action. But add to this calomel another atom of chlorine, and you produce the powerful poison, corrosive sublimate. Consider now that neither chlorine in itself, nor mercury in itself are classified as poisons. It is recorded that a person has taken six ounces of mercury without any ill effect, while common salt, which is a compound of chlorine and sodium, is not only not considered a poison, but is an actual necessity to the system.

ECHINACEA IN SCORPION STINGS*

(Contributed)

Ours has been the usual experience of physicians with Echinacea, as reported in your literature, with perhaps some additions. The many varieties of scorpions makes it more difficult to treat their attack than those of other poison-bite groups. However, Echinacea holds first ground in our treatment. A few experiences may be of interest, and possibly of value, to others.

Scorpion stings may or may not produce local swelling. Often only a small red spot indicates the point of entrance of the spike, and even this may pass unnoticed in persons of dark skin, or who have at the time pimples, or the rash here so common with infants. If the point of entrance is highly vascular, or there are a number of stings, or if for any reason the sting is prolonged, allowing the injection of a large amount of venom, the symptoms are often very grave.

In children, a loaded bowel is dangerous. In the early stage the severity of the symptoms is reduced by emptying the bowel, but in the later stages this may have no noticeable effect. Tonic spasm of all or of certain groups of muscles is often noticed. Thus difficult deglutition may be experienced. An extreme case in a young woman made it necessary to pry open the jaws in order to administer Echinacea, which relieved the tonicity of the muscles within an hour. In this case the eyes were rolled upward and remained in a fixed position until muscular hypertonicity had been relieved.

We could report many other cases where Echinacea has been used with success, but these would read very much the same as those already reported by other physicians, excepting that, with us, the exciting poison has been the sting of scorpions.

*From a physician in Mexico, where scorpions abound.

Echinacea failed in the following case, mainly, we believe, because of delay in its administration, joined with imperfect absorption of the remedy. This case was that of an apparently healthy female child two years old. The scorpion had evidently exhausted its venom, as it made no attempt to sting when turned over with a stick. There were probably many stings, but as there were also pimples, in the lamplight they could not be distinguished. There was no swelling. Patient was not seen until midnight, three hours after being stung. One-half dram Echinacea was at once administered orally. This was repeated in fifteen minutes, and each half hour thereafter another dose of 15 minims was administered. In this case no local application of Echinacea was made, due to our limited supply. The large number of stings and their apparently wide distribution, would have required a much larger amount than could then have been spared. Deglutition was difficult, pulse rate 180, abdomen greatly distended. The first two doses of Echinacea apparently relieved all symptoms except the abdominal. Directions were given the parents to give repeated enemas till relief was obtained, and to call us again in case of failure. At 3 A. M. we were again called, and found the child moribund. Inquiring as to the enemas, we were told that the first had come away clear, and was not repeated. An enema was at once administered, and caused an abnormally large evacuation, and yet the abdomen was not entirely relieved. At this stage the pulse rate had dropped to 50. Stimulants brought the pulse rate back to 80 and improved the respiration, but in less than fifteen minutes the patient was dead. We believe this patient could have been saved had Echinacea been earlier administered. Probably local applications would have helped, as would hypodermic injections, which would have been more certain than oral administrations to a fighting child. The neglect of the parents to unload the bowel no doubt had a certain amount of adverse influence.

In our opinion, based upon observation in a large number of cases, a highly developed technique could be evolved for hypodermic and intravenous use of Echinacea in very grave cases. Due to our location, we have a good field for experimentation in this direction.

GELSEMIUM IN BEE STING

(Contributed)

In Drug Treatise No. 21, I note that death has followed the sting of a single honey bee. I wish to mention a case that occurred in my practice in 1908.

Mrs. S. accidentally overturned a hive of bees, and was stung more than a hundred times. She was unconscious when I reached her. I administered drops 15 of Specific Medicine Gelsemium hypodermically, and in half an hour she regained consciousness. I then gave Echinacea and Gelsemium, as needed, and she recovered nicely. I prefer giving the Gelsemium hypodermically, but where this is not convenient, I mix it with Echinacea and apply locally, and also give it by mouth.

GELBIA IN CHILDBIRTH

Question: Can Gelbia be used to ease pains of pregnancy or in childbirth?

Reply: So many other agents work so positively and promptly for the pains of pregnancy and in childbirth, that we seldom have to resort to the use of Gelbia. When we think of such agents as Macrotys, Black Haw, Lobelia, Dioscorea, Pulsatilla, and Viburnum, and know the splendid results that follow their use when these are respectively indicated, we seldom need to resort to hypodermic medication with new agents. In case these agents fail, which is very, very seldom, no doubt Gelbia should be considered. It is a wonderful agent in dispelling pain, and is a good relaxer.

One should be careful not to try to stop the afterpains following delivery. as they have a very important function. They show that the uterus is contracting down, and subinvolution will not occur.

ASCLEPIAS IN DOMESTIC MEDICINE

Question: I am sending you a package containing some roots that are the most powerful dropsy reducer I have ever found. When green, the plant is milky and the seeds fly in the air. The Indians of this section of Oklahoma use it for dropsy. The dried root seems to be equally as effective as the green. I macerate the root with alcohol, and then add water. If you can give me the name of this plant I will greatly appreciate the favor.

Reply: This is a species of *Asclepias*, but we cannot determine the variety without the leaves and, if possible, the blossoms. We trust our correspondent will write us again, sending us specimens of the growing plant, that we may determine the species. Two members of the *Asclepias* family are included in the Specific Medicine list. The more important of these is *Asclepias tuberosa*, or "Pleurisy Root," known in Eclectic medicine simply as *Asclepias*. The other, *Asclepias incarnata*, is listed as Specific Medicine Swamp Milkweed. Both these varieties of milkweed have strong diuretic properties, but we do not recall seeing them named as remedies to be used in treatment of dropsy. The uses of these preparations, as given by Eclectic authorities, are as follows:

Specific Medicine *Asclepias*

Indications: The skin is hot, but inclined to moisture; the face flushed, sharp pain.

Use: In pleurisy, peritonitis, and as a diaphoretic.

Dose: Sp. Med. *Asclepias*, gtt. x to 3ij.
Water, ℥ iv.

Misc. Sig.: A teaspoonful every hour.

Asclepias is the diaphoretic, and is associated with the sedative when an increased action of the skin is required. It is especially a child's remedy, being feeble in action, though quite certain. When freely given, it is one of the most certain diaphoretics we have, providing the pulse is not frequent and the temperature increased. Even in the small dose of one drop, following the use of the special sedatives, it will markedly increase the true secretion from the skin.

Asclepias has a decided influence over serous and mucous membranes, hence it becomes exceedingly useful as an associate remedy in pleurisy, and alone is a decided remedy for catarrhal affections of the pulmonary and gastro-intestinal tracts, when due to colds. For these purposes it is specially adapted to the stomach and bowel disorders of children, exhibited by weakness, mucous discharges, and gastric irritability, with general nervous unrest. It is a remedy for vaso disturbances in the parts supplied by the bronchial arteries, and is a prompt remedy for intercostal pain.-Felter.

Specific Medicine Swamp Milkweed (Colloidum) (*ASCLEPIAS INCARNATA*)

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

Dose: Sp. Med. *Asclepias, Inc.*, gtt. xx to 3j.
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 leucorrhœa.-Scudder.

MULLEINED OIL IN CHRONIC EAR TROUBLES (Contributed)

To the present time, I am very much pleased with the results of my use of Mulleined Oil. Of course, in chronic conditions, it would be folly to expect a cure in a short time, but I find that it allays the annoying "itching" of the ear splendidly.

ECHAFOLTA CREAM

Question: I am anxious to use *Echinacea* in an ointment for a variety of skin affections, such as acute eczema, etc. Will you kindly suggest some way in which such an ointment may be prepared?

Reply: Probably Echafolta Cream is just the preparation for which our correspondent is looking. It is described in our "Drug Treatise on *Echinacea*," sent free to physicians, on application. Its uses are as described on the label following.

We might add that a new use for this remedy has just been reported to us, namely, for the chafing of babies, in which direction it is said to excel.

Echafolta Cream

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

Directions: Apply freely, covering the affected part completely. Administer also internally Specific Medicine Echinacea as a septic remedy.

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.

PAIN-RELIEVING MEDICINES

Question: Please tell me concerning the pain-relieving action of *Pulsatilla*, *Bryonia*, *Gelsemium*, *Ailanthus*, *Melilotus*, *Oenanthe*, and *Dioscorea*, comparing each with the other.

Reply: We take it the physician, in this inquiry, wishes to know how the above-named agents relieve pain. We shall therefore attempt, briefly, to explain their action, as we understand it. For further information we would refer to some standard work on *Materia Medica*, such as *Felter's*.

PULSATILLA, in medicinal doses, acts upon the nerve centers, acting as a tonic and restorative in those cases where the symptoms show debility and a faulty nutrition of the nerve centers. The symptom complex that informs us that there is a faulty nutrition of the nerve centers are: Sadness, despondency, lack of tone, patient crying easily; mental disorders, gastric disturbances, cardiac irregularities, disorders of the reproductive tract, the result of debility and faulty nutrition of the respective nerve centers. These symptoms point particularly to *Pulsatilla*.

BRYONIA acts upon serous membranes. It is an indispensable agent for relieving the acute pain of pleurisy, pericarditis, pleuro-pneumonia, acute articular rheumatism, peritonitis, and some gall bladder conditions. The more acute the condition, the better *Bryonia* works. The principal specific indications calling for its use are: Sharp, cutting or tearing pain, the result of serous inflammation; tenderness on pressure and pain aggravated by motion; hemicrania, soreness of eyeballs; laryngo-tracheal cough that is dry and hacking.

GELSEMIUM relieves pain through its action on the brain and spinal centers. It is the remedy par excellence for exaltation of nervous function. Scudder's classic indication for the use of *Gelsemium*, "Flushed face, bright eye, contracted pupil, increased heat of head, great restlessness and excitation," have never been disputed or better stated. *Gelsemium* overcomes hyperemia of the brain and spinal centers.

AILANTHUS is an agent with which we have had very little experience, and hence can give no personal testimonial as to its therapeutic influence. We would never think of it as a modifier of pain, but rather as an antiseptic. *Ailanthus* acts, probably, by its effect upon mucous membranes and as a tonic to the nervous system.

MELILOTUS owes its success to its influence over the vaso-motor system. It stimulates local circulation, doing away with neuralgias and spasms of the uterus, ovaries, bowel, stomach, bladder, etc., which result from a fullness of the circulation, the result of debility, lowered vitality, or atonic states.

OENANTHE exerts a very positive action upon the nerve centers, and is thought of in those conditions where there is a lack of blood (anemia) in the capillaries of the brain and spinal cord. The dose is small and its effects must be carefully watched, so that its toxic effect shall not be obtained.

DIOSCOREA is one of our best antispasmodics. It is particularly effective in bilious colic, cholera morbus, acute indigestion, and tenesmus attending dysentery. It sometimes exerts a very positive influence upon ovarian neuralgia and dysmenorrhea of a spasmodic character. *Dioscorea*, in all probability, accomplishes its results by its action upon the non-striated musculature of tubular organs. The relaxant and antispasmodic effect of the drug soon overcomes the colicky and paroxysmal pain due to the contraction of the musculature of the parts involved.

From what has been said, it is readily to be seen that some of the agents mentioned may be combined with most excellent success, while on the other hand some act best when given individually. OEnanthe, for example, acts best alone. Pulsatilla and Melilotus may be combined very nicely, but we would never think of combining

Pulsatilla with Gelsemium. Gelsemium and Bryonia may be combined, and as a matter of fact, they often are. The more acute the condition, the better they work. The needs of the individual patient must be carefully studied, and the remedy properly indicated supplied. We could with very great profit reread the laws and principles of "Specific Medication and Specific Diagnosis," as given first by Scudder, for many axioms and truths are to be learned therefrom. There is much, very much, to be learned concerning the action of these and other drugs. And in our opinion the very best way of studying them is through their careful clinical application at the bedside, in cases where their use is indicated, very closely observing the effect in each case.

OENANTHE FOR EPILEPSY

Question: Dr. H. informs me that you have a remedy that he considers almost a specific for epilepsy. Kindly send me literature concerning same. I have had wonderful results from the use of several of your remedies, namely, Specific Medicines Echinacea, Pulsatilla, and Viburnum Prunifolium (Black Haw).

Reply: The preparation commended to our correspondent was unquestionably the preparation of OEnanthe Crocata, distributed under the designation Colloidal <Enanthe. This was prepared by us in collaboration with Dr. Edward A. Tracy, of Boston, Neurologist in charge of the Clinic for Nervous and Epileptic Children of that city.

This remedy is described in our Drug Treatise on OEnanthe, sent free to physicians on application. Physicians ordering the remedy should specify Colloidal OEnanthe, as otherwise the old form of the remedy, Specific Medicine OEnanthe, might be supplied. Dr. Tracy speaks as follows of this remedy:

"Colloidal OEnanthe" "POISONOUS IN OVERDOSES"

"Dosage and Use: In the use of Colloidal OEnanthe, care is necessary, as in the use of any powerful drug. I have employed as high a dosage as two and one-half minims four times daily (after meals and at bedtime), with a demonstrable hypertonia of sympathetic fibres present, but I advise a cautious approach to such dosage. A safe manner to start its use is to mix ten drops of Colloidal OEnanthe with eight ounces of water, and to give one teaspoonful of the mixture after meals and at bedtime. This dosage can be increased by doubling the amount of Colloidal OEnanthe each time bottle is refilled, every twelve days, until the mixture consists of a dram of Colloidal OEnanthe in eight ounces of water. If increase of dosage causes untoward symptoms, as debility or headache, lessen the dosage. In incipient epilepsy in children, manifested by sudden pallors, dizzy attacks, periodical headaches, and fainting spells, these symptoms disappear under this medication. Medication should be persevered in for a year or more. Incipient epilepsy is associated with a demonstrable hypertonia of sympathetic fibers, and has been found responsible to OEnanthe. The drug is a sympathetic paralyzant."

LLOYD'S HYDRASTIS IN NASAL TREATMENTS

Question: Please advise me if Lloyd's Hydrastis may be used as an astringent in the nose. Can you give me some prescriptions carrying Lloyd's Hydrastis, to be used in an atomizer for the nose?

Reply: (This letter was referred by Doctor Nellans to Dr. C. S. Amidon, a specialist in the eye, ear, nose, and throat. His reply follows) :

"Hydrastis is a drug that I use very extensively in my practice, and feel it has a great field in nose work. It is very difficult to paint definitely a word picture of the appearance of tissue that would indicate Hydrastis as a remedial agent. However, in any form of chronic rhinitis, whether it be in the incipency or late in the disease, where there is an extreme boggy tissue, particularly where this is associated with a bluish color, which is characteristic of a venous stagnation, the drug is applicable.

"Hydrastis is used usually in association with other forms of medication, and very seldom as a single remedy. The associated remedies are selected as carefully in nasal work as in prescribing for other conditions. For instance, in a nose in which we have considerable swelling or bogginess of tissue, confined largely to inferior and middle turbinate region, Hydrastis, associated with Sodium Borate and Salicylic Acid, is an especially efficient preparation. The prescription would read like this:

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

M.: Use in atomizer three times daily."

"Instructions should also be given the patient that, following the use of this preparation, he should not expose himself to dust or change of temperature for a period of one-half to three-quarters of an hour. "This prescription may also be used as nasal drops, with the patient in a recumbent position, with head lower than the plane of the body, four or five drops in each nostril, the position to be maintained for a period of from one to two minutes.

"In those conditions where there is a general congestion of tissue, with slight swelling but with no special pressure about the sinus openings, as we find so often in the middle meatus or the drainage point of the anterior group of sinuses, the above prescription, substituting Phenol in place of Salicylic Acid, may be written as follows:

R̄ Sodium Borate,	grs. xxii.
Hydrastis, Lloyd's,	m xxii.
Phenol, minims	iii.
Aquae q. s. ad,	3 i.

M.: Use in atomizer or as drops three times daily.

"I believe this will answer your question, and I can vouch for the efficiency of these prescriptions.

"Fraternally, "

C. S. AMIDON, M.D."

HORSE CHESTNUT FOR PINWORMS.

(Contributed)

For pinworms, use Specific Medicine Horse Chestnut internally, in the usual dosage. It will drive them out in a hurry. Comment: This will doubtless be, to many of our readers, "a new use for an old remedy." Pinworms are the cause of much disturbance, and several times we have received requests for suggestions in this direction. Horse' Chestnut is an old favorite in the treatment of rectal disorders, as shown by the label following:

Specific Medicine Horse Chestnut

Specific Use: In hemorrhoids and unpleasant symptoms due thereto; rectal irritation; neuralgia of internal viscera.

Dose: R̄ Sp. Med. Horse Chestnut,	gtt. x to 3ss.
Water,	℥iv.

Misc. Sig.: A teaspoonful every two or three hours.

Specific Medicine Horse Chestnut is recommended for the relief of hemorrhoids, with a feeling of dryness and constriction in the lower region. Headache and pain in the back, a sense of gastric and abdominal distension from portal congestion are also indications for Horse Chestnut. This remedy will not cure old hemorrhoidal tumors nor obliterate rectal fringes, but it is given to remove the conditions of irritation and congestion which produce such lesions.~Watkins.

Specific Medicine Horse Chestnut is made of the ripe fruit, not the bark. Do not confuse this preparation with fluid extracts or tinctures made of the bark. Do not confuse Horse Chestnut with its relative, the Buckeye.-L. B.

SPECIFIC MEDICINES GIVE SATISFACTORY RESULTS

(Contributed)

Provided my diagnosis is correct, I get right results from the Specific Medicines.

LITERATURE APPRECIATED

(Contributed)

I very much enjoy the literature published from time to time on the subject of the Specific Medicines. I cannot help but admire the thoroughness with which this work is done. I consider it a wonderful contribution to medicine.

DIALYSIS AND ELECTRO-DIALYSIS

Question: Is there any good textbook on dialysis? We have also heard of "electro-dialysis," and would like to learn about it.

Reply: So far as we know, there is no book dealing exclusively with dialysis. This subject belongs to Colloidal Chemistry, and is treated in all works pertaining to that branch of chemistry. Among these we might mention "Colloid Chemistry," by Dr. Jerome Alexander, and "Theoretical and Applied Colloid Chemistry," by Ostwald and Fischer. Another publication designed more particularly for students in the laboratory is "Laboratory Manual of Colloid Chemistry," by Dr. Harry N. Holmes, of Oberlin College.

The subject of electro-dialysis is comparatively recent. Dhere claims priority in this line, with a paper published in 1905. Literature on this subject is as yet limited to contributions in current scientific periodicals, such as "Chemical Abstracts." From volume XIX (1925) of this we abstract the following definition:

"By electro-dialysis is meant the electrical transport of ions through semi-permeable membranes. Pass a current of 0.8 to 0.3 milliamperes from a platinum electrode through the protein solution contained in a parchment or collodion chamber, a silver cathode being used."

Here as in all other directions we are conservative. The ultra scientist may draw lines that cannot be applied in business. Nature is elastic in her dealings.

"WILD ROOT"

(Contributed by a Physician in Oklahoma)

In GLEANER 27 I find the question, "What is Wild Root?" Having had some experience with this plant among the Indian tribes, also among the negroes of slavery times, I think I can enlighten the doctor on this subject. The Indians' name for this plant is Hem-a-to-da, meaning "wild" or "crazy." They use it in delirium, mania, epilepsy, etc. The negroes called it "Tom curly head," another name not to be found in Gould's Dictionary or in any pharmacopoeia. The white man's common name for this plant is Water Plantain. It is known to botanists as *Alisma plantago*.

Comment: In the American Dispensatory, the *Alisma plantago*, or Water Plantain, is mentioned as being useful in urinary diseases, an infusion of the dried leaves being employed. The indications for its use, according to Doctor Scudder, were "irritation and uneasiness in passing water, frequent desire to micturate, pain in the loins, and involuntary muscular movements." The United States Dispensatory mentions it in treatment of gravel and cystitis, and the National Dispensatory says that it has been recommended in renal calculus, dysentery, chorea, and epilepsy, but adds, "It is of doubtful efficacy in any of these conditions." Our thanks are due to our physician correspondent for this contribution regarding a little-known plant.

LITERATURE VALUED

(Contributed)

I have had the "Drug Treatises" you so kindly sent me at my request bound in permanent book form, and wish to state that this is one of the most valued of all my books. During my course at the College of Pharmacy I had occasion several times to refer to these treatises, and found in them, as you state, information that was not available in other books.

I very much appreciate your ideals and standards, and your advice to druggists to buy in small containers. I consider the policy of your house as of the highest, and hope that in some way I may be able to repay the many courtesies you have shown me.

INTERNAL TREATMENT FOR PILES

Question: Are any of your products, administered internally, helpful in the treatment of piles?

Reply: In Specific Medicines Aesculus, Collinsonia, and Hamamelis, we have three excellent agents for the internal treatment of hemorrhoids. These may be given singly or in combination, as the case may call for. We have often combined Aesculus and Collinsonia, with the most gratifying results, although we prefer, if it is possible to do so, to figure out the indications for the individual drug. The indications that call for Collinsonia are quite characteristic. The patient invariably complains of an irritation, itching and burning, with a sense of constriction at the anal orifice. Experience has proven that the small dose works best in relieving the distressing symptoms, the usual prescription being:

℞ Specific Medicine Collinsonia, gtt. x.
Water, ℥ iv.

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

When the hemorrhoidal disturbance is the result of an obstructed portal circulation, Aesculus will give the best results. This agent, through its stimulating influence on the nervous system, exhibits a very decided and positive action on the portal circulation. Obstruction and congestion in the portal circulation are removed, and the accompanying secondary hemorrhoidal congestion is relieved. The dose of this remedy is:

℞ Specific Medicine Aesculus, 3i to ii.
Water, ℥ iv.

M. Sig.: A teaspoonful of the dilution four times a day, aiming to give the last dose at bedtime.

If one will carefully study this remedy and apply it properly in the cases in which it is indicated, it will accomplish more good than any other internal remedy with which we are acquainted. To obtain the best results, one must be persistent in its use. Dietetic and hygienic measures should in all cases supplement the medication. The stool should be kept soft and a regularity of bowel movement established. Hamamelis is another agent often employed in the internal treatment of hemorrhoids. Its influence is exerted upon the venous system. In cases where a venous sluggishness is evidenced by engorgement of the vessels, thickening of the mucous membrane, relaxation of perineum, low-grade chronic enfeebled states, Hamamelis will serve to quicken the venous flow of blood and eradicate the passive congestion. As a result of the congestion, there is, quite often, passive hemorrhage. Here, Hamamelis, administered both locally and internally, is of especial value. The following prescription will here be helpful:

℞ Specific Medicine Hamamelis, gtt. xx, well diluted with water.
Four times a day will suffice.

APPRECIATIVE WORDS FROM A VETERAN IN PRACTICE

I have been rereading the Lobelia number of THE GLEANER, and have decided that if only half the good things said about Subculoyd Lobelia are true, that I must never be without it. Have not been able to get it here in my home town, so am sending for it back to Cincinnati, where I graduated in medicine in 1878, Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery, then located on George Street. I have practiced since 1875, now more than fifty years, and am now doing the largest and most successful practice of all my life. If any of my classmates are living, I would be glad to hear from them. I may perhaps be the only one left.

I am using a large number of your Specific Medicines.

Comment: We much appreciate this letter from an old friend, and congratulate him in that he is not only now in active practice, but is, as he reports, having the largest and most successful practice of his whole life. Such a record is one of which he may well be proud.

The Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery is no longer in existence, as is true of most of the other medical colleges that once flourished in Cincinnati.

Of the entire number, the Eclectic Medical College is the only one still maintaining its existence as a separate entity, all the others having either been abandoned altogether or merged in the Medical Department of the University of Cincinnati.

Should this item by chance meet the eye of one of our correspondent's classmates, it will give us much pleasure to put them in touch with each other.

SPECIFIC MEDICINE IRIS

(To Dispense)

Question: I have always had trouble in dispensing Specific Medicine Iris. When added to water, as directed on the label, it always comes to the top. How can this be avoided?

Reply: The difficulty mentioned is due to the fact that Iris carries as one of its chief constituents a characteristic oil, upon which it depends largely for its therapeutic value. When the Specific Medicine Iris is added to water, this oil precipitates and floats upon the water. Directions should therefore be given to shake or stir the mixture thoroughly before each dose is taken, that the full value of the remedy may be taken with each dose.

Our studies in the field of Colloidal Chemistry have enabled us to make many of the Specific Medicines which formerly made an unsightly mixture when added to water, now to mix clear in that menstruum. These medicines are known as "Colloidums." Iris has not as yet been added to this list.

Contents of Gleaner No. XXIX

Every number of THE GLEANER should be carefully preserved. We are continually receiving calls for back numbers, which can seldom be supplied.

Aesculus. Horse Chestnut.....	952, 968	Iron. Lloyd's with Cactus as Heart Tonic	954
Ailanthus, Action of.....	965	Lloyd's Dosage Should be Small.....	947
Alisma Plantago, Water Plantain.....	910	Iron. Lloyd's. in Combination with Other	
Anemia, Lloyd's Iron in	945	Remedies.....	947
Apocynum in Dropsy.....	949, 960	Iron. Lloyd's with Nux Vomica.....	954
Appreciative Words from a Veteran Physi-		Iron. Lloyd's, Therapeutic Uses of, Edi-	
cian	971	torial	945-947
Asclepias, Domestic Uses of	950, 963	Iron. Necessity in Animal and Vegetable Life	945
Asclepias in Dropsy	963	Iron. Various Preparations of	946, 947, 948
Atrophy, Muscular, from Spinal Concussion	955 .	Iris. Specific Medicine, Dispensing of.....	972
Bee Sting, Gelsemium in	962	Lloyd's Iron. see "Iron."	
Bee Sting, Libradol in.....	950	Lloyd's Hydrastis in Nasal Treatments	967
Blood Pressure High. Lobelia in	959	Literature and Specific Medicines Appreci-	
Bryonia, Indications for	965	ated	969, 970
Bryonia, Often Combined with Gelsemium..	966	Lobelia in High Blood Pressure	959
By-Products in Vegetation, Importance of.....	961	Lobelia. Importance in Medicine	949
Cactus in Angina. Dosage.....	954	Lobelia, Subculoyd, iu Angina.....	955
Cactus, Importance of	948	Melilotus, Action of.	966
Cardiac Dropsy	949, 960	Mercury in Combination, Varying Effects of.....	961
Childbirth, Remedies Helpful in.....	963	Mulleined Oil in Ear Troubles	961
Chlorine in Combination. Varying Effects of	961	Mulleined Oil, Historical Note Regarding.....	950
Colloidal Nature of the Specific Medi-		Nasal Treatment with Lloyd's Hydrastis.....	967
cines.....	952, 956	Nux Vomica, Action on Vocal Cords	948
Collinsonia, Specific Medicine	952, 956, 970	Nux Vomica vs. Strychnine.....	948, 953
Colloidal Nature of the Specific Medicines..	956..	Nux Vomica. with Lloyd's Iron.....	954
Colloidal Oenanthe in Epilepsy.....	951, 966	Oenanthe, Action of Drug	966
"Colloider," and the "Colloidums"	952, 956	Oenanthe, Colloidal, in Epilepsy	951, 966
Combining Remedies in Prescriptions	966	Oily Precipitates in Dispensing	972
Congestion. Lloyd's Iron in	946	Pain Relieving Medicines.....	951, 965
Dialysis and Electro-Dialysis	952, 969	Paregoric Habit. A Sufferer from.....	957
Dioscorea, Where Most Useful	966	Piles, Internal and Local Treatment.....	970
Dropsy, Cardiac	949, 960	Pinworms, Hone Chestnut in.....	968
Dropsy, Asclepias in	963	Precipitates, Oily, in Dispensing.....	972
Echafolta Cream, Uses.....	964	Pulsatilla, Indications for.....	965
Echinacea in Scorpion Stings	961	Pulsatilla Compatible with Melilotus.....	966
Electro Dialysis, Defined.....	969	Pulsatilla Incompatible with Gelsemium.....	966
End Reactions.....	947	Salicylic Acid and the Salicylates	950, 960
Epilepsy, Colloidal Oenanthe in.....	951, 966	Salicylates, Importance of By-Products in	960
Fevers, Tonsillitis, etc., Lloyd's Iron in.....	964	Scorpion Stings, Echinacea in.....	950, 961
Gelbia in Childbirth.	963	Specific Medicines. What Are They?	955
Gelsemium in Bee Sting	962	Strychnine. When Preferred to Nux Vomica	953
Gelsemium Compatible with Bryonia.....	966	Strychnine. Action Compared with that of	
Gelsemium Incompatible with Pulsatilla	966	Nux	953
Gelsemium as Pain Reliever.....	965	Subculoyd Lobelia in Angina.....	955
Hamamelis in Hemorrhoids.....	971	Swamp Milkweed, Uses of.....	964
Handy Reference Book, Opinions Concerning	959..	Tomato as a Food.....	949
Helenium, Domestic Uses of	957	Tomato in Relation to Cancer	949
Helenium as Adulterant for Echinacea.....	949	Tomato Pill	958
Honey Bee Stings, Treatment.....	950, 962	Tomato in Therapy	949, 958
Horse Chestnut for Pinworms.....	968	Urticaria, Chronic, Treatment	958

Horse Chestnut and the Buckeye.....	952	Water Plantain, Alisma Plantago	1970
Hydrastia. Lloyd's, Jor Nasal Troubles	967	"Wild Root"	952. 970

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In July we introduced to the medical profession of America a new form of Iron and Phosphorus, designed to parallel the Iron and Phosphorus in vegetation. This preparation is

A COMPOUND OF IRON AND PHOSPHORUS

One of its characteristics is that, in medicinal doses, vegetable liquids carrying tannates are not blackened. It is not unpleasant to the taste. Does not color the tongue or stain the teeth. Other advantages, characteristics and doses with full directions for use are named on the label. Standard size bottle six ounces, each carrying 2618 medium doses, price one-dollar.

Never have we introduced a new therapeutic agent that met such immediate professional favor. Will be stocked by all jobbers and physician supply houses.

LLOYD BROTHERS, PHARMACISTS INC.
CINCINNATI, OHIO

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For several years, owing to the uncertainty of commercial Strophanthus Seed, we have declined to make or supply any preparation of Strophanthus.

Having obtained a limited supply of the seed which we believe to be the species on which the reputation of the Specific Medicine Strophanthus was founded, we are

now able to supply our patrons through their dealers with this preparation put up in 4 oz. bottles with direction for use.

LLOYD BROTHERS, PHARMACISTS INC.
CINCINNATI, OHIO