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DISEASES

OF THE

ALIMENTARY CANAL.

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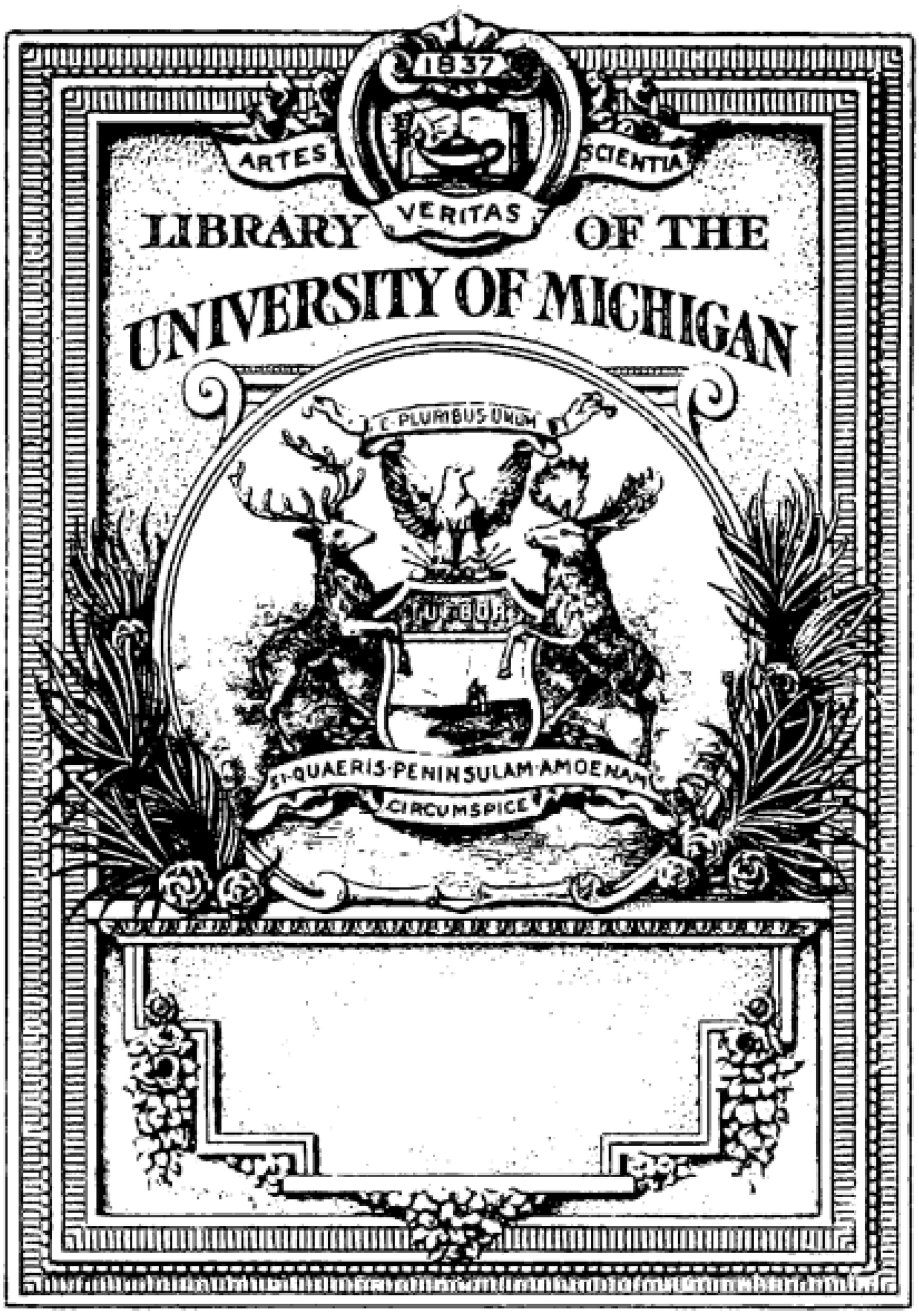

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DISEASES

OF THE

ALIMENTARY CANAL

AND

CONSTIPATION,

TREATED HOMŒOPATHICALLY.

By W. BROACKES, M.D. AND M.R.C.S.

WITH

PREFACE AND NOTES

By GIDEON HUMPHREY, M.D.

ALSO

AN ESSAY ON HOMŒOPATHIC DIET.

PHILADELPHIA:

J. DOBSON, 106 CHESTNUT STREET.

1841.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
Advertisement,	vi
Preface,	ix
Structure of the First Passages,	13
Their Derangements,	14
Exercise and Mechanical Means to Remedy these,	15
Aphthæ—Thrush,	16
Stomacace—Ulcerated Gums,	18
Bad Breath,	20
Flatulence,	20
Spasms of the Stomach,	21
Vomiting,	23
Derangement of the Stomach,	24
Dyspepsia and Hepatic Affections,	42
Obstruction in the Intestinal Canal,	46
Constipation,	51
Colic,	61
Hemorrhoids,	67
Enteritis, or Intestinal Inflammation,	87

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Diarrhœa, ... 94
Dysentery, ... 105
Sporadic Cholera, ... 114
Asiatic Cholera, ... 115
Cholerine, ... 119
Worms, ... 123
Homœopathic Diet and Regimen, . . 127

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THERE is, perhaps, nothing in London life so remarkable as its combination of epicurean and sedentary habits. Its diseases, as remarkably, are precisely those which should arise from such causes; namely, affections of the abdominal viscera. These diseases, however, do not in general arise immediately from the habits now mentioned, but chiefly from such habits at once overloading and rendering torpid the intestinal canal, or producing constipation.

Constipation may, accordingly, be reckoned the parent of metropolitan disease. It abounds in every district, in every age, and in every profession; and its consequences tend, perhaps, more than those of any other affection to embitter life and render it burdensome; for it is not only in

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its evident effects that we must regard it—in dyspepsia, affections of the liver, diarrhœa, dysentery, &c.; but in its less direct, though not less sure, influence on the circulating and the nervous system.

Constipation, happily, is peculiarly under the control of reformed Homœopathy; and scarcely less happily, it brings its beneficent aid without any of the pills, potions and boluses, which constitute so disgusting and hateful a tax on social indulgences, and which poison even their happiest moments by anticipations of the frightful and inevitable future.

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PREFACE

TO THE AMERICAN EDITION.

AMONG the numerous and valuable Homœopathic works which have been published on the various affections incident to the human system, there has not as yet been presented to the American public, one treating exclusively of diseases of the alimentary canal.

The book, now offered to the public, has the advantage of being confined strictly to the disease called Constipation and its accompanying train of phenomena which present themselves in the various organs of the body. These are treated of in a plain and practical manner, and, without doubt, it will be found a valuable little work of reference to the practitioner.

Knowing the distressing character of the

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disease, to which our author's remarks are confined, and consequently the utility of a work specially treating of the subject, the Editor has no hesitation in offering this to the reader, hoping, at the same time, that the principles which it lays down, and the treatment it inculcates, may be found to answer every purpose for which it is intended.

As regards the most advisable dilutions in which remedies may be exhibited, a great diversity of opinion is entertained. As it is altogether a matter of experience, the physician, almost universally, regulates his mode of prescription by the results which may have attended his observations in his own individual practice.

Dr. Ruckert says on this point, "In respect to the doses, most generally, I make use of the first dilutions, and never exceed the twelfth, giving them in increased volume and repeating them frequently. I have been more successful in this course of treatment, than formerly in the use of the smaller doses." This plan has many adherents, whilst others, as Dr. Gross, &c. vary the dose from the highest down to the lowest preparation.

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If the remedy, properly indicated, be selected for administration, it is of little practical moment what dilution is used, and in a plurality of cases from the twelfth to the thirtieth potence will be found to produce the desired effect.

As a general rule, in cases of patients whose constitutions are very susceptible of medical impressions, it is thought best to administer the higher dilutions, and vice versa. In some particular cases the first dilution may be given with advantage where symptoms appear to demand its exhibition.

So varied are the constitutions of patients, that the *repetition of doses* must depend altogether on the nature of the impression which the remedy may have upon the disease; therefore, the practitioner must rely almost exclusively on his own observation in this instance.

In reference to this subject, however, it may be said, that where the medicine acts in such a manner as to cause suffering to the patient, and it is evident that its operation is only to aggravate the disease in a too powerful manner, great care should be taken in repeating the dose; and where

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there is any sensible degree of improvement it would be highly improper to interfere with the favourable action by administering an additional dose.

As the progress of Homœopathy has every where been marked by valuable acquisitions in the treatment of disease, and as the experience of every day throws increasing light upon the cure of maladies, the Editor has thought proper to make some few practical additions to the work in question.

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DISEASES

OF THE

DIGESTIVE ORGANS

AND

CONSTIPATION,

TREATED HOMŒOPATHICALLY.

THE FIRST PASSAGES.—Few persons are ignorant that these, technically called the primæ viæ, consist of the œsophagus or gullet, the stomach, the small, and the great intestine; that the small intestine, which is of nearly similar diameter throughout, is considered as composed of three portions, the duodenum which commences at the smaller or right extremity of the stomach, the jejunum which is its continuation, and the ilium which, continuing the latter, terminates in the great intestine; and that the great intestine which, though of much greater diameter than the small one, is also nearly similar throughout, is considered as composed likewise of three portions, the cœcum which forms a bag with a vermiform appendix where the small

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intestine opens into it, the colon which is its continuation, forming by far the greater portion of the great intestine—in the arch which ascends on the right side, crosses under the stomach, and descends on the left side, and the rectum which, continuing the latter, terminates at the anus.

It is also well known that there are innumerable apertures, more or less minute, on the whole inner surface of these passages, as well as the openings of ducts from the liver, gall bladder, pancreas, &c. which pour into them digestive and lubricating fluids which blend with the food, convert it into chyme, and facilitate its passage; and likewise that innumerable other apertures on the same surface, form the beginnings of the absorbent vessels, by which the nutritive matter is taken up from the chyme and poured into the great veins near the heart to increase the quantity of the circulating blood.

Such is the general idea of the digestive apparatus, and though it is less complex than some other portions of the organization, it is evidently liable to many causes of derangement, in very different portions of its structure.

Their derangements.—The more obvious causes of intestinal derangement, are evidently errors in the quality and quantity of

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the food we use, and neglect of regular evacuations.

Exercise and mechanical means to remedy these.—To promote evacuation, no means are either so natural or so effective as regular and abundant bodily exercise. In the *metropolis*, and *especially in the city of London*, this is by some imagined to consist in a bustling and merely fatiguing walk through crowded streets; but *no exercise is of much use that does not induce perspiration*—the expulsion of the old and useless or noxious matters of the body, before it is gorged by new ones.

In addition to exercise, it is always beneficial to attempt to obtain evacuations at a stated period of the day. Now, as persons when in good health, have usually an inclination to relieve the bowels soon after breakfast (because the pressure of the distended stomach upon the transverse arch of the colon causes it to contract and propel its contents towards the rectum, which, becoming distended, gives rise to the desire to relieve itself,) this opportunity should never be neglected, for the activity of the absorbents in the bowel soon removes the softer particles, and the bulk being thus reduced, the disposition subsides.

When exercise and this precaution have

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been neglected, and when the bowels remain very inert, accompanied with some degree of hardness and fulness of the lower part of the abdomen, nothing will be more conducive to restoring regularity of the bowels than the use of lavements, in conjunction with Homœopathic remedies.

Perhaps the simplest and best way of considering the affections of the primæ viæ, is to begin with those of the mouth, and to take those of the stomach, intestines, &c., according to the succession of the parts. For that reason, I may first consider:

APHTHÆ.—THRUSH.

These are pustules or vesicles which may have their seat on any part of the membrane which lines the cavity of the mouth. They are sometimes distinct and dispersed, and sometimes approximated, so as occasionally to form a sort of continuous membrane, which entirely covers the tongue, palate, gums and pharynx. The precursory symptoms are great agitation, want of sleep, difficulty of breathing, fœtid breath, hoarse and feeble voice, tongue a little swollen, dry and membranous only in the inside, thirst considerable, burning and redness in the throat and

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mouth, fatigue and somnolence in particular, deadening of the senses. Then appear little points or elevations of a pale or grey colour, which grow by degrees, and form superficial pustules, round, of the size of a millet seed, and filled with a sanious liquid. The viscous mucosities which escape from them soon form little crusts which fall speedily, or at the end of a few hours, and are renewed more or less promptly.

Aphthæ are mild when they are white, pearl-grey, or yellow, transparent, humid, small, easily broken, isolated, when they fall easily and quickly, and affect only the mouth. But frequently they become malignant, and then they are larger, dull, blue, grey, brown, blackish, gangrenous, corroding, fœtid, numerous, close, confluent, covered with a thick and very adhesive substance, or quite dry and hard, re-appearing frequently, and easily invading the pharynx, the intestinal canal, and even the trachea.

The aphthæ which often attack children at the breast are almost always mild. It is these only that we have here to consider: the others are always a consequence of some serious malady.

The most common cause of aphthæ in little children, is food of bad quality, or which does not suit their age.

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The best remedy in this case is a small dose of * *borax*, 30th, which usually dispels the evil in two or three days. We may also administer *acidum sulphuricum*, 30th, and *mercurius vivus*, 12th, if no circumstance contra-indicate their employment.

STOMACACE.—ULCERATED OR FŒTID GUMS.

This name is given to a disease which begins by attacking the mouth, its glands, and the palate.

The first symptoms are stiffness and shootings in the throat, a coppery taste with heat, burning, redness, swelling and extreme sensibility of the gums, the inside of the lips, the cheeks, the tongue and the palate. To these phenomena are afterwards joined a cadaverous smell from the mouth, painful swelling of the glands of the neck, abundant flow from the mouth of saliva, or of viscous and

* *Sulphur* and *mercurius viv.* have been very successful in these cases—occasionally *calc. carb.* or *arsenicum* if attended by diarrhœa.

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fœtid mucus. The gums are spongy, extremely swollen or retracted, the teeth painful, dirty and often loose, mastication, deglutition, speech and respiration painful. There are formed, on the parts affected, small flat ulcerations, very sensible and obstinate. These ulcerations extend; their base is dirty or spongy; their edges are soft, little elevated, inflamed and unequal. In a great number of cases we observe spongy excrescences of different form, colour, consistence and size. Very frequently there flows from the ulcerated and tumefied parts, especially the gums, and particularly when we touch these parts, a putrid sanies, or liquid and deep red blood. At the same time, there is great weakness, and sometimes slight febrile movements.

The best remedy against this disease is *mercurius solubilis*, 12th, which often completely cures it in a few days.*

* *Nitric acid*, given in water and frequently repeated, has been found beneficial in extensive ulceration of the gums, tongue, and cheeks, attended by a repulsive stench from the mouth.

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BAD BREATH.*

The cause of this is often uncleanliness of the teeth; and it consequently disappears if they are cleaned, and if the mouth is rinsed with warm water after eating.

If the odour come from the stomach or lungs, it must be opposed by the following remedies: *carbo animalis*, 5th, *agaricus*, 12th, *iodium*, 30th, if it is observed immediately after washing the mouth with spring water; *ammonium*, 18th, if it is felt by the patient; *baryta*, 18th, if it is strong, but not felt by the patient; and *sulphur*, 6th, if it is augmented after eating.†

FLATULENCE.

I refer here only to such flatulence as depends upon errors of regimen and is of short

* Vide ante.

† If it be accompanied with acidity of the stomach, *lycopodium* and *petrolcum* may be given.

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duration. Flatulence occurs most commonly after eating certain vegetables, especially if these have been taken at the same time with fermented liquors. It does not cause pain, but it swells the abdomen, embarrasses respiration, and usually occasions general uneasiness. *China*, 12th, commonly produces good effects. However, we usually give *nux vomica* in preference to persons of vivid temperament, and *pulsatilla*, 12th, to women of a mild disposition. The latter is also indicated when flatulence follows the use of fat food.

SPASMS OF THE STOMACH.

In certain cases of spasm in the stomach, *bryony* deserves to be noticed as a proper remedy; and the necessity of using it is indicated by the following symptoms: the softest food or liquid occasions a constrictive pain in the stomach, frequently manifested *whilst eating*, or at all events immediately afterwards, accompanied by a sensation as if the epigastric region were swollen; and the ap-

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plication of the hand diminishes or at times removes the pain by producing eructation.

Case.—A man aged thirty-eight, of plethoric habit, suffered sudden and violent pressure at the stomach. He suffered most after eating, with constant numbness and pricking in the hands, and loss of feeling. The patient looked ill, perspired all day, and was very weak and peevish. Paralysis of the upper extremities was dreaded; but two doses of *rhus*, 4th, gutt. 1, at intervals of six days, put a stop to that condition. This was succeeded by a shooting pain across the sternum, which was *increased by motion*, not by respiration, and was most acute when the stomach was empty. The patient constantly suffered a trembling or sensation of leaping in the pit of the stomach. All the symptoms were removed by *bryony*, 6th, gl. 1, one dose.

Very severe spasms in the stomach, griping and twisting pains in the epigastrium, accompanied by vomiting of a clear and acid liquid, towards evening or even night, and sour returns, were cured with *phosp.*, 10th, gutt. 1, administered every third or fourth day. In one case, the spasm was so violent that several medical men believed it to be a schirrus commencing in the pylorus.

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VOMITING.

The treatment of this affection is regulated principally by the causes which produce it, because they determine its nature.

If the vomiting arise from an excess of nourishment, it would be wrong to prevent it by the employment of medicine; for it may be considered as an effort of nature to free the stomach from substances which overload it, and thus to prevent sometimes a serious disease. But it cannot always effect this evacuation, and art is often necessary to assist it.

In vomiting, when it exists not as a symptom of other diseases, but as a dynamic affection arising from the nerves of the stomach, *ipecacuanha* is valuable. This is of frequent occurrence in children, in whom the slightest irritation of the stomach, caused either by food or liquid, suffices to produce immediate vomiting.

In the sickness of pregnant women also, *ipecacuanha* is useful.*

* *Nux vomica* has also been used in these cases where the vomiting is accompanied with aversions, extreme lowness of spirits, and involuntary fits of weeping.

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DERANGEMENT OF THE STOMACH.

This has for its cause excess of nourishment, food and drink which are heavy, indigestible, fat, sour, tainted, &c. Returns either acid or of the same taste with what has been eaten, disgust, heaviness, pressure and pain in the stomach, swelling and fulness of that region, trembling of the lower lip, vertigo, weight of the head, titillation or roughness of the throat, spitting, hæmoptysis, disagreeable taste in the mouth, foul tongue, inclination to vomit, heat in the throat, weakness, anxiety, countenance puffed, pale and sometimes covered with spots of different colours, emission of fœtid air, the urine sometimes mixed with mucus, &c.—such are the symptoms of derangement of the stomach, which usually show themselves some hours after a repast, and speedily terminate by acid vomiting of the nature of the aliments which have been taken, and sometimes of a green colour. However, there often remain for some days, anorexia, pain of the bowels, or diarrhœa.

Nux vomica, 26th, remedies derangements of the stomach caused by nocturnal dissipation, by the abuse of wine and of coffee, or

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by severe cold, and presenting the following symptoms: sensation of vertigo, confusion of the head, heaviness in the back of the head, shooting pains in the molar teeth, ringing in the ears, heat in the face, red and distinct efflorescences on the forehead, the nose, and the angles of the mouth, tongue white and loaded, dryness of the mouth, with thirst, much mucus in the mouth, heat of the throat, want of appetite, loss of taste, nausea, much water in the mouth, vomiting, colics, pressure at the stomach, tension in the abdomen, constipation, agitated sleep, want of disposition for intellectual labour, general relaxation, shootings in the limbs, discontent, querulous disposition, and internal agitation.

Case I.—Mrs. B. had for some years been suffering from her stomach, which refused almost every thing: the matters vomited were bitter and sour. The patient became daily thinner, and looked worse, and indeed had altogether the appearance of being very ill.

Six doses of *nux vomica* in solution were administered, and to her great astonishment she found herself so much relieved that she not only digested her food, but speedily recovered her plumpness and her strength.

Case II.—Mrs. S. had been an invalid for

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a year. She could not eat any thing without vomiting immediately, and if the vomitings did not occur naturally, it was necessary to stimulate them, from a feeling as if the stomach would burst. Sometimes vomiting took place immediately after eating, at others not for several hours. The matters discharged were sour and bitter: at times the patient vomited first water and a glairy matter, and afterwards the food she had taken. The motions were difficult and hard. The flatulence did not escape, but caused pricking pains on each side. The least pressure upon the region of the stomach was painful. The slightest motion appeared likely to produce suffocation, because the cramp in the stomach rose to the neck, and caused contractions. There were frequent cramps in the calves of the legs, especially at night, loss of strength and substance, complexion disordered.

Nux vomica was given in dilution, a dose every hour: four sufficed to cure her.

Cramp of the stomach, connected with this derangement, is curable by the same means.

This disease is very common, usually without fever, long and intermittent, attacking chiefly women, and appearing sometimes to be hereditary. In the beginning, it is merely a pressure, a very disagreeable constriction and pinching in the region affected,

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especially at the pit of the stomach and the left side, and sometimes in the back. Afterwards, the pains become very sensible, tearing, burning, insupportable, and are felt even in the gullet. In their highest degree of intensity, they are dreadful, accompanied by constriction, twisting, anxiety, oppression, dartings in the breast and back. The attack remains at first for some minutes, then for a quarter of an hour, an hour, and even for half a day, and it often ends by vomiting. The pain usually disappears when the stomach is empty or contains only light and mild food, and it returns after a repast. It is increased in an erect position: the leaning forward or being bent, and even pressure mitigates it. Sometimes the region of the stomach is rather hard and swollen, more commonly it is contracted, very seldom is it sensible or tense. A disposition to vomit is commonly observed, but it is not always followed by vomiting. The latter produces a brief alleviation. Cramps of the stomach are more or less obstinate according to their cause; and they sometimes resist for a long time the best directed treatment. They often disappear for several weeks, and return again at regular periods.

The usual causes of this disease, are errors of regimen often and long reiterated,

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irregularity of eating and drinking, abuse of spirituous liquors and coffee, vexation, anger, frequent chills, especially of the feet.

The remedies to be opposed to this disease, are *nux*, *ignatia*, *pulsatilla*, and *crude coffee*. The complete cure sometimes requires the use of antipsorics; but it is then necessary that an able physician should direct their administration.

Nux vomica, 30th, particularly suits persons who are addicted to the use of coffee and spirituous liquors, especially when we observe in them the following symptoms: constriction, pressure, tightening, cramps in the stomach, with a sensation as if the dress compressed the body in that region, a sensation which may be compared also to that produced by much flatulence in the left side, under the ribs, a tightening of the chest, which in many cases extends between the shoulders and the loins, nausea especially during the attack, much water in the mouth, returns of sour bitter liquid, with or without burning in the pharynx, palpitations of the heart with anxiety, acid or putrid taste, constipation, swelling of the abdomen by flatulence, sometimes head-ache on one side, sometimes also pressive pain in the forehead. If the remedy has diminished the symptoms, without making them entirely disappear, a

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second dose must be given at the end of three or four days, and afterwards a third one.

Sometimes this state of the stomach is connected with hepatic affection and is similarly remedied.

Case.—Mr. B., aged twenty-eight, of good constitution and bilious-sanguine temperament, was seized suddenly on the 19th of July, 1836, with a violent constrictive pain in the epigastrium, and vomiting, consequent upon great mental affliction. His stomach rejected all food both solid and liquid almost immediately. The epigastric pain was incessant and not increased by pressure. The tongue was in its natural state, the patient having neither thirst nor appetite. The circulation was in no way disordered, but there was suborbital cephalalgia and general uneasiness. The skin had a very marked icteric complexion.

On the morning of the 20th of July, all these symptoms had been in operation for twelve hours. Three globules of *nux vomica* of the twenty-fourth dilution, dissolved in two spoonfuls of water were then administered. The same evening the pain was greatly relieved, the vomitings had ceased, and the patient took some broth without experiencing any inconvenience. The following morning

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there was no symptom of gastralgia remaining; nor has it reappeared since.

In this case, *nux vomica* effected a speedy and desirable cure, because it was exactly in accordance with the occasional cause, namely, with the mental distress and temperament of the patient, with his moral condition, and also with the cephalalgia, epigastric pain, vomitings, and even with the icteric complexion of the skin.

Sometimes this state is connected with hemorrhoidal and menstrual affection, and may be similarly treated with advantage. Indeed, spasms in the stomach, resulting either from plethora and sanguine congestions in the abdomen, or simply from increased sensibility of the nerves of the stomach may be treated with *nux vomica*. The former case is met with more frequently than the latter, and then the spasm of the stomach is found to be connected either with hemorrhoids or irregular menstruation, in such a manner that the customary sanguine congestions towards the hemorrhoidal or uterine vessels are disordered.

Case.—A lady, aged twenty-four, had been suffering for seven years from pains in the stomach; during the whole of which time she had taken nothing but cold milk, as other

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aliment produced the most violent pains in the stomach, spasms, nausea and vomiting. In addition, she laboured under a flow of blood towards the head, pressive head-ache, dimness of sight, *hemorrhoids*, general coldness of the body, especially of the hands, feet, *suppression of the menses* during five years, great irritability, and meagreness of habit. Eight doses of *nux*, 8th, 3, one daily before bedtime, and four of *bryony*, 8th, 3, sufficed to diminish the disease to such an extent, that the patient after fourteen days of this treatment, was able to eat roast fowl and roast beef, without experiencing any pain or heaviness at the stomach.

Sometimes this state is connected with affections of the head.

Spasm in the stomach, with nausea and eructation, acid and bitter vomitings, anxiety and oppression of the chest, *palpitation of the heart*, contraction of the abdomen, blind hemorrhoids, bilious temperament, may often be cured by *calcar. carbon.*

A female, aged twenty-eight, experienced frequent frontal head-ache, followed by bilious vomitings, pressure at the stomach as if caused by a stone, pain in the right hypochondrium, becoming pressive and shooting upon stooping, motions unfrequent, difficult and hard, menstruation painful, continuing for

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eight or ten days, followed by hemorrhoidal tumours, weakness, perspiration and agitated sleep, was cured in eight days by two doses of *coccul.*, 6th, gl. 1.

Pulsatilla is particularly suitable when a repast is composed of aliments which are *fat*, and when it presents the following symptoms: taste bitter, salt or putrid mucus in the mouth, roughness in the throat, bilious returns, want of appetite, repugnance to warm food, fulness of the stomach, swelling of the abdomen, tension below the last ribs, borborygmi, constipation, or at least slow, difficult and scanty evacuation, shivering, depression, shooting in the limbs, and ill humour.

Case.—A patient experienced a sensation of tightness above the navel as if the intestines were inflated. At times, there was a round lump as large as a fist, hard and prominent, the bowels painful at the slightest touch, very painful pricking pains on each side of the abdomen, feet cold, head burning, febrile irritation, frequent tendency to sickness, followed at times by vomiting. This disease, which attacked the patient more especially in the evening, arose in the first instance from *cold*.

In cases of this sort, *pulsatilla* is an actual

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specific; the exhibition of it is generally followed by sleep, and the patient awakes perfectly cured. The attack may return, but at all events the intervals are long.

Some persons who are very irritable, extremely sensible, and subject to spasmodic and nervous accidents, are often attacked, from causes slight in appearance, with a vomiting of viscous and whitish mucus, usually preceded by vertigo and pains in the abdomen, followed by diarrhœa. *Pulsatilla*, 18th, and *cocculus*, 24th, are successfully employed in these cases.

The derangement of the stomach may have been caused by *anger preceding a repast*. The following are the circumstances which present themselves in this case: heat and redness in the face, painful head-ache, redness of the eyes with burning, general excitement of the nervous system, great sensibility, loss of appetite, continued bitter taste in the mouth, bilious eructations, vomiting of green and bilious matters, colics, depression, agitated sleep, frequent awaking. *Chamomilla*, 12th, and, if that be not sufficient, *pulsatilla*, 18th, are then the best remedies.

Bryonia alba, 18th, is applicable to cases in which the emotion still remains, and in which the sensation of *cold* is joined to the preceding symptoms. If the anger have been

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accompanied by great fear, *aconite*, 24th, is the specific.

When the nervous system is very irritable, and the *sensibility increased*, good effects are obtained from *chamomilla*, 12th, especially when the patient complains of pressure in the region of the stomach, of painful swelling at the pit of the stomach and of the left side, of asthma and of anxiety. It should also be observed, that a little *coffee* usually mitigates this kind of pain; while it is injurious in others which yield to the use of *nux vomica*. *Chamomilla* has no effect in persons who have used much camomile tea: it must then be replaced by *ignatia*, *pulsatilla* and *coffee*.

Arnica, 6th, is administered if the derangement of the stomach arise from a *general and continued excitement* of the nervous system caused by distress of mind, watching, excess in pleasure, fatigue of the body, and if it be accompanied by the following symptoms: vertigo, pain in the head, especially above the orbits, stupefaction, heat in the head, dryness of the tongue, sour or bitter taste in the mouth, desire for acids, tongue loaded with a yellowish matter, taste of what has been eaten, fulness at the pit of the stomach, nausea, flatulence, weight in all the members, disagreeable heat, agitated sleep, frequent awaking, starting during sleep,

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anxious and distressing dreams. We may also give *nux vomica*, 30th, and *chamomilla*, 12th, if there be no circumstance which contra-indicates their use.

We observe in the spring, particularly in persons who dwell in humid places, near stagnant waters, marshes, &c., a particular derangement of the stomach, of which the following are the characters: loss of appetite, continual satiety, a heaviness and fulness of the abdomen, eructations, depression, weakness, vertigo, dull head-ache, sometimes heats, alternating with shiverings, turbid and cloudy urine, sensibility to external impressions, agitated sleep, ill humour. This state is, in many cases, the forerunner of fever, which may be prevented by *china*, 24th.

When in these affections there is some inflammatory tendency, *belladonna* is invaluable.

Case I.—In this case, the female was pregnant; and spasms occurred frequently, each time with increased intensity. There occurred violent spasmodic pain in the pit of the stomach, and left hypochondrium, with vomiting; general soreness of the abdomen, violent pressure downwards towards the pelvis, with frequent desire to micturate; face red, swollen and heated; eyes fixed, pupils

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dilated; partial loss of consciousness; occasional movements and moaning produced by the violence of the pain. A few doses of *bellad.* 5th, effectually removed the disease.

Case II.—A man had been suffering for forty-eight hours under hiccough and vomiting. The sensibility of the stomach was so great as to reject even a spoonful of water. Opium and lavements were inadequate to remove the symptoms or the constipation. The face was red and burning, and the body bathed in a cold perspiration. *Belladonna*, 10th, was immediately administered. At the end of three hours, the vomiting had ceased, but the hiccough still remained and continued even during sleep. In order to free himself from this distressing symptom, the patient had, during his attendant's absence, drank a few cups of strong camomile tea. But as the camomile counteracted the action of the belladonna, all these symptoms reappeared during the night, the hiccough in particular more violently than before. There was then administered a cup of coffee, as an antidote to the camomile; and a few hours after a homœopathic dose of belladonna. By the evening, all the symptoms had ceased, and they never recurred.

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Case III.—A female had been long suffering from spasms in the stomach, with frequent nausea and vomiting, after eating or drinking, from which she was relieved only by partial or total abstinence. At the same time with the spasms in the stomach, she experienced shooting pains in the chest and vicinity of the heart, and frequently so violent a constriction of the chest as to impede respiration. During the attack, she experienced anxiety, heat, head-ache, perspiration and pains in the back. This disease which had for months baffled the resources of allopathic treatment, yielded in a few days to two doses of *belladonna*, followed by a few doses of *nux vomica*.

When burning pain accompanies these affections, *arsenicum album* is successfully employed.

Case I.—An unmarried female, aged forty-five, an invalid since puberty, suffered from various diseases, such as painful and irregular menstruation, leucorrhœa, hemorrhoids, induration of the liver, spasms in the stomach, alternation of constipation and diarrhœa, arthritic shootings, especially in the head, &c. She had been continually taking medicines chiefly of a heating and drastic nature. Suddenly she was seized with ex-

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treme pains and fever. The pains were felt chiefly in the pit of the stomach, in the hepatic and hypogastric regions, and in the loins: the other parts of the bowels were sore, and there was constant vomiting, extreme thirst, inexpressible anxiety and agitation. After the vomiting and pain had ceased in the pit of the stomach and the region of the loins, they increased in the hypogastrium and haunches, in which parts the pains were burning and severe. The hypogastrium was unable to endure the slightest touch, and was swollen, hard, distended and hot. Shootings existed in the rectum, heat in the tumefied hœmorrhoidal swellings, motions liquid, with tenesmus, sharp burning pains, especially in the lower part of the pelvis, fever, dryness of the mouth, inclination to vomit, thirst, sleeplessness, anxiety, agitation and palpitations of the heart.—*Ars.* 30th, (3 doses) acted instantaneously upon the affection, by producing a marked homœopathic aggravation, but without any sensible improvement. After a few days, there was a sudden cessation of pain, and a discharge of several glassfuls of thick pus from the bowels: this discharge ceased gradually at the end of six or eight days, and the patient speedily recovered.

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Case II.—An aged female, who had often suffered from spasms in the stomach, had not for several months passed a single day free from pains in the epigastrium and back. These pains gradually increased, and were succeeded by vomitings occurring several times in the day, so that the sufferer could take nothing without vomiting immediately, or at the end of a few hours, with increase of pain. She sometimes even vomited when the stomach was empty. At the same time, she lost substance visibly; and finally weakness and incessant pain confined her to bed. The pain was constrictive and burning; the pit of the stomach distended and painful to the touch, with constipation; the tongue clean, throat dry, thirst, sleeplessness. A few doses of *ars.* 30th, administered at long intervals, obviated for a long time this chronic gastritis, which was doubtless accompanied by a tendency to the production of scirrhus.

Case III.—Inflammation of the stomach was cured by *ars.*, 10th, gl. 1; twelve hours after which was administered *coloc.* 10th, gl. 1; and the same again sixteen hours afterwards. The patient, who was sixty years of age, complained of extreme burning pain in the pit of the stomach, so great that

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he could not even endure the contact of the clothes, and his stomach rejected immediately every thing that he took; pulse small and quick; the patient extremely restless. The cure was rapid, without any other application.

Chronic Indigestion.—In a case of continual swelling of the epigastrium arising from wind, difficulty of breathing in the morning, but more especially after meals, eructation, sensation of sickness, occasional vomiting, continual pressure, periodical heat in the stomach, and constriction of the abdomen, were almost instantly relieved by two or three doses of *sulphur*.

Tinct. sulph. not diluted, gl. 1, repeated every eighth day has cured many severe cases of heart-burn in young persons. One case of this was so serious that the patient began to lose substance, as he could take nothing but a little broth. Two doses cured him: acids had been found useless.

A female, between thirty and forty, had for twelve years been suffering from nausea and vomiting, immediately after breakfasting, and very often after dinner. Besides this, she complained of shooting and tightness of the chest, with a dry cough, darting pain in the forehead, stupifying vertigo, cold in the hands and feet, and pains in the abdomen.

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Fifteen days use of the *tincture of sulph.* and *ipecacuanha* stopped the sickness: *ars.* and *con.* removed the cough and all other symptoms.

Affections of the stomach arising from lead require the employment of its proper antidote.

Mr. N., a house-painter, aged thirty, of sanguine temperament, after mixing colours for some days for a great number of workmen, was seized with colic, to which he paid little attention. At the end of three days, however, he fell into such a state of disease and suffering, that he exhibited the following symptoms:—dull, obtuse pain extending from the middle of the stomach to the epigastrium, not increased by pressure, dry tongue, vomiting of mucus and bile, obstinate constipation, pulse contracted and quick, respiration difficult, face pale, with convulsive movements of the extremities.

Opium being an antidote to lead, and one of the best homœopathic remedies in cases of constipation, four globules, 12th, were dissolved in four spoonfuls of water, to be taken every hour, and the same at night. Next morning, the patient was generally more easy; but the pain and vomiting remained the same. *Alumine*, 30th, 5, were administered in three spoonsful of water, to be taken

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every hour, when the vomiting ceased. On the third day, as the colic and constipation still remained, *opium*, 4th, one drop, in a spoonful of water was prescribed. The relief was very marked, and the patient himself observed that the medicine seemed to grapple with the disease. As the constipation, however, still continued, three other tea-spoonsful, with tincture of *opium*, were administered during the day, increasing each dose one drop, so that the last dose consisted of four drops. After a difficult evacuation, composed of a small quantity of hardened matter, the patient enjoyed a comfortable sleep, and awoke convalescent on the following morning, being the fourth day.

DYSPEPSIA AND HEPATIC AFFECTIONS.

I think it necessary to remark, "and my long experience convinces me," that there are no cases in which the homœopathic treatment is more singularly beneficial than in affections of the liver, stomach and bowels.

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Case I.—A lady in delicate health, who had suffered from dyspepsia for several years, and latterly from disease of the liver, was labouring under the following symptoms:—frequent giddiness, dull pain with pressure in the forehead, face flushed, sleepiness even after breakfast, tongue yellow, thirst, acid eructations, weight in the stomach much increased after eating, acute pain in the region of the liver augmented upon pressure, dull pain in the loins, bowels constipated, no relief without purgatives latterly of the most drastic kind, feet cold, pulse quick and hard, nervous system highly excitable.

The acute pain in the liver with inflammation, and the condition of the pulse indicated the use of *aconit.* 30th, which was repeated three times a day for three or four days, when the pulse became subdued, and the liver much less painful.

Bryon. 30th, was ordered every night for a week, and subsequently every alternate night for another fortnight. During the action of the *bryony*, the symptoms gradually diminished; the bowels became regular, and at the end of several months no medicine was required, and digestion had so much improved, that she recovered her strength and former healthy appearance.

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Case II.—A solicitor, whose avocation confined him much to his office, was annoyed with stomach complaint to such extent that he could scarcely eat the most digestible food without producing great uncomfortableness both mental and bodily. He complained of heaviness in the head, pain in the temples, sleepiness after dinner, appetite bad, bitter taste in the mouth, cough with oppression of the chest, palpitation of the heart, distention of the stomach after eating, so as to require the clothes to be loosened, constipation sometimes alternating with diarrhœa, spirits depressed, at other times irritable.

Thuya, 10th, was given daily, and succeeded by *pulsatilla*, 6th. Under this treatment, the improvement was gradual and permanent.

Case III.—A gentleman complained of head-ache, particularly in the occiput, stiffness in the nape of the neck, tongue dry and furred, appetite bad, flatulence, pain in the stomach much greater when fasting, bowels irregular.

Although these symptoms had continued many months, they yielded under the influence of *baryt. carb.*, 6th, every second morning, followed by a few doses of *staphisagria*, 10th.

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Case IV.—A lady had for many years suffered most severely from a stomach affection, which had latterly increased to such an extent that all food was immediately rejected, even fluids not being always retained; the pain in the stomach most distressing, much increased upon pressure, distention of the stomach and bowels, eructations, and severe dull pain between the shoulders and in right side, copious secretion of aqueous fluid from the mouth, violent fits of coughing both day and night, more particularly on lying down and after taking nourishment. During one of these attacks, she ejected a large quantity of black blood, twelve or fourteen ounces at least; pulse quick, small, hard.

Aconite, 6th, dissolved in water, was given every ten or fifteen minutes, until the pulse became soft and less frequent, when *bryony*, 10th, followed by *nux*, 10th, daily, removed the pain and vomiting. This patient had long suffered from disease of the liver, and had consulted several of the most eminent men of the present day with no relief.

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OBSTRUCTION IN THE INTESTINAL CANAL.

This is a morbid state of which the principal symptom is a superabundant secretion of mucus, in consequence of weakness of the digestive organs. This affection, the result of a sedentary life, of a moist and unhealthy atmosphere, of painful emotions, or some other malady, attacks especially infants, women and old men, and occurs chiefly in autumn. The secretion may have its principal seat in the stomach, or in the intestinal canal; but this produces little difference in the symptoms, which are generally the following: —want of appetite, thirst, sweetish nauseous taste, abundant secretion of viscous saliva, a white, thick coating on the tongue, much mucus about the teeth, paleness of the face, depression, fulness at the pit of the stomach, swelling of the abdomen, sometimes vomiting of mucus; when the evil reaches a great degree of intensity, it is frequently accompanied by diarrhœa or colic.

Nux vomica, 30th, is the most efficacious remedy against this affection, especially when it has for its predominant symptoms cramps in the stomach, much water of an

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acid taste in the mouth, vomiting of mucus of an acid odour, slowness of the movements of the intestinal canal.

We employ, nearly with the same success, *veratrum album*, 12th, chiefly when the matters vomited contain bile as well as mucus, or when these have a greenish yellow colour and a bitter taste.

Tartar emetic is indicated when vomiting is joined to a disposition to mucous evacuations.

Rheum, 9th, is used when there is softness and fulness of the abdomen, frequent alvine evacuations of brown matter, mixed with mucus, and tensive sensation at the pit and in the region of the stomach.

Pulsatilla, 12th, is employed in irritable and delicate persons, if accompanied by shivering, frequent vomiting of mucus, and mucous evacuations.

Antimonium crudum, 9th, is used when we observe great weakness and extraordinary slowness of digestion.

Ferrum and *china* are also employed with success, especially when the disease arises from the abuse of laxatives.

Ipecacuanha, 3d, is especially efficacious in almost all cases of obstruction, and may be administered in repeated doses.

Many patients suffering under affections of

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the abdomen, experience pains in the stomach and liver, jaundice, abdominal obstructions, hemorrhoidal tumours, &c. These affections are of frequent occurrence, especially in persons from forty to fifty years of age, and of sedentary habits. In such cases, *nux* administered daily or every two days, is always found more useful than any other means; though, at times, the symptoms have required other remedies, such as *calcar.*, *bryon.*, *sulph.*, *lycopod.*, *sepia*, *graphit.*, *silic.*, *carb. veget.*, *phosph.**

Case I.—One of the patients, who was always obliged to remain in a sitting position, was reduced by the affection almost to despair. The chief symptoms were obstruction of the liver, jaundice, hemorrhoids, constipation, flatus, puffing of the abdomen, severe pains on the right side of the chest, continuing for several hours and extending to the middle of the thorax and to the hips, impeding and frequently preventing respiration, ceasing for some time and again commencing more powerfully than before, both by night and day. During the spasmodic attacks, the pulse was beating one hundred

* *Nux* alternated with *sulphur*, will be found to be the best remedy in such cases.

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and twenty times in a minute, the face became red and the head confused, terminating in oppressive head-ache. This condition had existed for four years, without any remedy affording relief. *Acon.*, *nux*, *coloc.*, *ars.*, *carbo an.* and *veget.*, and *phosph.* performed a perfect cure in less than six weeks.

Case II.—A young man, who had been hypochondriacal for some years, and had become weak and emaciated, complained of hemorrhoidal affections, frequent colic, constipation, wind, spasms of the abdomen and chest, with loss of sleep. He had become restless, timid, morose and often very irritable. A few doses of *nux*, *phosphorus* and *nux* again, combined with *anacardium*, removed the principal symptoms; the evacuations became regular, the appetite and digestion improved, the spasms ceased, the system gained strength, physically as well as morally.

Case III.—A female had been suffering for five years under almost daily darting pains on the right lower region of the abdomen, which extended as far as the loins and back; there were hemorrhoids, frequent tenesmus, constipation, flatulence, swelling of the bowels, legs and feet, accompanied

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with pain, coldness of the hands and feet, character susceptible, morose and depressed. Three months exhibited a cure by the use of *sulphur*, *nux*, *coloc.*, *phosph.*, *nux* and *phosph.* again.

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CONSTIPATION.

This is a very common disease. Its severity varies with the causes which produce it. Sometimes it is an accessory of other affections, or the consequence, as already observed, of some organic change in the intestines.

The most common constipations, which continue during several days without being accompanied with any other accident, have generally for their cause the too scanty secretion of the liquids necessary in digestion, or a particular weakness of the intestines. They attack chiefly women and old men, and are occasioned by a sedentary life, a dry kind of nourishment, advanced pregnancy, the abuse of remedies, or a predisposition resulting from previous constipations.

Constipation is always accompanied more or less with other affections of the abdomen; the difficulty, however, of discovering them renders it necessary for the practitioner to

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undertake a careful examination of the patient. Frequently we find the patient suffering also from a sensation of fulness or oppression at the stomach and epigastric region after eating, and that for several hours; frequently also there exists a ravenous appetite followed by nausea, temporary heat in the face and a pressive pain in the head. In these cases, high dilutions are preferable to low, because they speedily remove the disease without producing accessory symptoms.

The treatment is regulated according to the causes of the affection.

Opium, 6th, is very salutary in case of a simple constipation, which does not originate from an internal disposition or a malady of long duration, but from external circumstances, particularly from those which have a debilitating influence upon the nervous system, and when that constipation, without being truly painful, presents the following symptoms: desire to relieve the bowels, with sensation as if the intestines were obstructed, and there existed impossibility of evacuation, beating in the abdomen, pressure at the stomach, want of appetite, thirst, dryness of the mouth.

Case.—For a patient, having a sallow complexion, loss of appetite, tendency to vomit,

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flatulence, pressure at the stomach, constipation, dry cough, was prescribed *tincture of nux vomica*, one drop night and morning, advising him to increase the dose one drop every day. An improvement was speedily manifest without any crisis. At the end of fifteen days, he had quite recovered; the cough left him in a short time.

Constipation constitutes very frequently a separate disease, often produced by abuse of coffee.

Out of many cases, one was very remarkable. During six days, no motion, giddiness, stupor, intoxicating heaviness in the head, especially in the morning, great heat and redness of the face, dryness of the mouth, acid and bitter taste, heart-burn, nausea, especially in the morning, loss of appetite, flatulence, pressure at the stomach, swelling of the stomach after eating, shooting pain in the abdomen, tenesmus, pain in the rectum and loins, oppressive constrictive pain in the chest, sleep disturbed at night, great lassitude and drowsiness in the morning, restlessness, great general depression. A few doses of pure *tincture of nux vomica* removed these symptoms entirely.*

* A few drops of the *tincture of lycopodium* repeated twice a day, will relieve such cases when *nux* has been given in vain.

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The following cases occurred lately in my own practice.

Case I.—An elderly man had, for upwards of twenty years, suffered from constipation, accompanied by severe head-aches, to such an extent that he was compelled every few days to absent himself from business, having fulness in the stomach after eating, tongue dry and loaded, &c. He could exist only by taking, every second day, a dose of some aperient medicine, which relieved his head for the day only; the pain returning as regularly as possible the following day. The stomach had become so weakened by repeated purgatives, that it was unable to digest even the best food; and they had produced a distressing disease of the lower intestines. He complained likewise of dull pain in the region of the liver, which was much increased upon pressure. *Sulphur*, in five weeks, enabled the bowels to act daily, and the headache entirely subsided.

Case II.—An old naval officer, was placed in early life, on the West India stations, where he had yellow fever several times, and with difficulty escaped with life, leaving on one occasion only eight or ten on board his vessel. These attacks produced disease of

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the liver, and consequently confirmed constipation, which had existed upwards of thirty years when I saw him. He informed me that, during that time, he had never obtained relief from the bowels without aperient medicines: taking them regularly every second day, they had become as necessary to his existence as food. Accompanying this state of stomach and bowels, were most distressing head-aches, and great depression of the nervous system. Though introduced to me, he did not expect anything like permanent relief. Nevertheless, after continuing for two months the medicines I prescribed, the bowels became regular and acted daily; and, upon seeing him many months afterwards, he told me that, during that time, he had not taken or required one dose of aperient medicine. The remedies were *nux*, 30th, *bryon.* 30th, and *verat.* 12th, every second or third day in succession.

Case III.—A gentleman had long suffered from an eruptive disease covering great part of the body. At the same time, he complained of dyspeptic symptoms, such as acid and bitter eructations, fulness of the stomach and bowels after eating, with pain in the region of the liver and consequent constipation. I prescribed *verat.* for the skin dis-

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ease, to which it yielded. At the same time, the stomachic symptoms subsided, and the constipation gave way; so that, at the end of two months, although he had not taken purgative medicines of any kind, as previously in the habit of doing, at least weekly, he assured me his health was in a much better state than for many years before.

Case IV.—A medical man, who had lived in the country where he was accustomed to horse exercise and active life, upon his settling in town, where he had now resided nearly twenty years, soon became affected with derangement of the digestive organs—such as nausea, giddiness, weight and pain in the head, loss of appetite, distension of the stomach after eating, with acid flatulence, loaded tongue, pain in the liver, general falling away, and palpitation of the heart, to such an extent that in bed the clothes were often lifted up. This continued for several years, when the bowels became obstinately constipated, requiring purgatives, tonics, alkalines and alteratives continually. He informed me that a week never passed without medicine—seldom a day without either soda or a purgative. All these means were discontinued; and, by the use of *calcarea carbonica*, and subsequently *carbo vegetabilis*,

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the dyspeptic symptoms subsided, and the constipation was removed. Upwards of three years have elapsed with no return of the complaint.

Case V.—Colonel P. had resided many years in a warm climate, and during the greater part of that time, had laboured under irregularity and derangement of the bowels, which terminated in confirmed constipation. Having lived freely, he had two or three attacks of inflammation of the liver, which produced induration and evident enlargement. He had frequent fits of vomiting, with acid and bitter eructations, weight and fulness of the stomach and bowels, particularly after eating, restless nights, head-ache, tongue loaded, dryness and thirst, kidneys much affected, and was altogether much emaciated. *Bryonia*, *veratrum* and *opium* were given in succession, when all the symptoms gradually yielded; and in from three to four months, the patient was convalescent.

Constipation in Women.—In this case, exercise, especially in the open air, abstinence from coffee and heating drinks, and the use of fruit are necessary and assist the action of *nux*, 8th, which is in most cases the requisite treatment. If this only improves

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the condition without curing it entirely, we may administer *ignat.* 6th, gl. 2, after which *nux*, 10th, again. In some cases, *bryony*, 6th, gl. 2, *opium*, 2nd, gl. 2, and *veratrum* will answer. When the constipation is obstinate, it will be advisable to assist these remedies with lavements. If all these fail, we must then have recourse to *plumb.*, *alum.*, *platin.*, *sepia*, and especially the two last.

Bryony is still more important in cases of lying-in women, when constipation arises very frequently from inflammatory irritation of the abdominal organs, to which this remedy is strikingly adapted.

We may in the same manner treat the constipation which usually occurs in the first days after delivery, if it do not speedily disappear of itself.

Case.—A lady, the wife of a professional man, had suffered from constipation for upwards of twenty years, and during the last four or five years, had been obliged to take aperient medicine daily. In such a way, indeed, had purgatives been administered, both as to quantity and quality, that they had produced ulceration of the lower intestines, discharging blood, pus and mucus, in quantities that became alarming. She had long suffered from torpid, if not diseased, state of

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liver, and great weakness both mental and bodily, &c. She was much reduced and fast hastening to the grave, when I was consulted. Six doses of *nux* and *bryonia* entirely removed the constipated state of bowels, and the general health rapidly improved. Occasional doses of *nitric acid* restored the ulcerated bowels to health, and the discharge gradually ceased. Nearly five years have since passed with no return of the disease; and though not a single purgative has been since taken, the general health is better than at any previous period of life.

CONSTIPATION IN CHILDREN.—The first point necessary is to regulate the regimen of the child and the nurse. Care must also be taken that the child be not too much confined by its clothes.

The constipation of new-born children has usually for its cause food which does not agree with their age, especially when they are not suckled, or when, besides the milk of their nurse, they receive more solid food.

It may be prevented by adding to that milk, in cases when it is not sufficient, only very light substances, such as cow's milk mixed with water, pigeon or chicken soup, water gruel slightly boiled, &c.

If the patient be in good health, a lave-

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ment of warm milk, water gruel, with or without castor oil, is frequently sufficient: should it fail, another lavement of honey water will be certain to produce the effect. If the mother is not accustomed to coffee, two or three spoonsful may be administered to the child.

When these dietetic precautions are not sufficient, we must have recourse to internal remedies. For this purpose, *nux*, 10th, is appropriate, especially when the mother has been accustomed to coffee, in which case it is a specific. But it is also efficacious in other cases, for instance, when constipation is produced by undigested food, or when the alvine excretions are so hard that the child cannot void them without great straining, pain and blood.

Next to this stands *opium*, 2nd, which is indicated when the peristaltic movement of the intestinal canal is, so to speak, destroyed, when there exists no inclination to obtain relief, and the abdomen gradually swells. Advantage has sometimes been derived from a higher dilution than that just mentioned.

Next to these two remedies, *bryon.* 10th, 1 and 2, *veratr.* 10th, 1, are most effective. The first operates in a manner very similar to *nux vomica*, and frequently succeeds when

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the other has failed, and vice versa. With respect to *veratrum* it is most efficient in cases where the rectum appears deprived of all action.

When the disease is very obstinate, *tincture of sulphur*, or *lycopodium*, 10th, are very successful. *Calc. carb.*, and *zinc.* are equally valuable: the latter is one of the best remedies in constipation in children.

COLIC.

Colic is a pain generally pinching, tearing, tensive, without any symptom of inflammation, without fixity or continuity, rarely burning, which affects the interior of the abdomen, especially the region of the umbilicus, tends almost always from above downwards, and has often for an accessory a swelling of the abdomen. The stomach being exempt from suffering, or that being only accidental, if that viscus contains no impurities, the patient scarcely ever vomits; and if that does occur, he ejects only the matters contained in the stomach, mixed with a little bile. There

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is sometimes accidental constipation, more frequently a little diarrhœa, rarely any fever.

In children, after evacuation of urine, more considerable than ordinary, we often remark much agitation and impatience, continual crying, sudden screams, contortions which disfigure the countenance during sleep, sleeplessness and cramps. They draw up the limbs, bend them, and are incapable of lactation.

The treatment of colic is regulated principally by the causes which have produced it. In children, it is usually caused by cold, or by worms: in adults by severe cold, by excess in eating and drinking, but often also by a particular disposition to flatulence and to hemorrhoids.

Chamomilla, 12th, or *pulsatilla*, 15th, cures colic produced by a cold, when it presents the following symptoms: violent, cutting, tearing pains in the bowels, causing agitation which allows the patient no rest, a sensation as if the abdomen were entirely empty, with continual commotion in the intestines, dark circles around the eyes, frequent collection of saliva in the mouth, violent and tearing pain below the navel, pains in the loins, nausea, inclination to vomit, diarrhœa, evacuations green, watery and mixed with mucus.

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Nux vomica, 24th, for adults, 30th, for children, causes the prompt disappearance of a colic characterized as follows: constipation, sensation of a heavy weight in the abdomen, extraordinary heat, considerable tension of the part, with anxious, short and painful respiration, fulness of the abdomen and under the ribs, shooting, pinching, compressing pains, as if the intestines were pressed, violent and confusing pain in the head, the abdomen painful to the touch, loss of consciousness, the extremities cold at the moment when the affection is most violent.

Windy colics, which have their seat in the lower part of the abdomen, yield to the same remedy in cases in which the air, seeking a passage, produces pressure, as if by a sharp or cutting instrument, towards the bladder and rectum, a pressure which is acutely felt at every step, but which repose, the sitting or the lying position cause quickly to disappear.

Mercury, 10th, for adults, 12th, for children, and *cina*, are successfully employed against colics caused by worms, the symptoms of which are great inclination to vomit, collection of saliva in the mouth, twisting in the bowels, with sensation of hardness around the umbilicus, convulsive twitchings in the muscles of the abdomen, frequent hiccough,

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disgust for food, continual desire to relieve the bowels, the abdomen hard and swollen, tensive and burning pain, eructations, general weakness, diarrhœa, evacuation of mucus, with pains in the bowels, especially towards midnight.

The symptoms of colic produced by excess of nourishment or by unhealthy food are: nausea, weight, with a feeling of extension and of painful tension in the abdomen, tearing, pinching, and cutting pain, increased by touch, white saliva foaming from the mouth, pains above the navel, diarrhœa, evacuations green, or of a citron colour, with violent pain in the stomach, countenance pale, dark circles round the eyes, slight convulsions of the limbs, bending of the body, pressive and tensive head-ache. Half a cup of strong *coffee* would have the effect, in persons who do not make habitual use of that beverage, of evacuating the superabundant or unhealthy aliments contained in the stomach and intestines. When this means has produced the desired result, it should, after some hours, be followed by *pulsatilla*, 18th.

Pulsatilla, 12th, is the best remedy against hemorrhoidal colics, of which the usual symptoms are the following:—beating at the pit of the stomach, a painful feeling of constriction as if it were too full, borborygmi in the abdo-

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men, the escape of flatulence prevented, heat and swelling of the abdomen, general heat with swelling of the veins of the hands and forehead, insupportableness by the patient of all vestments, greater suffering when in bed, movement procuring some relief, pains in the loins, an almost entire incapability of dressing, pain in the abdomen as if a blow had been received, agitation, anxiety, sleeplessness.

Colocynth, 30th, is very efficacious against various kinds of colics, especially when they cannot be ascribed to a known cause. But it is more particularly indicated by pains in the abdomen, violent and continual, or ceasing only to re-appear with greater intensity, and leaving in the parts that have been affected a pain of tearing which produces at every step a sensation as if the intestines were freely suspended, which obliges the patient to walk very slowly and with extreme caution, the pain experienced in the umbilical region sensible chiefly at a point of small extent, recurring only at intervals of from five to ten minutes or even longer, commencing always by slight shootings from the ribs to the centre which gradually augment, becoming constrictive, pressing, tearing, dragging, and reach such a degree of violence that the patient utters loud cries, the anxiety and pain allow-

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ing him no rest, and compelling him to writhe with the agony.

Colics with which some women are attacked at the commencement of the catamenia, usually disappear when it has occurred; but the affection may, in certain circumstances, continue and become very distressing. *Nux vomica*, 30th, is then often employed with success, especially when the disease is characterized by a twisting in the abdomen, with some nausea, a poignant spasmodic pain in the pelvis chiefly about the ischium, which becomes remittent, pressive, or shooting, with constriction in the region of the bladder.

Coffee, 3d, causes the disappearance of the following symptoms: pains in the abdomen, violent and spasmodic, which affect even the chest, bending of the body with convulsions of the limbs, grinding of the teeth, general cold, crampoid stiffening, loss of respiration, sighing, fulness of the abdomen, with pressure.

Pulsatilla, 18th, may be employed in the same circumstances when they are accompanied by violent and pressive pain of the abdomen and loins, and by an evident shooting from the trunk to the thighs, which ceases when seated, and to which are joined a pain-

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ful pressure on the rectum, and pains in the back.

Frequent colics may produce a disposition to be attacked by them from the slightest causes, and may even become the origin of organic changes.*

HEMORRHOIDS.

This disease, which is very common, has for its cause an impediment to the circulation in the vessels of the abdomen, and has almost always for its precursor a long series of affections of the digestive organs. It attacks chiefly men of middle age and women after the suppression of the catamenia, and it is characterized by obstinate constipation, by congestions in the head and chest, vertigo, palpitation of the heart, pains in the back, tenesmus, itching in the perinæum and in the rectum, excrescences about the anus, colics, &c. It re-appears at fixed or indefinite pe-

* In colica flatulenta, *carb. veg.* and *lyc.* are mostly to be relied upon.

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riods, and has commonly for its result a more or less considerable excretion of mucus or blood.

During pregnancy, we generally find some disorder in the alvine secretions and hemorrhoidal effusions. Two or three weeks after delivery, every motion is accompanied by lancinating pain in the rectum. In a short time, the evacuations occur every three or five days, the excretions being dry and hard. After long and inefficient efforts, no relief is obtained, or at most but of a small quantity of matter; the pain in the rectum reaches the greatest degree of suffering, with anxious perspiration of the face, and tendency to syncope; with the evacuation a discharge either of pure blood, or sanguinolent mucus; after which the heat and shooting pains in the rectum, remain for some time. The anus itself forms a round, hard, livid tumour. There are continual pains in the loins, extending towards the back, especially during movement.

Hemorrhoids may be divided into two large classes, *internal and external*, and each of these classes may be subdivided into fluent and dry.

The patient ought above all things to observe a severe regimen, to take much exercise in the open air, to keep the feet warm,

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and to avoid coffee, wine, spirits, and mental excitement.

In the first place, however, it will be well to point out the principal remedies most likely to be successful in the disease of which we treat. Most of the antipsoric remedies may be beneficially used, amongst which we recognise *arsenicum*, *antimonium crudum*, *calcarea*, *graphites*, *mercurius*, *phosphorus*, *sulphur*.

These may be alternated with *aconite*, *arnica*, *nux*, *pulsatilla*, *&c.* used as intercurrent medicines.

Arsenic.—In cases of large, burning, ulcerated external hemorrhoids.

Antimony.—In fluent hemorrhoids, with excretion of black blood, and burning and pricking sensation.

Calcarea.—Expulsion of hemorrhoids during evacuation, spasmodic contractions of the rectum.

Graphites.—Painful hemorrhoids secreting a mucous liquid.

Mercurius.—Inflammation accompanied with tearing pain round the margin of the anus, evacuations acrid and bloody, excoriating the extremity of the rectum.

Phosphorus.—Itching hemorrhoidal tumours, with small ulcers allowing the dis-

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charge of a great quantity of blood. Flow of mucus from the anus, which remains open.

Sulphur.—Hemorrhoidal colics followed by discharge of blood, expulsion of hemorrhoids, descent of the rectum.

Aconitum.—Extensive hemorrhage from hemorrhoidal tumours; hemorrhoidal fever, violent inflammation of the tubercles, which are hard, bright and ready to burst.

Arnica.—Hemorrhoidal tumours caused by external violence.

Nux.—Constipation, pressure on the rectum, tenesmus before and after evacuations, discharge of blood-stained mucus: dry hemorrhoids, painful during evacuation.

Pulsatilla.—Excretion of yellowish mucus, hemorrhoidal tumours, with smarting and soreness.

I would here direct attention to the fact that, with the exception of *arnica*, apsoric medicines cannot alone cure hemorrhoids produced by external violence, such as long riding, or wearing bandages which exercise constant pressure on the part. In all other cases, we should have recourse to *antipsorics*, alternately with *apsorics*, according to the indications.

When besides a disagreeable itching, hemorrhoidal excrescences occasion a continual and violent burning, accompanied by diar-

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rhœal evacuations, we employ with success *capsicum annuum*, 15th: *arsenicum album*, 30th, possesses the property of dispelling this burning in the rectum and the neighbouring parts.*

Case I.—A female, aged twenty-two, mother of six children, of a venous-arterial constitution, had been for two years suffering from blind hemorrhoids, arising principally from a sedentary life, and the habitual use of very strong coffee. She one day found three tumours at the anus, as large as nuts, which produced great throbbing and burning pain, and prevented her sitting down. The pain extended half way up the rectum, accompanied with febrile symptoms, heaviness of the head, vertigo, loss of appetite and constipation. An allopathist prescribed twenty leeches, hip baths and emollient lavements. This treatment was continued for eighteen days, during which the patient had ninety leeches and thirty-six hip baths. Instead of the disease, however, being in any way alleviated, the symptoms increased to an extraordinary degree, the patient suffering excessive pain, which no narcotic could relieve. The

* The best remedies in herpetic hemorrhoids are *calc. kali.* and *lycop.*

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medical attendants declared that no resource was left but to extirpate the tumours, which they asserted was necessary on account of the formation of cancerous ulcers. This was the advice of many eminent practitioners who were called in consultation. The friends, being alarmed, determined to try the homœopathic treatment. The following was her condition:—

Local Affection.—The patient tossing about in bed, and complaining of burning, shooting and throbbing pains in the anus and its vicinity, which she described as similar to those that might be produced by a red-hot iron. Outside the anus and extending inwards were three tumours as large as nuts, inflamed, and having on their internal surfaces some excrescences of a very painful nature that bled at the slightest touch. The whole internal surface of the anus was ulcerated, and secreted an ichorous liquid.

Sympathetic Affections.—Weight and pressure at the occiput; loss of appetite, tongue dry, chapped and hot; violent thirst, constipation; ardor urinæ, loss of sleep, skin dry and hot, and dread of death.

Ars. 10th, 3, was prescribed, suspending all other remedies.

This selection was determined by the shoot-

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ing and burning pains, the ichorous discharge and the moral symptoms.

After the powder had been taken half an hour, the patient slept undisturbed for three hours, when she no longer suffered the violent pains.

A second dose of *arsenic*, 10th, 2, was prescribed. The following day the patient experienced only a slight sensibility at the anus when seated. She had had a copious evacuation. The tumours had diminished during the night in size, redness and sensibility; the ichorous discharge from the anus had ceased, as well as the ardor urinæ.

The patient was now left three days without medicine, at the end of which time was administered, in consequence of the constipation and loss of appetite, *nux*, 10th, 3. From this time, there was a general improvement, and the patient was enabled to leave her bed. *Sepia*, *nux vomica* and *sulphur* had thus in a very short period entirely removed an affection that had been regarded as incurable.

In suppression of hemorrhoidal flux, for several months; continual vertigo, occasionally so severe as to prostrate the patient to a state of insensibility, dull pain in the head, as if intoxicated; violent, pressive and stupifying head-ache; loss of memory, alvine

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evacuations, infrequent and hard. A few doses of *calc. carb.* 5th, effected a cure.

Sulphur, 30th, effects the most perfect and the most durable cure, when the disease presents the following symptoms: continual desire to obtain evacuation even after diarrhœal or sanguinolent dejections, a darting pain of excoriation in the rectum and neighbouring parts, with itching, burning, and humidity of the excrescences, which cause a constricting fulness in the rectum, and often even the descent of that viscus, violent and darting pains in the loins, and tension as if the skin and the muscles were shortened.

In hemorrhoids, especially termed blind, with constipation and shooting pains in the rectum, accompanied by various affections of a hemorrhoidal nature, or consequent on the suppression of sanguine congestions, or habitual hemorrhages, congestion towards the head, continual pressive pain at the occiput, vertigo, flow of blood to the heart, great excitability of the whole vascular system, pulsation throughout the body, with anxiety, oppression, disordered digestion and constipation, *sulphur* is successful.

Case.—A man, aged thirty-two, of strong constitution and arterio-venous temperament, was attacked, (after riding for a very con-

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siderable distance, and indulging much in heating liquors,) by blind hemorrhoids which at first only produced constipation, itching, and throbbing at the anus. His medical attendant prescribed cold hip baths, cold lavements and leeches. These dangerous applications diminished the heat, itching and throbbing, but had no effect on the hemorrhoidal tumours or the constipation. The bite of a leech produced an abscess, followed by anal fistula, which was operated upon by an eminent surgeon. But the wound would not heal; the hemorrhoids protruded at every evacuation; and the patient's state was worse than before, he was in the following state:

Local Affection.—The patient complained of heat, fulness and throbbing at the part. The hemorrhoidal tumours protruded at every evacuation, discharging and causing heat. The incision made by the operator six weeks before was not yet closed. Tumours as large as nuts were apparent externally when the patient sought evacuation, their internal surface was livid, and covered with excrescences.

Sympathetic Affections.—Weight and fulness of the head, face red, covered with tumours, appetite good but soon satiated, frequent eructations, pressure and tension of the two hypochondria impeding inspiration,

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scanty evacuations with copious expulsion of flatus, sleep restless, disturbed by dreams, depression, anger, discontent, peevishness, indifference towards his wife and children, of whom however, in health, he was remarkably fond, gloomy thoughts, propensity to commit suicide.

Here there was clearly a well developed case of hypochondria resulting from hypervenosity of the abdomen. For this reason, in order to act effectually on the venous system, and render the organization accessible to treatment, *sulph.* 4th, gtt. 1, in a drachm of water was administered. Never is it more necessary to begin by rousing the susceptibility of the organization than in cases of exaltation of abdominal venosity, or what is called hypochondria. Every morning for eight days, the patient took one drop in a glass of water, without any evident effect, except that during the first four days, the wound occasioned by the operation was perfectly healed. After eight days the moral state, the abundance of flatus, and the tension of the hypochondria induced the prescription of *conium*, 10th, 3. Three hours afterwards, a considerable aggravation occurred. The moral symptoms especially were carried to such an extent, that a cup of coffee was administered. This antidote had very

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little effect, for the symptoms remained equally severe during two days. On the third day, however, there was an improvement; the tensive pressure of the hypochondria, and especially the moral condition were sensibly ameliorated. It became clear that the moral affection was closely connected in this patient with that of the abdomen; for, in proportion as the pains in the hypochondria reappeared, the disposition of the mind changed also. He was left for eight days under the operation of *conium*, administering only a little milk and water each day, in order to satisfy his desire of taking something.

The conclusion of this period was followed by constipation and loss of appetite, which led to the prescription of *nux*, 10th, 3; but the *nux vomica* had no effect, although it was the first dilution. Recourse was then had to *lachesis*, 10th, 2, which was more successful; although it did not agree perfectly with the moral state, it accorded well with the primitive affection, its action being remarkably powerful upon the function of the venous system, or rather of the nervous system that influences it. Three doses were then administered, one every third day; an exhibition peculiar to *lachesis*, which requires to be repeated till the development of a manifest action, which we must be especially careful

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not to disturb, even when it appears after the first dose. There is not in fact any medicine likely to do so much mischief as *lachesis:* it is one of the best *polychrests* we possess, but at the same time, one of the most dangerous when improperly applied, or repeated too frequently. In repeating a dose of *lachesis*, great attention must be paid to the moral condition, the sleep and the appetite: if all be right in this respect, we may repeat the dose with confidence, although fresh symptoms have been exhibited. After these three doses of *lachesis*, nothing was administered for fifteen days, in order to leave sufficient time for their action to exhaust itself. It was then found that the symptoms for *staphys.* and *natr. carb.* were indicated, which was prescribed in dose 10th, 3. These remedies concluded the treatment, and the patient was perfectly cured after two months application of the homœopathic system, without recurring to a course of mineral water which his medical attendant had advised.

Experience has proved that *nux vomica*, 24th, is peculiarly efficacious against this disease, especially when it is caused by the use of heating drinks, such as wine, spirits, strong beer and coffee, by the influence of sedentary habits and of prolonged study, by the hardness of the fœcal matter, worms,

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pregnancy, swelling of the abdominal viscera, organic injuries of the rectum and neighbouring parts. When it has for symptoms considerable excrescences which are the seat of burning and shooting pains, a sense of strangling in the rectum, narrowness of that viscus, joined to dull and darting pains felt by shocks in the loins and hip-bones; a pain as of cracking in the loins on the slightest movement, which causes the patient to cry out, and does not permit him to remain erect or to walk except in a bent position, a flow of pure and clear blood after alvine evacuations, or accompanied by desire of evacuation.

Case.—Mr. S., aged thirty, of strong constitution and very corpulent, had for some years been afflicted with a hemorrhoidal affection, characterized by swelling and thickening of the hemorrhoidal veins accompanied with constipation and strangury. The use of leeches applied to the part almost every month afforded the patient a temporary relief, but the disease grew worse and each time it became necessary to apply the leeches at shorter intervals. He exhibited the following symptoms: vertigo, confusion of ideas, throbbing pains in the temples as if nails were being driven in, face pale and puffed,

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contraction and slight convulsive movement of the eye-lids, singing in the ears, tongue whitish, the patient having a sensation as if it were contracted, thirst and desire for cooling drinks. In the morning, vomiting of slimy acid matter, mucus in the mouth. Six hours after dinner, rejection of food taken, either wholly or partially, with sensation of weight in the occiput, numbness of the right arm, especially of the third and fourth fingers, (these symptoms disappeared when every thing was thrown off the stomach,) indigestion, acid eructations, flatulence, constipation, continual desire to micturate, urine voided by drops with sensation of heat at the prostate gland, occasionally bloody, palpitations of the heart or cœliac arteries after repose; sensation of oppression at the chest, compelling the patient to take long inspirations, numbness in the shoulders, arms and legs, starting and nightmare at the commencement of sleep; lassitude, weakness, feeling of languor in the stomach, constant drowsiness, great want of prolonged sleep, yawning, sensation of cold, restlessness, nervous depression.

Nux vomica, 30th, was prescribed, and a second dose three days afterwards, from which he received great benefit; afterwards *sulphur*, *graphites*, *silicea*, 30th, re-established

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his health at the end of two months, and also removed the excessive obesity resulting undoubtedly from a morbific cause.

Case II.—A female, aged twenty-eight, of arterio-lymphatic temperament, in whom from the age of seventeen, menstruation had always been attended by violent abdominal spasms, and almost incessant vomiting of bile and mucus during the first days. These symptoms she attributed to a fall sometime previous. She was in the following state:—

Local Affection.—The patient complained of violent burning and throbbing pains, with fulness, at the rectum, hemorrhoidal tumours appeared at each evacuation, no relief was obtained oftener than once in eight days, with much pain.

Sympathetic Affections.—Pressive pain in the forehead and occiput, coryza, loss of appetite, clammy taste in the mouth, leucorrhœa, a few days before and after the catamenia, contusive pains in the limbs, excessive sensibility to external impressions, extreme excitability of the whole nervous system, tendency to anger and ill-humour, sleep broken by alarming dreams.

All these symptoms indicated *nux*, which was administered (10th, 3.) The first dose speedily produced a good effect; the appetite

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improved, sleep became tranquil, and the leucorrhœa soon disappeared. It may be said that these phenomena would have occurred of their own accord simply under the influence of diet; but to meet this objection it must here be stated that the patient had frequently subjected herself to a much more severe regimen without obtaining any successful result. At the end of fifteen days as there were still remains of head-ache, and the hemorrhoidal tumour occasionally protruded, *sepia*, 10th, 3, was administered. Three weeks afterwards, in order to remove the pimples from the face, and destroy the predominant venosity, was prescribed *sulph.* 8th, 3, which produced the desired effect.

In these cases a distinction is made between local and sympathetic affections, and this method will save students a vast deal of trouble in the examination of the patient and the selection of the remedy. In combining the primitive affection with the moral state, and guided by the combined appearance of the symptoms, selecting the best homœopathic remedy, it is almost impossible to go wrong. There are cases in which we find no organ or system specially affected, and consequently we cannot distinguish between the local and sympathetic affection, though both are in existence. In such a case, a beginner

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should administer *sulphur* and *belladonna*, alternately at suitable intervals until the sufferings are relieved or the symptoms appear more marked, guided by which we can easily discover the proper remedy. *Salphur* may also be administered at intervals of two, four, six, or eight days, according to the susceptibility of the patient. The selection of dilutions may be regulated in the same way. A susceptible patient is often acted upon as strongly by a very small dose as another not easily affected will be by the strongest. Peculiarity of constitution can alone decide the point, and hence so many opinions upon this important subject. In this matter all depends upon the extent of the patient's susceptibility, and this is the reason why hypochondriacs are frequently so long before they experience any effect.

Case.—In the case of a young female, at the end of her sixth accouchement, after two attacks of intermittent fever, the inflammation of the hemorrhoidal tumours extended between the ninth and the thirteenth day, gradually to the following extent: the orifice of the anus swollen in a round and thick bunch, divided by furrows into three unequal parts, one being the size of a small egg, the others of a nutmeg. The tumours were of a

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bluish red, hard, hot, shining and extremely painful when touched. The patient suffered extreme pain in the part, as if it were excoriated, accompanied by violent pricking and shooting pains. The latter occurred from time to time in paroxysms, and produced involuntary exclamations. The patient was unable to sit, turned herself with difficulty, and always with increased pain. *Muriatic acid*, 3d, gutta, 2, cured her in ten days.

Case.—A lad aged thirteen, who was in other respects in good health, had for several years been suffering incessantly from hemorrhoids, in the cure of which all allopathic treatment had been found ineffectual. The affection was manifested by the following symptoms: infrequent evacuations, extremely painful, every third or fourth day; several tumours appearing at each motion with considerable loss of blood, in addition, they bled frequently during the day. *Nux vomica* and *ignatia* (several doses) produced regularity of evacuations, so that they occurred every day and completely free from pain. *Nitric acid*, 15th, administered at short intervals during several weeks successively, stopped the flow of blood, the tumours gradually appeared less frequently and finally ceased altogether. The same success has been ob-

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tained by administering daily a tea-spoonful of *ammon. carbonic.* 10th, gl. 3, dissolved in six ounces of water.

Before antipsorics were known, says Hartmann, I always regarded *bryony* (4th, and 6th,) as an invaluable remedy in cases of hemorrhoidal tumours, and even at the present time, I by no means reject it, although numerous antipsorics are more efficacious in these affections. Its salutary influence is remarkably observable when the patient complains of burning pain in the lower part of the rectum, after evacuation, and when pain leaves him slowly. Its indication is still more certain when the patient suffers from fulness on the left side of the loins, and this fulness degenerates during movement into lancinating pressive pain, relieved only by rest, and announced by too great a flow of blood.

A description of pain in the stomach, of frequent occurrence in persons suffering from hemorrhoids, after the apparition of tumours at the anus, may here be mentioned. It is also frequently met with in pregnant women, who during their pregnancy have been subject to varicose veins of the legs, which after delivery, cause considerable pain, and are often accompanied by head-ache, diminished by rest and increased by motion.

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Case.—A woman aged forty-eight, and the mother of several children, had been afflicted since her last accouchement with hemorrhoidal tumours. These tumours bled several times in the year, with good effect. Suddenly however moral causes occurred to aggravate the affection which then presented the following condition.

Itching and heat at the anus, shooting pains in the rectum; frequent tenesmus, sensation of fulness in the abdomen; six small tumours of different sizes, round and oval shape, of a bright red, extremely painful, inability to sit down, evacuations accompanied with much pain.

Compresses steeped in decoction of *camomile*, were applied to the parts, and administered internally a small portion of the *camomile* extract. At the end of twenty-four hours, all the symptoms were diminished, and on the fourth day all trace of disease had vanished.

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ENTERITIS, OR INFLAMMATION OF THE INTESTINAL CANAL.

Aconite possesses virtues both powerful and prompt in salutary operation when employed in inflammation of the intestines, bladder, lungs, &c. In enteritis the efficaciousness and speedy operation of its curative effects, seem to be developed in direct proportion to the intensity of the inflammatory symptoms, the violence and extent of the fever, the power and acuteness of the pains, tensive darting or shooting, for the more intense the symptoms are, the delirium, and respiration short and difficult, the fewer nervous symptoms present themselves, *aconite*, 10th, becomes more energetic and indispensable.

Case.—In the mouth of September, 1838, a young person aged fourteen, having taken cold after being much heated, had been seized with very severe enteritis. In spite of all the allopathic means which had been used, such as leeches, of which eighty-seven were applied during the first six days, fomentations, emollient cataplasms, liniments with *oil of henbane* and *tincture of opium*, emol-

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lient and slightly laxative lavements, bathing of the lower extremities, emulsions and *calomel*, finally joined with *opium*, the disease instead of decreasing, increased daily up to the seventh, at which time the patient was all but dead. *Aconite*, 8th, 3, was prescribed to be repeated every three hours during the night. The next morning, the eighth of the disease, the young patient was much better. For the first time since the commencement of the disease, she had slept for quarters and half hours at a time during the night; the constant vomiting accompanying the taking of food, had ceased; the pains in the lower part of the abdomen, which had been previously incessant, had almost entirely departed; the abdomen was but little sensitive to the touch, less swollen, and distended; the fever, previously incessant, was fast subsiding, and this complete change occurred without any crisis by perspiration. The patient again took a few doses of *aconite* during the day. The following morning she was perfectly free from danger.

This homœopathic case astonished her friends not a little. Still I could not persuade myself that it was attributable to the administering of *aconite* in such small doses. I rather thought it ought to be considered as a consequent effect of the antiphlogistic

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treatment previously adopted, although this hypothesis was weakened by the absence of any crisis, and a crisis of some kind will generally occur in inflammatory diseases of this nature.

The entire recovery of the patient was long: she was very weak, and was unable to walk without assistance before the expiration of three weeks. During the fourth week, she exposed herself carelessly to cold air, and that brought on the same disease again. Incessant pains in the umbilical region, increased by the slightest pressure, painful eructations, frequent vomiting of a yellowish-green matter, constipation, pulse small, quick and hard, general heat, thirst, continued agitation and anxiety, sufficiently announced a case of enteritis. The parents of the patient requested that recourse should be had to homœopathy: *aconite*, 8th, 3, was administered. A quarter of an hour had scarcely transpired before the patient fell into a quiet sleep that lasted more than three hours; upon awakening she felt herself relieved; she no longer complained of any of the previous symptoms, but wished to leave her bed, which however she was not allowed to do till the following day.

Affections of this kind when treated allo-

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nine days before there is any vast improvement. I was therefore not a little astonished at so prompt a cure by a single dose of *aconite*, without any exhibition internal or external of allopathic remedies.

A careful perusal of the annexed case will convince the reader that, in certain cases, *nigella sativa*, has an incontestible advantage over *aconite*.

A female aged twenty-seven years, the mother of three children, who had enjoyed uninterrupted good health with the exception of measles and scarlet fever when young, was attacked with violent enteritis, which during four days baffled copious bleedings, and the usual remedies. The state of the patient was as follows: violent febrile action at night, head confused, diminution of sensibility, tendency to ill-humour, indifference, great anxiety alternately with a sensation of heat and tension, inability to preserve an upright position, trembling, disordered vision, difficulty in moving the eyes, sensation of paralysis in the eye-lids, violent buzzing in the ears, dryness of the nose, with sensation of cold, sinking of the features, face of a red colour, lips pale and trembling, tongue red, dry and furred, with difficulty of moving it, speech muttering and unintelligible, as in cases of paralysis, rancid taste in the mouth, no se-

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cretion of saliva, loss of appetite, sensation of fulness, without any desire to vomit, pressure at the stomach with tensive pain, palpitation in the region of the stomach, contraction of the abdomen, pressure at the anus, respiration slow, deep and noisy, gaping, moaning, deep and pressive pain in the chest, occasional cough, palpitations of the heart, swelling of the abdomen, tension and extreme sensibility of the part when touched, and violent darting pains when leant upon, swelling in a direction toward the inguinal region, shooting with pricking pains, on the slightest touch, decrease of urinary secretion, occasionally accompanied with heat, borborygmi in the hypogastrium, ulcerative pains, immobility of the legs, sensation of curvature in the loins, occasionally violent burning heat followed by cold, great agitation, loss of sleep, frequent sighing, moaning, indolence, with great irritability of the nervous system.

The symptoms of enteritis were clearly developed, and the disease was so advanced that slight hopes remained of cure. Less reliance was to be placed on *aconite*, than upon those remedies adopted to oppose nervous symptoms. Neither *nux vomica* nor *bryony* appearing suitable, *nigella*, 6th, gl. 1, was administered. At first, it did not appear to produce any favourable effect; at the end of

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one hour, all the symptoms were increased: delirium, with extreme heat at the back part of the head, continual jactitation, cries, respiration short and quick, unquenchable thirst with burning heat, violent pains in the abdomen towards the loins, sharp cutting gnawing pains in the intestines, involuntary movements in bed, requiring the patient to be held down. At the end of two hours, these affections diminished, the head was relieved, accompanied by repose, tranquillity and general improvement. Towards evening, increase of symptoms, but in a slight degree and for a shorter period, soon succeeded by drowsiness and tolerably quiet sleep, disturbed only by agitating dreams, involuntary startings and inarticulate words. The patient passed a quiet night. The following morning, with the exception of shooting and tensive pains in the abdomen, and excessive weakness, the patient was tolerably well, and complained only of dull pressive head-ache in the forehead, with rather sharp pains in the occiput, thirst, and dislike to food. A second globule was administered, which produced a very short aggravation of the symptoms, especially of the head-ache, whilst the tensive and darting pain in the abdomen was succeeded by shooting pains. The febrile exacerbation of the evening was also less violent; *nux*, 10th,

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gl. 1, was administered. The next morning, the patient said she had slept well and soundly, and that she felt tolerably strong; all the pains in the head had departed, when she felt only a sensation of vacuity; there was no sensation of heat or cold, respiration free, ordinary tone of voice, very slight thirst, tongue moist, a little white at the edges, but no redness, natural taste, desire for food, sensation of emptiness in the stomach, occasional eructations without pain, plentiful evacuations, hard and of a dark colour, departure of pains and swelling of the abdomen, only in sitting up in bed shooting pains with tension in the cœcal region. On the sixth day, the patient was free from any irregularity excepting ordinarily, in the evening, a shooting and pressive head-ache at the back part of the head. Strength however soon returned under the influence of a generous diet, the appetite was restored, the patient had two evacuations daily, and slept well during the night. From this time, the cure was complete.*

* Enteritis has been successfully treated where there has been violent cutting pain in the umbilical region, painfully distended abdomen, hard, corded pulse, hot, dry skin, thirst and hurried respiration, with *acon.* and *bell.*—where the above symptoms were accompanied with constipation and stercoraceous

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DIARRHŒA.

This is a prompt and repeated evacuation of humours secreted in a defective manner, and in too great abundance, with or without a mixture of fœcal matter. It is often only a slight indisposition, without danger; but it may also be accompanied by pains and fever, may degenerate into another malady, and may have very serious consequences if it is not suitably treated. Its most common cause is cold or intemperance in eating or drinking. Its accessory symptoms are the partial or total loss of appetite, cardialgia, swelling and tension of the abdomen, borborygmi, dryness and coldness of the skin, thirst, scanty secretion of the kidneys, depression, irregularity and intermittent arterial pulsations, cutting and tearing pain, frequently in one part, sometimes in another, with an inclination to vomit, which disappears to return again at the end of a few minutes. Long and violent diarrhœas cause burning in the rec-

vomiting, *acon.* and *opium* have been successful,—where the stomach is irritable, attended with nausea and vomiting, *acon.*, *ant. crud.*, *ant. tart.* and *coloc.*, generally produce relief.

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tum, tenesmus, great weaknes, alterations in the features and even faintings.

Dulcamara, 24th, is an infallible remedy against aqueous diarrhœas which arise from cold, and are not accompanied either with pains in the abdomen or any other accessory indisposition.

To diarrhœa arising from cold must be opposed *china*, 12th, when the evacuations are of an acrid and clear liquid, without mixture of fœcal matter, are preceded by violent colics, by spasmodic and pressive pains in the intestines, eructations, borborygmi, and by a sensation of weakness in the abdomen.

Case.—A man aged eighty one, in full possession of his intellectual faculties, though of a delicate constitution, generally healthy and of regular habits, was seized in the autumn of 1836, without any perceptible cause, with a serious disease; after a few days, during which the disease had continued to increase, I was called in to prescribe.

For the last two days, and especially at night, a very copious diarrhœa, watery and mucous; the patient voided what little food he took undigested; he had frequent vomitings of mucus, water and aliments, with sour and bitter taste; however small the quantity of liquids or solids, he instantly

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experienced painful pressure in the abdomen, and especially at the region of the stomach, with oppression at the chest, followed by eructations which gave some relief. No appetite, constant feeling of fulness, and an insurmountable antipathy to what he was previously most fond of. Sleep broken, exhaustion amounting almost to syncope, pulse quick and rather hard; anxiety, restlessness and agitation.

Nothing was so well suited to this individual case of disease as *bark*. Every thing indicated it, his physical as well as his moral condition. *Bark* in solution was consequently administered, at ten in the morning.

The next day, the patient's condition was altered considerably for the better. No diarrhœa, nor vomiting; the patient had enjoyed a good night's rest; his appetite was somewhat better; he speedily recovered his usual tone of body and mind; and in a few days he was restored to as perfect health as was compatible with his age.

A lady, advanced in years, had been for some weeks suffering severely from continued diarrhœa. She had taken all possible domestic medicines, and even applied to several allopathic physicians. She was then very pale, thin and weak. She could eat but little, and almost instantly voided the food

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undigested; thirst extreme. Six doses of *china*, 11th, one every three hours, having produced no effect, one drop of *tinct. ratanhiæ*, was administered night and morning. At the end of four days, the complaint had subsided; but the remedy was continued, since which time she has had no relapse.

If the cold is caused by night air, and produces a pinching at the pit of the stomach, borborygmi, a feeling of relaxation as if evacuation were about to take place, a cutting and tearing pain with pressure in the abdomen, which is cold, nausea, shivering, sudden and frequent desire to evacuate, at first without result, and afterwards with excretions, frequent, aqueous and green, with disposition to fainting, it is desirable to administer *mercury*, 12th.

If diarrhœa arises from errors of regimen, and manifests itself by loss of appetite, with sensation of dryness, &c., of slight burning of the tongue without thirst, a bitter and saltish taste in the mouth, eructations fœtid, hiccough, nausea, and vomiting, fulness of the abdomen, colic, much flatulence, commotion of the intestines, urgent desire to relieve the bowels, inquietude, with frequent evacuations, *pulsatilla*, 12th, is the best remedy.

Chamomilla, 12th, is employed successfully against diarrhœas which arise from anger,

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accompanied by bitter taste in the mouth, eructations, a sensation of fulness at the pit of the stomach, pressive pain in the head, general weakness, frequent evacuations of green, aqueous, acrid and fœtid matter.

Pains in the abdomen violent, tearing, which leave no rest to the patient, and oblige him to twist himself, a sensation as if the abdomen were entirely empty, with continual movement of the intestines, blue circles round the eyes, nausea, vomiting, evacuations watery, mucous and fœtid, are symptoms requiring the employment of *chamomilla*, 12th.

Those which result from fear, anxiety, and generally from strong emotions, yield readily to *opium*, 6th.

Case.—A man aged forty, previously in the enjoyment of good health, was seized suddenly during the night with violent colic and continued diarrhœa; next day, things remained in the same state; and in the evening I was sent for. I found the patient in bed, very weak, his breath affected when speaking, and he complained of alternations of cold and heat. Evacuations occurred very frequently, preceded by pains in the abdomen; they were discharged with violence and were altogether aqueous; at the same time

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there was much flatus in the abdomen, with nausea and excessive thirst. Had cholera existed in the vicinity, the patient might have been thought to be slightly affected with it. From the general appearance of his face, it was evident that the abdominal nervous system was considerably affected. Half a grain of *arsenic* was pounded with two scruples of sugar, and divided into fifteen powders, one to be taken every hour as long as the exhausting diarrhœa continued. At the same time a slight emulsion of almonds was prescribed as a beverage in very small draughts. From the moment he took the *arsenic*, he had only six diarrhœal evacuations. He fell asleep, but not into a sound sleep before midnight, and had no evacuation during the night. In the morning, he had slept well, and, though very weak, felt more easy; the skin was moist, and thirst less violent. The same remedy was continued, but more slowly, recommending him to discontinue it if the diarrhœa did not return; and he continued to improve. With the exception of the weakness and anorexia, the patient recovered rapidly. A few doses of the sixth of a grain of *nux vomica* cured him completely.

Diarrhœa in Women.—As this complaint frequently arises from cold, it is advisable to keep the stomach warm, in order to aid the

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action of *dulcam.* 8th, which is a specific in such cases. If the diarrhœa arises from the stomach being overcharged, or from fat food, prescribe *pulsat.* 6th, and sometimes *antimon. cr.* 10th, gl. 1. If it be accompanied by pains in the stomach, and the excretions be watery, it will be necessary to recur to *chamomilla,* 4th, gl. 2. When there is tenesmus and frequent evacuations, small in quantity, mucous and bloody, it may almost always be removed by *merc. sol.* 4th, sometimes also by *sulph.* 10th, which is remarkably useful in obstinate and habitual diarrhœas. In certain cases *phosph.* and *petrol.* deserve preference. If the complexion be very yellow and sallow, *lycop.* 10th, may be successfully used.

The following case proves the necessity of carefully observing the characteristic symptoms of a disease before the application of the remedy. My own wife, says a homœopathic practitioner, who was very subject to diarrhœa arising from cold, complained in the morning of violent griping pains, tendency to vomiting and looseness. As I had frequently cured her in similar cases with *dulcamara,* I did not hesitate to administer it; but finding no improvement in her condition in the space of an hour, I administered *veratrum album* without any more beneficial effect. Another

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hour elapsed, when by careful observation I found that the diarrhœa was accompanied by tenesmus. I then gave her *merc. solub.* Five minutes afterwards she fell asleep, and awoke in half an hour free from all pain and diarrhœa. The sleep convinced me that I had selected the proper remedy, as it is always consequent upon the administration of good specifics.

Whenever the patient falls into a sleep or even a state of dozing immediately after taking the remedy prescribed, we may safely prognosticate a cure; it does not however follow that sleep must necessarily precede the removal of disease.

In dysenteric diarrhœa, sharp, shooting and griping pains in the abdomen; violent pain in the back and loins; pressure at the stomach after eating; eight or ten evacuations daily; ejection of a small quantity of white mucus, followed by tenesmus; constant but ineffectual attempts to evacuate; alternations of cold and heat; the former especially; thirst, &c.; was removed by *belladonna*. The patient, a female, at other times quiet and good-tempered, was very irritable and continually crying.

In chronic diarrhœa with eruption of itching pimples on the body, and leucorrhœa, *emetic tart.* was successful.

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Diarrhœa in Children.—An infant, thirteen weeks old, had been crying incessantly for days, suffering from green diarrhœa, sometimes mucous, and at others watery. The family attendant administered an infusion of *camomile* and *opium* in fennel water from time to time, because the child refused all food and even fluids. For the last two or three days, he dosed with the eyes half open; the veins of the head were full of blood; at times he awoke starting from his sleep, cried violently and exhibited extreme restlessness. The medical attendant finding him very weak, began to doubt if he would live through the night. After a few doses of *coff.* 3d, 1, *belladonna*, 10th, 2, and one of *nux vomica*, 10th, 1, employed as an antidote to the *opium*, matters returned in three days to their primitive state. The diarrhœa, restlessness, and griping were speedily removed by a single dose of *senna*, 2nd, 3. The child recovered its health ten days afterwards.

Ipecacuanha is useful in serous diarrhœa in children, accompanied by vomiting of a green or white mucus, with griping pains in the abdomen.

In those acute diarrhœas in children described as relaxation of the stomach and the intestinal canal, the diarrhœa is established

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without any perceptible cause. Evacuations copious and more or less frequent, according to the intensity of the disease, consisting of aqueous mucous matter, sometimes greenish, and at others greyish, of fœtid smell. At the same time, slight fever, heat in the palms of the hands and soles of the feet, incessant thirst, loss of appetite, rapid wasting of the body, constant agitation, moaning and weeping, paleness and dryness of the skin without turgescence, abdomen very sensitive, puffed, elastic, occasional vomiting, urine small in quantity and colourless, sleep comatose or light, eyes half closed. The patient remains in this state from three to five days.

A few doses of *calc. acet.* gl. 1, suppressed the incessant and copious evacuations, and the child, which was previously almost a skeleton, soon became florid and ruddy. In another case, in addition to *chalk*, *merc. sol.* was administered with good effect.

In the most acute form of this disease, especially when attended by violent pains in the abdomen, *colocynthis* is undoubtedly the first and best remedy.

In children towards the fourth month, those green diarrhœas, attributed to acidity in the *primæ viæ*, or to dentition, are often observed. The disease appears to depend upon some particular anomaly of the biliary

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secretion, the causes of which are unknown. The evacuations are more or less frequent, of a vegetable green, sometimes watery, at other times and more generally mucous, frothy, like the white of an egg, and occasionally mixed with sanguinolent mucus. The children cry very frequently, from griping pains, abdomen swollen, with loss of substance. In such cases, *mercury* has been found an invaluable specific. Sometimes diarrhœas occur in children of more advanced age, that successfully resist various modes of treatment for a long time. Suddenly aphthæ appear, and in a few days *mercury* removes both the diarrhœa and the sores. Generally speaking, diarrhœa in children depends upon a sub-inflammatory state of the mucous intestinal membrane.*

Ferrum carbonicum is useful in diarrhœa, especially in children. When the disease has existed for some time, after eating or drinking there are speedy aqueous evacuations without pain or effort, containing almost always a certain quantity of undigested food, accompanied with paleness of the face, loss of substance, hardness and swelling of the abdomen, without flatulence, sometimes

* In diarrhœa of children, with a very bad smell, *rheum* has been found particularly useful.

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voracious appetite, and at others total loss, thirst, &c.

In chronic dysenteric diarrhœa in children accompanied with violent griping pains, great thirst, loss of substance and slow fever, *arsen. alb.* is very efficient.

In cases of neglected diarrhœa in children during their first dentition, when they void a brown liquid five or six times every day, become extremely thin and yellow, and there is loss of appetite, with enlargement of the abdomen, *ars.* 10th, gl. 1. is frequently successful. In one case, a single dose was sufficient; in other cases, the dose was repeated every three days; but in no case more than four times.

Dulcamara is useful in diarrhœas with which children are attacked during dentition, and to which are often joined fever and loss of appetite.

DYSENTERY.

Mercury is the principal remedy in this disease, and has been found extremely efficacious in two epidemics. The disease was

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mostly simple dysentery, commencing with shivering and cold, with alternations of heat, with pain in the abdomen and watery evacuations as in ordinary diarrhœa: but very soon the fever increased with cold, heat, thirst, head-ache, and general depression, and the evacuations assumed a dysenteric character. In the midst of extreme pains, occurring at very short intervals, with violent tenesmus, pain and burning heat, there were evacuations of small quantities of blood and mucus. The tongue was more or less furred and dry, with loss of appetite and pains in the limbs. In many cases, especially in children, the discharges were accompanied with masses of dark green mucus, which occurred more or less frequently every quarter of an hour, with tenesmus. Many patients required only one dose of *mercury pulv.* 3d, gl. 1. Others required several doses.

The wonderfully prompt operation of *sublimate* in autumnal dysentery in adults, has frequently been witnessed. A few doses of the sixth dilution were sufficient to stop the most violent attacks. In colics and diarrhœas, the proper homœopathic remedies such as *colocynth*, *aloes*, and *rheum*, have been no less successful.

A man was suffering severely as follows:— The affection commenced with cold and heat,

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anxiety, diarrhœa, spasms in the abdomen, violent pain in the loins, tenesmus, and voiding of a small quantity of blood. The remedies applied, *antiphlogistics*, did not diminish the disease; on the contrary, the anxiety, tenesmus and thirst increased; every ten minutes the patient vomited sanguineous mucus mixed with blood. On the third day, he took *sublimate*, 16th, which in a few days entirely removed the symptoms.

In dysentery in a child eighteen months old, who had previously suffered from humid tetter, the dysentery had baffled allopathic treatment. The child, which was previously strong and healthy, grew pale and thin at the end of three weeks, and ejected sanguineous mucus without particular suffering several times a day. A few doses of *baryta* effected its speedy removal.

A female, aged twenty-three, of phlegmatic temperament, was seized, in consequence of eating unripe fruit and other errors in regimen, with discharge of blood, to which she at first paid no attention. The skin was dry; there were sharp, shooting pains in the abdomen; thirst, bitter taste in the mouth, tenesmus, bilious evacuations streaked with blood. A very small dose of *tartar. emetic.* removed it in three or four days.

In the beginning of July, an epidemic

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dysentery broke out, consisting of three periods.

First Stage.—Attack: some were seized with giddiness, scarcely able to stand, heaviness of the head, griping pains in the abdomen; others with colic, nausea, pricking in various parts of the stomach. A patient complained of compression of the brain, and violent head-ache, especially about the forehead, shooting pains and fulness of the orbits, especially when he held down his head.—Progress: after twelve or even twenty-four hours, painful tenesmus, useless attempts, or evacuation very small in quantity, of a frothy mucous matter, mixed at times with blood, during which the patient suffered severely from a feeling as if the intestines were compressed. Colic and pain in the abdomen, bending the patient almost double. Frothy evacuations of a yellowish colour, similar to saffron. Desire to evacuate every five or ten minutes, accompanied by painful tenesmus, pulse small and depressed, face sunk, weakness and trembling of the limbs, with anxiety.

Second Stage.—Two or three days after the commencement of the disease, all the symptoms that affected the head and abdomen grew worse, accompanied by a sensation of burning and pricking at the stomach,

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with vomiting, especially during evacuations. These were blackish and fœtid; a few moments afterwards, violent eructations, incessant hiccough, painful spasms and cramp of the abdomen, inclination to evacuate, sometimes ineffectual, at others followed by a discharge of mucous matter, and blood, frequent discharge of soft, puriform substances tinged with blood, described by the patient as if he had voided a mass of substances, attended with insupportable pain. Tongue dry and rough, thirst, desire for iced water, painful lassitude, general spasm, cramp in the calves of the legs, trembling and weakness amounting to paralysis of the legs, cold shivering of the back, sensible coldness of the hands and feet, and soon after, heat of the forehead and head; fever accompanied by dryness of the skin, depression and suffering as in approaching death. Loss of strength, the eyes sunken and surrounded by livid circles. Great falling away, and occasionally death.

Third Period.—Evacuations of blackish, aqueous matter, eighty to one hundred daily; loss of substance and emaciation, general coldness and colliquative sweats, delirium, insatiable thirst, strong desire for ice, burning heat of the mouth and stomach (pyrosis), tongue dry, chapped and blackish, teeth black, breath cadaverous, face hippocratic, constant

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groaning, violent suspirations and hiccoughs. Afterwards tranquillity, cessation of several symptoms, apparent improvement in the condition of the patient; death.

The remedies deemed advisable in accordance with the homœopathic treatment were, in the first period, *camomile* of the tenth dilution, *colocynth.* and *corrosive sublimate* of the thirteenth. *Camomile* taken in the form of globules (one or two every half hour) always exercised a salutary but temporary influence during the first period of the disease; for which reason the patient was never left solely to its effects, but there were administered eight or twelve hours afterwards, two globules of *colocynth*, and the patient was left for twenty-four hours to its action. At the end of this time, there was a sensible improvement, and health was re-established at the end of a few days. In a case where two globules of *colocynth* were given immediately on the commencement of the disease, a complete cure was performed in twenty-four hours. In an epidemic, *corrosive sublimate* was administered, but it was discontinued, no proof of its action having been witnessed.

In the second stage, *colocynth* was found again efficacious; beneficial effects were also experienced from *rhus toxicodendron* and *sul-*

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phuric acid. *Rhus* of the thirteenth dilution produced successful results, especially when the disease began, from improper allopathic treatment, to degenerate into typhus fever. In the last stage *arsenic* of the thirteenth dilution appeared to be effective.

Case I.—A labouring man aged twenty, of a strong constitution, had been for two days suffering under heaviness of the head, and acute pain in the forehead. On the morning of July 30, he was seized with violent colic, and griping in the abdomen. His efforts were incessant, but ineffectual, to relieve the bowels, with tenesmus. In the evening, the following was the pathological state: vertigo similar to that produced by drinking, painful heaviness of the head, as if pressed in a vice, sudden shooting pains in the eyes, flatulence, violent colic as if the intestines were being cut, forcing the patient into a bending position, useless efforts and tenesmus, evacuations of frothy matter mixed with blood and mucus, weakness of the legs, pulse slow and small, excessive thirst, paleness of the face, slight shivering, sensation of cold. *Camomile* of the tenth dilution repeated every three hours; *colocynth*, the following morning. Finding that after six hours, the morbid phenomena were relieved, fresh doses were ab-

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stained from. The following day, the patient was quite recovered and able to attend to his work.

Case II.—A man aged twenty-five, was seized on the 23d of July, with vertigo and head-ache, accompanied with griping pains and copious evacuations. On the fifth day of the disease were observed the following phenomena:

Suborbital cephalalgia, as if the head would split, acute pains in various parts of the abdomen, flatulence, tenesmus, nausea during evacuation, discharge of whitish frothy mucus every half hour, mixed with streaks of blood, and accompanied by violent pains in the abdomen and sacrum, the patient feeling as if voiding his intestines. General weakness of all the limbs, sensation of paralysis, depression, eyes and face sunk, pulse small and slow. After employing *colocynth*, repeated during the first two days, with *rhus* and *sulphuric acid*, the patient recovered on the eighth day.

One of his sisters, his eldest brother, and two of his daughters were similarly attacked with dysentery, accompanied by fever. The two daughters were also suffering from worms: nevertheless these four persons were cured by the use of *aconite*, *camomile*, *rhus*

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and *sulphuric acid:* the case, however, of the elder brother exhibited an instance of the danger of bleeding and leeches in this epidemic.

Case III.—A little girl aged eight years, of weak constitution, was seized with dysentery and exhibited the following symptoms.

Pain over the right eye-lid, violent colic in the epigastrium, evacuations with pain in the abdomen, sometimes of mucous blood-stained matter with ascarides, at others of bright clear blood These evacuations were attended with intolerable pain, thirst, general coldness, paleness, loss of substance, fever in the afternoon, ceasing towards evening. *Sublimate* was administered, and two days after, *colocynth:* no improvement; on the contrary, the patient was worse.

Rhus was prescribed, and a cure was effected in the fourth day of the treatment, after three doses, being the fifteenth from the commencement of the attack.

Case IV.—A young girl, aged sixteen, of rather strong constitution, was first seized with dysentery. On the fourteenth day of the disease, after she had gone through all the stages, it appeared to have degenerated into hectic fever. The following were the

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phenomena observed. Dysenteric evacuations, constant ejection of liquid matter and food, thirst excessive, tongue dry. Dull pain in the loins, hiccough, cough, accompanied with expulsion of bronchial mucus, remittent fever, pulse frequent and weak, slight shivering at night, fœtid, clammy perspiration in the morning; during the remainder of the day skin dry and rough. Sensation of internal heat, extreme thinness or rather emaciation. *Pulsatilla* repeated during three days. The sixth day *arsenic* and *nitric acid* alternately every six days. I had the satisfaction of finding that the young patient recovered completely in eighteen days.

SPORADIC CHOLERA.

A female was suffering under this disease: continual vomiting, first of aliments, afterwards of a greenish liquid, with frequent diarrhœa, more and more liquid and colourless, violent cutting and shooting pains in the abdomen, cramp in the legs, suppression of the urinary secretion, rapid decrease of

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strength. *Colocynth*, 6th, gt. 1, repeated every two or three hours, effected its speedy removal.

Veratrum also is successful in sporadic cholera.

A child six months old, of weak constitution, had been for three days suffering from vomiting and diarrhœa, and was extremely weakened. Six doses of *veratrum album*, 12th, were administered, one every two or three hours. Still no improvement in his condition. His body was cold as ice, and thirst insatiable. The case was critical. *Cupr. metallic*, 30th, was prescribed, and a tea-spoonful was administered every ten or fifteen minutes, till these symptoms disappeared. The child was saved, and in a few days completely recovered.

ASIATIC CHOLERA.

It will not be amiss, if I put before the eyes of my readers, the advice given by Hahnemann, for the treatment of cholera. It is sufficiently simple, concise and easy of application, to be readily understood by every

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person. These instructions were given exactly as follows.—First, therefore, I refer to the precautions the medical man should take for his own safety.

Directly epidemic cholera breaks out, every medical man should procure the following solution. Put an ounce of *camphor* in twelve ounces of pure *spirits of wine*, and shake it till it is completely dissolved. Before entering the patient's room, take two drops of this solution as a preservative, and repeat the same precaution on entering every patient's room to prevent infection from the mephitic air confined there. Before entering the room, it will be well to wait a few seconds in the ante-chamber, a precaution rendered necessary by the fatigue the medical man suffers from his numerous avocations. If he visit his patient in a state of perspiration, he is much more likely to receive the contagion. Great attention also must be paid to diet, that is to say, he should never suffer either hunger or thirst, and never overload the stomach with food or liquid; with respect to the choice of food he should take only that which possesses undoubted nutritive qualities, without any exciting properties. But in this he must, like his patient, be guided by circumstances, as it would not be discreet to discontinue, whilst the epidemic is raging, the use

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of wine, tea, coffee, or any other heating article which he had been daily in the habit of using. It may be as well to add that the medical man should be fully imbued with the importance of his functions at these difficult times, banish all fear from his mind, be prepared by reflection for all occurrences, and possess great presence of mind.

Directly a patient is seized with cholera, administer one or two drops of the solution of *camphor* before mentioned, on sugar or in pure water. Repeat the dose every five minutes, whatever the intensity of the disease, the *camphor* should in all cases be administered during the first hour after the commencement of the attack. As long as the patient feels any benefit from the use of the *camphor* it should be continued, and if the disease yields to this application no other will be necessary. When this, however, is not the case, we must be guided in our treatment by what the symptoms require. If there is vomiting, or only tendency that way, or if the vomitings are accompanied by excruciating pain, agitation and icy coldness, the patient should take one or two globules of *arsenic*. If this produces a good effect without complete cure, the dose should be renewed every two or three hours, according to the strength of the patient.

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If the symptoms enumerated above are accompanied by cramps, recourse must be had, not to *arsenic*, but to *cuprum*, of which two globules may be administered, and the dose repeated every two hours if necessary.

The cholera, however, may assume another form, its characteristic symptom being frequently violent diarrhœa. In this case *veratrum album* must be given, and in this stage of the disease, ice may be beneficially used. Hahnemann expressly says allow the patient as much as he chooses.

Sometimes a period occurs when the patient falls into asphyxia. We must be careful, however, not to treat him as if dead, though he may appear to be so, much less consign him to the undertaker. We must administer a few drops of *carbo vegetabilis* in water, and at the same time rub the whole of the body with ice.

But if the patient, when actually in asphyxia, has not been previously treated homœopathically, the whole external surface of the body must be rubbed with *camphor*, and a few drops in a glass of water be poured into his mouth, even if he is unable to swallow.

Persons not suffering under acute cholera, and who, though not confined to their beds, are affected with cholerine, and experience

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alternately weakness, palpitation, anxiety, cramp in the calves of the legs, cold, uneasiness, sickness, diarrhœa, should take every day, or oftener if need be, one or two globules of *phosphorus* to preserve them from infection. Persons who are quite free both from cholera and cholerine, will do well to submit to preservative treatment, for which purpose they should take every eight days a globule of *veratrum album*, if diarrhœa be the chief characteristic of the disease, and a globule of *cuprum*, if the general symptoms are vomiting and cramp.

CHOLERINE.

During the second invasion of the cholera at Berlin, Rome, Marseilles, &c. an epidemic broke out which attacked young children chiefly, adults not however being exempt from it. Although this epidemic did not present all the symptoms, nor yet all the intensity of cholera, still the character of the disease was the same, and this will be evident from the following cases. This resemblance induced a recurrence to those reme-

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dies which had frequently been found efficacious in cases of cholera, and the result was satisfactory.

The diarrhœal evacuations of the patients were whitish, liquid and occasionally blood-stained, resembling the juice of meat, a characteristic with the exception perhaps of the blood, of most choleratic evacuations; they were frequently accompanied with tenesmus and colic; the patients suffered from nausea and sickness; some exhibited a bluish discoloration round the eyes, nose and mouth. The limbs had lost a great portion of their natural heat. But of all these symptoms, the most singular was the considerable loss of substance, and that in a few days; the skin became flaccid, by the disappearance of the subjacent fat, and lost its elasticity, as in old men. Whatever the symptoms were, it is certain that in many respects they were similar to those of cholera, and also very analogous to those of epidemic dysentery. The major part of the patients had been unsuccessfully treated in the usual manner.

Case I.—A child, aged eleven months, of good constitution, and previously enjoying excellent health, had been for six days suffering under violent colics, with very copious diarrhœal evacuations of a whitish colour,

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very abundant, at times mixed with blood, extreme sleeplessness, face pale, eyes sunk, tongue dry and furred, sores on the sides of the nose, with obstruction of the nostrils, extreme thirst, loss of appetite, violent colic, with tenesmus causing the child to cry incessantly.

The patient free from fever, the skin cold, extreme weakness and loss of substance, dispirited and exhausted.

On the 28th of August, *nux vomica*, tenth dilution, was prescribed in four ounces of distilled water, three spoonsful every day. The next morning, 29th, the patient had only three evacuations, more cohesive and free from blood. Again was administered a teaspoonful of the mixture; and, on the following day, the child was able to sleep, and had recovered his playfulness and appetite.

On the 1st of September, the patient was a second time seized with frequent blood-stained evacuations, accompanied with convulsions of the limbs and very violent tenesmus, each evacuation preceded by cries and griping pains in the abdomen. On the second of September, prescribed *veratrum*, third dilution, in four ounces of distilled water, two spoonsful to be taken during the day. On the third, the diarrhœa and colic

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were sensibly diminished, and on the fifth the patient was perfectly recovered.

Case II.—A child, aged five months, in the enjoyment of general good health, and strong for her age, was seized with very copious diarrhœa towards the end of the month of August. For nine days, she had been treated in the usual way; opiates and gums were administered both by the mouth and in lavements. On the first of September, she was as follows:—

Face very pale, eyes sunk and wandering, pupils dilated, features distorted, tongue dry and white, thirst, loss of appetite, frequent vomitings, violent colic and copious evacuations, discharge of fœcal matter almost every minute, loss of substance, skin dry and hot. No sleep for several nights, difficulty of breathing.

As an internal remedy, *nux vomica* was prescribed, tenth dilution, in four ounces of distilled water, a spoonful every hour. At the same time, were applied to the stomach flannels soaked in warm water. On the following day the child was much better, and on the third of September entirely cured.

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WORMS

Most frequently attack women and children, are engendered by bad food, moist and unhealthy air, and by everything which favours the collection of mucus in the intestinal canal. Their existence is often unknown; and on the other hand, we attribute to them many affections which arise from other causes.

The kinds of worms most common are ascarides, lumbrici and tænia or tape-worm.

The ascarides resemble the worms of cheese, but some of them attain nearly the length of the finger. They are particularly common in children, to whom they cause a disagreeable itching in the intestinal canal and of the nose, frequent and pressing desire to relieve the bowels, with some other symptoms.

The lumbrici have the form of earth-worms. They are white, have, at the point of the head, a circle surrounded with a little wart, unite in different parts of the intestines, on the parietes of which they cause, by moving and sucking, an irritation which produces pinching and pain, particularly in the region of the umbilicus. The usual signs of their

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presence are the following: nausea, much aqueous saliva or other liquid in the mouth, fœtid breath, countenance puffed and pale, bluish or brownish arches below the eyes, dilatation of the pupils, sleep disturbed, abdomen distended and tense.

The tape-worm is flat, whitish, often very long, and composed of a great number of articulations. It is somewhat difficult to discover its existence. It sometimes occasions extraordinary sensations of pressure, of cold and of undulatory movement in the abdomen, acute pain, cramp, epileptic and convulsive movements; often none of these symptoms are observable. The only certain sign of its presence is the appearance of some portions which are naturally detached from its body, and are replaced by a new growth.

The greater part of the means employed against these three kinds of worms have at most, for their result, the separation of a portion of them, without destroying the morbid principle which produces them. When the lumbrici or the ascarides live in the intestines in children without producing any serious effects, they do not require interference of art. But if we observe signs or a real alteration in health, it becomes necessary to oppose to each particular case the means which it requires. We can most frequently employ

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against ascarides, *aconite, nux, mercury, ignatia, valerian,** and against lumbrici, *nux, china, belladonna, mercury.*†

Stramonium, 9th, will remove colics produced by worms. *Cicuta virosa*, 30th, is salutary in fevers caused by worms and accompanied by cramps with violent pains in the bowels.—*Tincture of sulphur*, 30th, causes the disappearance of the itching, which arises from the same cause.—*Filix mas*, 11th, administered from time to time, always allays the irritation, which is sometimes painful, produced by the tape-worm.‡

* *Spigelia* is also an important remedy in ascarides, also *spongia tosta*, this remedy has been known to procure the evacuation of more than a yard of tænia.

† Lumbrici are frequently evacuated after the administration of *arsenic*, and in a few instances after *arnica* and *belladonna*.

‡ Homœopathy possesses no particular specifics against worms. Any remedy in the Materia Medica may become applicable, says Dr. Hart, if the symptoms only correspond.

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ON HOMŒOPATHIC DIET AND REGIMEN.

BY P. CURIE, M. D., &c. &c.

COMMON PRACTICE IN THIS RESPECT.

In none of the medical schools which have preceded that of Hahnemann, have the rules for the adoption of regimen been fixed upon a sound and invariable basis. Each school has formed these rules upon its peculiar views of the nature of disease, and thus, while some prescribe an extremely low diet, others order, or permit the use of, the most nourishing aliments and stimulating wines. The object of the former is to subdue that *irritation*, which they consider to be the generating principle of the disease, by an almost total abstinence from food,—whilst the latter attempt to counteract, by stimulants, that *debility* which, in their opinion, is often the foundation of the malady.

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The examination of the doctrines and rules of each school, will demonstrate the existence of these contradictions and uncertainties; and I do not hesitate to affirm, that this will continue until the homœopathic law is adopted, which, by giving a fixed and sure basis to therapeutics, will, at the same time, destroy all uncertainty regarding regimen.

Homœopathic Rules of Diet and Regimen.

The object to be attained by attention to regimen in the treatment of disease, is to place the patient in a condition the most favourable for the action of the remedy; and, to accomplish this, the two following rules are considered essential.

1st. To prohibit the use of every description of aliment which possesses medicinal properties, or which might destroy or modify the action of the medicines administered.

2d. To regulate the quantity of such aliments as are allowed to the patient, in order that the daily waste of the constitution may be supplied, without overcharging the digestive powers.

The homœopathic physician prohibits his patients from using spirituous liquors, spices, acids, strong tea and coffee, and aromatic

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substances. He also excludes from their regimen, every aliment which his experience informs him is of difficult digestion, and in general all fat meats and the flesh of animals which are too young; as well as all fruits of bad quality, or which are not perfectly ripe. He moreover recommends them not to reside in marshy districts, nor in dark and damp streets, in which there is no free circulation of air. For similar reasons, he advises them to avoid public meetings, and large parties, where the temperature of the air is either too elevated, or vitiated by the number of persons breathing it.

The aliments to be preferred, are such as the patient digests with the greatest facility; and, in this, experience alone can guide him. The physician can neither predicate those which will be agreeable to him, nor those to which he has a dislike. The patient is allowed to drink pure water, weak beer, or a very small quantity of wine mixed with water. Wine undiluted, as well as tea and coffee, are allowed only to patients who have been long accustomed to their use, and who would suffer from privation of them. The physician must decide in what cases they ought to be entirely prohibited, or be only partially permitted; but, even when it is necessary to allow them, they ought to be taken in much

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smaller quantities and much weaker than usual. It is also strongly recommended to the homœopathic patient to avoid every thing which is calculated to excite strong emotions, and all excesses either of labour or pleasure.

Exercise is likewise a very important element in the homœopathic regimen. It is indispensable that patients afflicted with a chronic disease, should not lead too sedentary a life. They ought to take exercise daily in the open air, to as great an extent as their strength will permit; and if they are unable to walk, they ought to be taken out in a carriage, although this mode of exercise is less salutary than walking. If the patient is too ill to partake of either of these modes of exercise, the air of his apartments ought to be frequently changed, and the greatest attention paid to cleanliness therein.

Hot baths are not permitted in homœopathic treatment; but sponging with cold or slightly tepid water is recommended in preference.

These, of brief Duration in Acute Diseases.

The regimen here pointed out is more especially adapted to the treatment of chronic diseases. But it is also suitable in acute

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complaints; although, in the latter, it is subject to many particular modifications which cannot be detailed in a work like the present. I will only observe here, that rigorous attention to diet in acute disorders, is rarely of long duration in homœopathic practice. In no case is the patient restricted from taking food, except in cases where he has a positive disinclination to it; and whenever the desire for food returns, he is allowed by degrees to indulge it. Besides, the duration of acute diseases being infinitely shorter by the homœopathic mode of treatment than by that of the old school, the duration of dietetic restrictions is also shorter, and consequently the inconveniences arising from long abstinence from food are avoided.

Such Rules Accessory, not Curative.

From the preceding observations, an opinion may be formed of the *rationale* of the homœopathic regimen. It will be remarked, that we consider it only as accessory, and not curative; and that, consequently, there is a wide difference betwixt the homœopathic school and that which has been called the *expectant*—that which looks to the efforts of nature for every thing, and proclaims diet,

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water, and exercise, to be sovereign remedies.

No doubt, diet, water, and exercise, are excellent things. Unquestionably, for him who has too constantly remained within doors, it may be well to prescribe exercise. To another, who has gorged himself with the delicacies of the table, it may be proper to recommend moderation in eating, and to dictate such a diet as will give the alimentary system time to recover from the effects of repletion. And, to him, who has indulged in an excess of wine, it may be wise to prescribe water: to deprive him for a time of that in which he has indulged to excess, is easily understood, and *it* may alone be sufficient to re-establish the health, which the abuse of it had deranged.

We should not have mentioned the expectant school at all,—as it enjoys credit only with those who are absurdly credulous,—had it not been that we have always been represented as ranging ourselves under its banner. Those who have seen the success of the homœopathic treatment could not well deny it; but they have preferred attributing this success to the *regimen*, and not to the *principle*, and to that curative virtue of homœopathic doses which we proclaim. Their arguments appear to us to be quite unfounded. It is

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easily seen that our regimen is infinitely less severe than that which is commanded by certain other medical schools; for we always allow to our patients a quantity of substantial nourishment in accordance with their appetite and digestive powers.

It is true that, even in this objection, our system of diet is, so far, well understood; but its excellence is dependant on this, that it does not injure the constitution of the patient, and more especially on its favouring the most simple and beneficent therapeutic which has ever existed. But, on this point, it has justly been asked,—if Homœopathy has really performed so many wonderful cures by its dietetic prescriptions alone, are not the routine practitioners criminal if they continue to torment their patients with bleedings, leeches, cupping, setons, artificial ulcers, hot irons, disgusting draughts, pills and other kinds of dangerous and repugnant medicines?

Assuredly, if the homœopathic regimen contributes to the preservation of health, it has no more power than any other system in destroying disease. And those who advance the opinion, that it is the strict attention to diet exacted by the homœopathic physician which alone produces a cure, ought to feel the absurdity of supposing examples of such

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diseases as cholera, typhus, or bilious fever, being cured by such means;—and, as regards chronic disorders, no one has effected their cure by a regulated diet alone. We know, on the contrary, that by adhering for a long time to a low diet, the organs of digestion are weakened, the susceptibility of the nervous system increased, and that thus new disorders may be produced. All this is so true, that it is only those of the routine physicians who have very naturally lost confidence in their art, who have adopted this do-nothing practice.

The argument of our opponents is the less reasonable, even allowing it to be possible to cure by regimen alone; for, in that case, of what use are the long and difficult studies of the medical practitioner? and why does he devote his time to them if they lead to nothing better than to a simple diet? This would be placing a very low value upon the labours of those who have devoted their lives to the advancement of a science which they consider one of the most important: it would be placing that science itself in a low rank, and it would leave little hope to those who expect to derive from it some alleviation of their sufferings.

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DISEASES

OF THE

ALIMENTARY CANAL

AND

CONSTIPATION,

TREATED HOMŒOPATHICALLY.

By W. BROACKES, M.D. AND M.R.C.S.

WITH

PREFACE AND NOTES

By GIDEON HUMPHREY, M.D.

ALSO

AN ESSAY ON HOMŒOPATHIC DIET.

PHILADELPHIA:

J. DOBSON, 106 CHESTNUT STREET.

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1841.

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By W. BROACKES, M.D. AND M.R.C.S.

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