

the same time, it would appear that they only used it for a limited time, or to a limited degree; and thus it became forgotten or neglected, or, at all events, never was made generally known. As regards mere chronology, it certainly was known and employed by the ancients as "coagulum", though to what precise extent, or for what definite purpose, I leave to be elucidated hereafter. In more modern yet old days, so to speak, it was also medicinally applied, as I find, for instance, on taking from my shelves the *London Pharmacopœia* of 1677, the time when Glisson and Scarborough were Fellows, and Sydenham among the *Permissi*, that it is there mentioned. Under the general head of "*Catalogus Simplicium ad Pharmacopœiam*," there appears the following, under the subsidiary heading of "*Animalium Partes*."

"Coagulum. { Agni.
Equi.
Hœdi.
Leporis.
Vituli."

The great yet simple principle of its application not being then grasped by the profession in general, it must subsequently have fallen into disuse; for neither Dr. Paris nor any other standard writer on materia medica, that I know of, alludes to it in this light of a digestive. It has been my aim since 1851, as distinctive from those who may have used it specifically, to ground its application as a natural solvent of food upon a rational and scientific basis, and to demonstrate its utility in almost all diseases leading to waste of the body. My ultimate conclusion as to its value rests upon a foundation of facts obtained, at the very least, from upwards of 2,500 cases. This is a far greater amount of experience in the matter than any one else, so far as I am aware, can speak to; but all who have tried the remedy, whether as practitioners or patients, testify to the one chief point of its usefulness; and that, after all, is the object of our practice.

CASE ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE EFFECTS OF BELLADONNA IN ARRESTING THE SECRETION OF MILK.

By JOHN BURROWS, Esq., Liverpool.

Mrs. B., aged 37 years, was delivered of her first child on the 17th of February, 1857. The labour was tedious, and required the aid of the forceps for its completion. The umbilical cord, being coiled three times around the neck of the child, and drawn so tightly as to arrest the circulation of blood within its vessels, asphyxiated the infant, so that no principle of life could be discovered. Resuscitative measures were adopted. Artificial respiration was continued for some time, as also friction along the spine, and the warm bath, without producing any mark of returning vitality. On the fourth day, the breasts assumed their maternal functions; on the seventh, they were full, tense, painful, and knotty, with a slight inflammatory blush, though spirit lotion had been applied. Having read, in *Braithwaite's Retrospect* for December 1856, an extract from the *Lancet*, August 9th, 1856, p. 176, in which two cases are given, exhibiting the efficacy of the extract of belladonna in arresting the secretion of milk, I resolved to use the first opportunity that occurred to try the effect of this remedy in so painful and tantalising a malady, and thought this a good case for testing its antilactescent power. I directed the areola, and a circle extending half an inch beyond it, of each breast, to be painted thickly over with the extract of belladonna, reduced to the consistency of thick paste by the addition of the acacia mixture. As the late Mr. C. T. Haden recommended the use of colchicum for the purpose of controlling arterial action in inflammation of the breasts and nipples, with the same intention I gave the following mixture:—

℞ Infusi rosæ comp. ℥vj; magnesie sulphatis ℥j; vini colchici ℥ij; aquæ menthæ piperitæ ℥xv. M. Fiat mistura eujus sumatur ℥j 4tâ quâque horâ.

The result was most satisfactory. In thirty-six hours after the application of the extract, the mamma were cool, pale, and flaccid; and the knots softened and reduced in size. I advised the repainting of the areolæ; and, in two days after—i. e., three and a half days from the first application—they were so reduced in size that they were smaller than during the latter period of pregnancy, and the knots could scarcely be felt. The effect was truly marvellous, and resembled the magic touch of the necromancer, rather than the therapeutic influence of a medicinal substance.

CONGESTION OF THE LIVER, WITH SEVERE VOMITING, HICCUP, AND CONSTIPATION, DURING TWELVE DAYS.

By T. HAYES JACKSON, M.D., Darlington.

WM. ELWOOD, aged 30, labourer, a temperate athletic man, came under my care on the 26th of last December, complaining of severe vomiting with constipation, which he attributed to exposure to cold, experienced three days previous to my attendance. His pulse was natural; the tongue was clean and moist; the skin cool; he had no pain in the abdomen on pressure; the bowels were constipated.

The treatment consisted in large doses of calomel and jalapine, pills of aloes with mercury, and of colocynth with mercury, compound colocynth pill, sulphate of magnesia, small doses of croton oil with extract of hyoscyamus, brandy and soda water, prussic acid with creasote; also sinapisms, a blister to the epigastrium, enemata of turpentine and castor oil, etc. All failed during eight days either to relieve the excessive vomiting, or to overcome the constipation.

January 3rd. Vomiting was more intense, with hiccup; his countenance was sunken; the pulse quick, small, and intermitting; the skin was cool; but he had no pain on percussion, nor distension of the abdomen from tympanitis. There was inordinate action of the abdominal aorta. The following medicines were ordered:—

℞ Pulveris opii gr. j; calomelanos gr. j; extracti colocynthidis comp. gr. iij; glycerinæ q. s. M. Fiat pilula 3tis horis sumenda. Mitte xij.

℞ Acidi hydrocyanici (Scheele's) ℥xij; misturæ amygdalæ* ℥iij. M. Fiat mistura, eujus sumatur ℥ss post singulas pilulas.

An enema, composed of one pint of warm water and two teaspoonfuls of mustard, was ordered to be administered every two or three hours, with the intention of stimulating the ganglia or sympathetic filaments of the intestines, and of exciting peristaltic action.

January 4th. The patient expressed himself much relieved this morning, having slept well during the night. Pulse full, soft, and quiet. No vomiting has occurred; but the bowels are still confined.

January 5th. Vomiting returned, after twenty-four hours cessation, though in a mitigated form. He was ordered:—

℞ Pulveris opii gr. j; olei crotonis gutt. j; extracti colocynthidis comp. gr. iij. M. Fiat pilula 3tis horis sumenda. Mitte viij.

After taking three of these pills, the bowels were freely opened.

January 6th. He was much improved. The vomiting occurred at longer intervals, but the bowels were relaxed. The following was prescribed:—

℞ Pulveris opii gr. j; extracti colocynthidis comp. gr. iij; glycerinæ q. s. M. Fiat pilula 3tis horis sumenda. Mitte viij.

Sumat pilulam crotonis cum opio horâ somni pro re natâ.

January 8th. He was improving daily; and was ordered to take a pill of quinine, with sulphate or iron, three times daily.

January 15th. He was convalescent.

REMARKS. Physiologists state that the liver secretes from seventeen to twenty-four ounces of bile daily, though by some this amount is considered too high, or variable under certain circumstances. In this case, however, in consequence of the increased morbid action of the liver, pint after pint of fluid, containing biline and bilipheine, were secreted, and, passing along the hepatic duct to the duodenum, were regurgitated into the stomach, and ejected by that organ.

I send this case in further elucidation of Dr. Brittan's opinion, "that intestinal obstructions are best overcome by opium in combination with aloes," rather than by drastic aperients alone. For instance, if a small portion of the intestines were inflamed, or spasmodically constricted, or intussusception had occurred, drastic purgatives in this case would have increased the evil by propelling the excreta to that portion of the intestines thus affected; and, instead of relaxing the contraction, would indubitably have produced a more confirmed lock.

* I have found the mistura amygdalæ, in combination with hydrocyanic acid, most invaluable in vomiting arising from nervous irritability of the stomach.