

BALSAMUM PERUVIANUM.

A balsam obtained from *ToluiferaPereirae* (Royle) Baillon. San Salvador in Central America; called Balsam of Peru because first exported to Europe from Peru.

Common Names: Balsam of Peru, Peru Balsam.

Description.—A dark brown, heavy fluid of syrupy consistence, without stickiness and non-hardening in the air, and having a vanilla-like odor, and an acrid, bitter persistent taste. It is soluble in alcohol and chloroform.

Principal Constituents.— *Cinnamein* or *benzyliccinnamate* (C₉ H₇ (C₇ H₇) O₂) constitutes 60 per cent of Peru balsam. Other constituents are vanillin, styracin, a fragrant oil and a large proportion of resin.

Action.—Skin eruptions have been produced by applying the balsam to the skin, as hives, eczema, and erythema; sometimes the latter results from its internal use. These effects are thought to be due largely to impurities in the factitious drug, which is oftener sold than the genuine balsam. A good and true product allays dermal irritation and that of the mucosa, and has decided antiseptic and parasitic properties. Large doses cause gastro-intestinal irritation, with vomiting and diarrhea. Internally it causes increased circulation, some cutaneous warmth, and augments the flow of urine and the bronchial secretions. It is excreted by the respiratory mucosa, skin, and kidneys, upon which it probably exerts an antiseptic effect.

Therapy.—*External.* Balsam of Peru is a good parasiticide and has given the best of satisfaction in scabies and for the destruction of lice. For the former it may be combined with the sulphurated ointments, or may be used alone, with an oleaginous and petrolatum base (balsam, 25 parts; olive oil, 50 parts; petrolatum, 100 parts). We prefer the former preparations. The latter combination is useful in pediculosis, both to kill the nits and the lice. Balsam of Peru, either full strength or in desired dilution with oils or petrolatum, may be used to cure ringworm of the scalp and other forms of tinea, in chronic eczema, and is splendidly effective in senile and other forms of pruritus, especially pruritus vulvae, and in chilblains. As a stimulant to ulcers of low vitality and pus-oozing granulations following operations, and similar conditions in burns, abscesses, and wounds, the old-time use of the balsam has been revived in surgery, applying it in 5 to 15 per cent solutions in castor oil, and covering well with several layers of gauze to

allow of free drainage. This method is one of the best forms of treatment for old tibial ulcers, due to varicosis, but the patient must be compelled to rest the leg in a horizontal position for some weeks in order to insure results. The same solution may be poured into small granulating sinuses, produced by drainage tubes, that refuse to heal. Beef marrow, 1 ounce; quinine, 10 grains; and balsam of Peru, 1 drachm, has been advised in alopecia.

Internal. Balsam of Peru is a stimulating expectorant and is of some value to restrain secretion in the bronchorrhoea of the aged. It has a similar restraining effect upon catarrhal conditions of the gastrointestinal and renal tracts and is sometimes of advantage in stubbornly resisting gonorrhoea. Peru balsam should not be used in inflammatory or febrile conditions; and its use should be discontinued if it produces gastro-intestinal irritation.

BAPTISIA.

The recent root and leaves of *Baptisia tinctoria*, Robert Brown (Nat. Ord. Leguminosae), a perennial shrub-like plant, indigenous to North America.

Common Names: Wild Indigo, Indigo Weed.

Principal Constituents.—A poisonous alkaloid *baptitoxine* (*baptisine*); two glucosides, *baptisin*, non-poisonous, and *baptin*, laxative and cathartic; and a yellowish resin. Baptitoxine is identical with cystisine, ulexine, and sophorine, toxic principles found in other active plants, and resembles sparteine in its action upon the heart.

Preparations.—1. *Decoctum Baptisiae*, Decoction of Baptisia. (Recent root of Baptisia 1 ounce, Water 16 ounces.) **Dose**, 1 to 4 drachms; employed chiefly as a local application.

2. *Specific Medicine Baptisia*.—**Dose**, 1 to 20 drops; as a topical wash or dressing, 1-2 fluidounces to water 16 ounces. **Usual form of administration:** Rx Specific Medicine Baptisia, 20 drops Water, 4 fluidounces. Sig.: One teaspoonful every 1 to 2 hours.

Specific Indications.—Fullness of tissue, with dusky, leaden, purplish or livid discoloration, tendency to ulceration and decay (gangrene); sepsis, with enfeebled circulation; fetid discharges with atony; stools resembling “prune juice” or fetid “meat washings”; face swollen, bluish, and resembling one having been frozen or long exposed to cold; typhoid conditions.

Action.—Large doses of baptisia may provoke dangerous emetocatharsis, sometimes so violent as to induce gastro-enteritis. The evacuations are soft and mushy, and the effort is often accompanied by a general bodily discomfort or soreness. Profuse viscid ptyalism also occurs. Small doses are laxative; and the drug also appears to stimulate the intestinal glands to secrete more freely and probably increases hepatic secretion. Baptitoxine is said to quicken the breathing and accelerate and strengthen the heart-beat; but in toxic doses it paralyzes the respiratory center, thus causing death by asphyxiation.

Therapy.—*External.* Locally the decoction and the specific medicine baptisia (diluted with water) are effective as washes and dressings for indolent and fetid as well as for irritable and painful ulcers, inflammations with full or swollen and dusky tissues, and tendency to destruction, aphthous and nursing sore mouth, mercurial gingivitis, sore nipples, and ulceration of the cervix uteri, with foul, sanious, or muco-purulent leucorrhoea. Its internal exhibition hastens its local action in these conditions.

Internal. Internally, baptisia is indicated in pathological conditions characterized by feeble vitality, suppressed or vitiated secretions, and sepsis with a disposition to disintegration and death of tissues. These indications are manifest in the peculiar appearance of the parts affected, of the membranes, and of the patient as a whole. There is a peculiar duskiness of a bluish or purplish hue of the skin and mucous structures, and usually there is fetor. The face has a bluish, swollen appearance, with expressionless countenance, like one who has been long exposed to cold. There may be ulcers of an indolent character, with bluish or purplish edges. The excretions are fetid—those of the bowels being dark and tarry, or resembling the “washings of raw meat or prune juice.” Baptisia is not, as a rule, a remedy in acute diseases showing great activity, but rather for disorders showing marked capillary enfeeblement and tendency to ulceration—in fact, a condition of atony. It is contraindicated by hyperaemia; indicated by capillary stasis.

Baptisia is important for its influence upon typhoid conditions. It is quite generally regarded as one of our most effective antityphoid agents. Here we encounter the dusky appearance of the skin and membranes, the sleek, beefy tongue with pasty coating, the fetor of

mouth, sordes, upon teeth and lips, and the sluggish capillary flow. Its usefulness in typhoid or enteric fever is one of record. One or more of the foregoing symptoms will be present with the addition of the characteristic pea-soup, meat washings, or prune juice stools, or tar-like viscous evacuations, showing the admixture of decomposed blood. In fact, it is likely to be indicated by any form of persistent diarrhea accompanying this type of fever. Typhomalarial fever, which is most generally predominantly typhoid, is equally influenced for good by baptisia. Typhoid dysentery and typhoid pneumonia, so called, are helped by it just in proportion to the typhoid element present. In dysentery the greater the evidence of intestinal ulceration the stronger the call for baptisia.

For septic conditions other than typhoid, baptisia is distinctly useful. In putrid forms of sore throat, with great stench and full, dusky tissues, the angina of scarlet fever, and tonsillitis, with sluggish circulation and fetid exudate, and also when necrotic, baptisia holds a high rank as a remedy. It is often valuable as an aid in the treatment of diphtheria, but alone should not be relied upon to conquer this vicious disease. When most useful the tissues will be swollen, dusky, or blanched, the secretions free, and the parts sloughing. Indeed, the most important indication for the drug, is the tendency to disintegration of tissues. Baptisia is very valuable in putrid ulcerations of the nasal passages—in fetid catarrh, ozaena, and similar disorders with stench and turgidity. Under these circumstances it overcomes the putrescency, restrains the discharge, and promotes healing of the ulcerated surfaces.

In all of the local disorders mentioned, baptisia should be given internally as well as applied locally.

BELLADONNA (*Atropa belladonna*).

The (1) dried root and the (2) dried leaves and tops of *Atropa Belladonna*, Linne (Nat. Ord. Solanaceae). Europe and Central Asia; also cultivated. **Dose**, (1) 1/4 to 1 grain; (2) 1/4 to 2 grains.

Common Names: Deadly Nightshade, Dwale. (1) Belladonna Root (*Belladonnae Radix*); (2) Belladonna Leaves (*Belladonnae Folia*).

Principal Constituents.—The poisonous alkaloids *atropine*, *hyoscyamine*, *belladonnine*, and *hyoscine*. There is much confusion concerning the constituents

of belladonna, hyoscyamine, with conversion products, probably being the chief alkaloid. This is readily convertible in atropine. The alkaloids probably exist as malates.

Preparations.—1. *Specific Medicine Belladonna* (prepared from the root). *Dose*, 1/20 to 1 drop. *Usual method of administration*: Rx Specific Medicine Belladonna, 5-10 drops; Water, 4 fluidounces. Mix. Sig.: One teaspoonful every 1 to 3 hours.

2. *Unguentum Belladonnae*. Ointment of Belladonna. (This is prepared from the Extract of Belladonna, which in turn is prepared from Belladonna leaves. Tincture of Belladonna is also prepared from the leaves, while the fluidextract is prepared from the root.)

Specific Indications.—Dull expressionless face, with dilated or immobile pupils, dullness of intellect, drowsiness with inability to sleep well whether there is pain or not; impaired capillary circulation either in skin or mucous membranes; dusky, deep-red or bluish face and extremities, the color being effaced by drawing the finger over the parts, the blood slowly returning in the whitish streak so produced; circulation sluggish, with soft, oppressed, and compressible pulse; cold extremities; breathing slow, labored, and imperfect; hebetude; the patient sleeps with eyes partially open; coma; urinal incontinence; free and large passages of limpid urine; fullness and deep aching in loins or back; spasm of the involuntary muscles. In 3x dilution the indications are: Pallid countenance, with frequent urination; nervous excitation, with wild and furious delirium. Large doses: mydriatic.

Action.—The action of Belladonna depends largely upon its chief alkaloid *Atropine*.

Therapy.—*External*. Belladonna, and more rarely atropine, may be applied for the relief of pain and spasm, and especially for spasmodic pain. A lotion of belladonna (5 to 10 per cent) may be used to allay itching in general pruritus, eczema, and urticaria. The tincture, painted upon the feet, controls local bromidrosis. A weak lotion is effectual in general hyperhydrosis and in the colliquative sweating of phthisis and other debilitating diseases. The ointment and liniment may serve a similar purpose. This use of belladonna is less desirable, however, than other medication on account of the dryness of the throat and mouth, and the ocular disturbance it is likely to occasion.

Ointment of belladonna and the liniment are extremely useful in local inflammations and swellings, having a wide range of efficiency. Thus

they may be applied to painful and swollen joints, forming abscesses, incipient and recurrent boils, buboes, hemorrhoids and fissures, inflamed glands, and in neuralgia, chronic rheumatism, lumbago, myalgia, pleurodynia, the chest pains of pulmonary tuberculosis, and in acute mastitis. In many of the surface conditions mentioned the plaster may prove most effectual. The liniment is especially useful to alleviate cramps in the calf of the leg.

The ointment is effectual in relaxing rigid os during labor, and carried into the urethral canal of male or female it relaxes spasmodic constriction of that canal and cystic spasm and relieves pain. Rubbed on the under surface of the penis it has given marked relief in chordee. A suppository of belladonna relieves spasmodic dysmenorrhea and may be applied either in the vagina or the rectum. A similar application, with or without tannin or geranium, may be inserted into the vagina for painful menstruation, with leucorrhoea. The liniment and the ointment may be used as antilactagogues and are especially serviceable after weaning the child or when mastitis threatens. All local applications of belladonna should be made with judgment and carefully watched lest poisonous absorption take place. In many of the conditions mentioned the conjoint internal use is advisable—provided the specific indications for the drug are present.

Therapy.—*Internal.* Belladonna is employed in Eclectic Therapeutics in doses which produce exactly the opposite effects from the gross or physiologic and toxic action. Large doses paralyze; small doses stimulate. While employed for its physiological effects in some instances, the chief use of the drug with us is in conditions showing impairment of the capillary circulation in any part of the body with congestion or tendency to blood stasis. The size of the dose is of great importance in administering belladonna. Ordinary drachm doses of a dilution of 5 to 10 drops of the specific medicine in four ounces of water meet conditions of dullness, hebetude, and congestion, as first pointed out by Scudder. Others claim that the use of infinitesimal doses, of the 3x dilution, acts promptly in conditions of nervous exaltation, with great irritability and impressionability of all the senses; in some cases the hyperaesthesia amounts to delirium and it is then claimed to be most efficient to control both mild and furious outbreaks of delirium. Others again (and this agrees with our personal experience) find marked pallor of the surface, with contracted pupils, the indication, for minute doses of the drug. Following a law which

appears to be commonly borne out in therapeutics, that opposite effects are produced by large or by minute doses respectively, belladonna seems a possible therapeutic agent in many varied conditions. The cases, however, in which belladonna appears to have rendered the best service are in those in what might be called medium doses, as advised by Scudder, in which the drug is employed to overcome dullness, hebetude, expressionless countenance, tendency to congestion, dilated pupils, and a dusky redness effaced upon pressure, the blood slowly returning. For specific medication purposes the drug should not be given in doses sufficient to produce mydriasis. At the risk of repetition of some of the conditions and to make the belladonna picture more complete, we quote from a former article in the *American Dispensatory*:

The first and great use for belladonna in specific doses is for congestion. It is a prompt remedy in throbbing congestive headache, or nervo-congestive headache; or a dull, heavy headache with a feeling of drowsiness, as if, were it not for the pain, the patient would drop off to sleep. When a dull, dusky or livid condition of the surface showing capillary feebleness and hebetude is threatened in typhoid fever or in pneumonia, belladonna is of the greatest importance as a stimulant, and in the latter assists in sustaining the respiratory function. While it is a remedy for blood-stasis in any part of the body, due to dilation of the capillaries, it is perhaps more pronounced in its effects when the impairment of the circulation takes place in the nerve centers. It is the first remedy to be used when there is cerebral or medullo-spinal congestion as evidenced by dullness and coma. Though oftenest demanded in acute diseases, it is of equal value in chronic cerebral disorders with dizziness, drowsiness, and dull heavy aching or fullness in the head. When the eye is dull and the pupil dilated, and drowsiness is marked, and there are other signs of congestion that may lead to engorgement of the brain, a threatened attack of apoplexy may be warded off by the timely use of small doses of belladonna.

Belladonna is a remedy for pain and for spasm. It sometimes relieves deep-seated pain, as in facial, intercostal, visceral and sciatic neuralgia. If there is an elevation of temperature, it should be associated with aconite if the circulation is much excited. It is better, however, to relieve spasmodic pain of the involuntary muscles of the tubular organs-spasm of the anus, uterine, cystic, urethral, and other visceral spasms. If any of the parts can be reached it is well to apply the

drug locally at the time it is given internally, but care must be had not to overdose the patient. Its value in spasmodic dysmenorrhea, when otherwise specifically indicated, is unquestionably great.

Belladonna is conceded one of the best of our remedies for whoopingcough. It will fail here unless otherwise specifically indicated. Spasmodic cough alone does not indicate it; there must be the tendency to congestion and the capillary impairment to make it act beneficially. No remedy, probably, cures pertussis, but many shorten its duration, lengthen the intervals between paroxysms, and render it less severe. Belladonna is one of the best for this purpose. When cough is purely nervous and when due to irritability of the tubular musculature it is an important drug. This is shown in its power to relieve nervous cough from laryngeal irritation and in spasmodic asthma.

Belladonna relaxes spasm. It sometimes overcomes constipation in this manner, has served fairly well in spasmodic constriction of the bowels, and has relieved both pain and spasm in lead colic and spasmodic intestinal colic. When epilepsy is associated with congestive symptoms it has assisted other remedies to lessen the severity and lengthen out the intervals of attack. The same is true in chorea. Little dependence can be placed upon it in puerperal convulsions, a condition for which it has been commended.

Few medicines act better in severe sore throat with redness, rawness, swelling, intense soreness, difficult swallowing, and dryness of the throat, with or without fever. Usually aconite is to be given with it. In such conditions it will promptly do good in tonsillitis, especially of the quinsy type, and in pharyngitis and faucitis. If there is an associated coryza it will relieve it, though it acts more promptly in acute coryza when the throat inflammation is absent and it can be given in slightly larger doses than are required for general specific purposes. Many maintain it valuable in diphtheria and believe that it interferes with the formation of the membranes. We question its value for that purpose, though it certainly helps to sustain the breathing and circulatory powers in a disease threatened from the very start with a depression of these functions. In acute inflammations, such as nonvesicular erysipelas, with deep redness of the skin, capillary impairment, and sense of burning, belladonna should be given with confidence. It acts best where the inflammation is very superficial and does not

subsequently extend deeply into the subcutaneous tissues.

The value of belladonna in the exanthemata ranks with the most certain of therapeutic results. It is practically always indicated in scarlet fever and very frequently in measles. Chicken-pox does not so often demand it; while in the congestive stage of small-pox it is claimed to be a most certain aid for many therapeutic purposes. We rely upon it absolutely in scarlatina, and the more malignant the type the more it is indicated. We do not recall a case of scarlet fever in which we have not employed it, and always with the desired effect. Often no other agent has been required. Its use should be begun early. It then brings out the eruption, re-establishes the secretions of the kidneys and bowels, alleviates the distressing throat symptoms, and protects against congestion and subsequent nephritis. The dose must be small, however. If too large it favors congestion. Never more than teaspoonful doses of a dilution of 5 to 10 drops of the specific medicine in four ounces of water should be given every 1 or 2 hours. More often from 2 to 5 drops in the mixture are preferable. It serves much the same purpose in measles, and helps also to control the cough. After the eruption has appeared it is less often demanded in the latter disease, but in scarlet fever it may be needed from start to finish. When one observes the power of belladonna to arouse the patient from a stupid or drowsy state, or even from unconsciousness, or sees it quiet delirium, bring out the eruption, and incite the kidneys to natural action, the power of small doses of powerful medicines becomes convincing even to the most skeptical who believe only in near-toxic or physiological actions of drugs. The action of belladonna in scarlet fever is one of the strong arguments in favor of specific as compared to gross medication. To accomplish desired results without the least danger with a drug capable of great damage constitutes true or specific medication. Belladonna meets many of the complications attending or following scarlet fever, and is probably a preventive of many unpleasant sequelae. While especially a child's remedy it should be cautiously used. We have observed the scarlatinoid rash from very minute doses of belladonna.

Many physicians believe that minute doses of belladonna are prophylactic against scarlet fever. This view is shared by many good therapists, among them Scudder, Fyfe, Ellingwood, and many others. Perhaps it is a matter of faith, but we have never had reason to feel it an established fact. Whether true or not, we do believe, however,

that an advantage will have been gained by its early administration should an attack of scarlatina ensue, and certainly it can do no harm if given in infinitesimal doses.

Belladonna stimulates and at the same time relieves the irritability of weakened conditions of the kidneys and bladder. Under its influence both watery and solid constituents are increased. It is the remedy for enuresis in small children when the fault depends upon poor pelvic circulation or chronic irritability of the bladder. It is best adapted to diurnal dribbling of urine. When due to a "cold," and there is marked pallor, and dullness of the eye so characteristic in children with enuresis, and the patient voids urine every quarter or half hour, belladonna is promptly helpful.

Belladonna is a remedy of power in acute congestion of the kidneys, and in the early or congestive stage of kidney disorders tending to chronicity. It is indicated by the sense of fullness, weight and dragging in the loins. In the early stage of tubular nephritis, and in scarlatinal nephritis, and in fact in renal capillary engorgement accompanying or following any disease, belladonna is a remedy of first importance.

It is one of the best of remedies for polyuria or so-called diabetes insipidus. A belladonna plaster should be applied while giving the remedy internally. Sometimes quite full doses are required to effect results. Full doses are also required to check the colliquative sweating of phthisis pulmonalis and other debilitating diseases, and its well-known quality of causing dryness of the mouth is taken advantage of in mercurial and other forms of salivation, especially the ptyalism of pregnancy.

Spermatorrhoea, with feeble pelvic and genital circulation, is sometimes better treated by belladonna than any other remedy. In such a state pulsatilla is a valuable aid to the belladonna.

It is sometimes effectual in urticaria, especially when sluggish cutaneous circulation is a prominent feature.

BERBERIS (Mahonia) AQUIFOLIUM.

The root of *Berberis aquifolium*, Pursh (Nat. Ord. Berberidaceae). Western United States from Colorado to the Pacific coast; cultivated also for ornament among

shrubbery.

Common Names: Oregon Grape, Mountain Grape.

Principal Constituents.—*Berberine*, the yellow alkaloid (see Hydrastis) and two white alkaloids—*berbamine* and *oxyacanthine*.

Preparation.—*Specific Medicine Berberis. Dose*, 1 to 30 drops.

Specific Indications.—Syphilitic dyscrasia; chronic skin diseases, with blood dyscrasia with or without syphilitic taint; profusely secreting tumid mucous membranes; indigestion, with hepatic torpor.

Action and Therapy.—This agent is alterative, tonic, and probably corrective to syphilitic constitutions, but without any proved specific action upon treponema. It stimulates secretion and excretion, improves digestion and assimilation; it activates the lymphatic system and ductless glands; and augments the renal secretion. It is a corrector and eliminator of depraved body fluids and assists thereby in good blood-making. In this way most likely its good effects are produced in such grave constitutional disorders as syphilis. Certainly the ravages of this disease are lessened under these circumstances and aggravated by general ill-conditions. If then syphilitic dyscrasia is benefited by this drug, and clinical results seem to show that it is, it is probably due to its general alterative effects in maintaining good elimination and good metabolic action of the organs vital to nutrition.

Like hydrastis, *Berberis aquifolium* is an excellent peptic bitter and tonic to the gastric function, and is, therefore, a drug of much value in atonic dyspepsia, with hepatic torpor. Upon the mucosa its effects are like those of hydrastis controlling catarrhal outpouring and erosion of tissue. For this purpose it is useful in stomatitis and gastric and intestinal catarrh. Remotely it sometimes controls leucorrhoea. If these are associated with syphilis, it helps the latter to the extent that it controls these disorders.

Berberis aquifolium has won its reputation chiefly as a remedy for the syphilitic taint. The more chronic the conditions or results of the disease, the more it has been praised. Some claim that if given early it will abort the tertiary stage, but this of course depends in most cases upon the resisting powers of the body and the care the patient takes of

himself. Apparently berberis fortifies the resisting powers by its alterative and reparative action. The bone, mucosa, and cutaneous disorders following in the wake of syphilis seem to clear up under its persistent use, when given in appreciable doses. Whether it has any effect on the nervous damage from this taint is not yet apparent. It does, however, relieve the night pains and the shin pain of syphilitic periostitis. Syphilitic phagedena disappears under its use, and sometimes the anemia of syphilis yields to its nutritional improvement. It should be given freely in syphilitic leucoplakia of the tongue, mouth, and throat, where the mucosa is tumid and secreting excessively, and when emaciation and weakness with yellowish parchmentlike skin are evident. At all events, though probably not a direct antisiphilitic, its general effect upon waste and nutrition is so beneficial that it should invariably be associated with other treatment in chronic syphilitic diathesis.

Other dyscrasiae seem to be influenced by this drug. It aids to some degree to mitigate the miseries of the consumptive, and in chronic skin diseases its internal use has hastened the effects from external medication. Eczema, psoriasis (temporarily at least), and herpetic eruptions have disappeared under its persistent use. The specific medicine should be given in doses of from 10 to 20 drops well diluted, every 3 or 4 hours.

BERBERIS VULGARIS.

The bark of the root and the berries of *Berberis vulgaris*, Linne (Nat. Ord. Berberidaceae). Europe, Asia, and the United States.

Common Names: Barberry, Common Barberry.

Principal Constituents.—*Berberine* (see Hydrastis) is the active alkaloid; others are *oxyacanthine* and *berbamine*. The berries contain *malic* acid.

Preparation.—*Tinctura Berberidis Vulgaris*, Tincture of Berberis Vulgaris. (Barberry Bark, 8 ounces, Alcohol 76 per cent, 16 ounces.) Dose, 5 to 60 drops.

Action and Therapy.—Barberry may be used for purposes for which berberine medication is needed. It acts much like hydrastis and could be employed for many of the uses of that scarce and high-priced drug so far as the berberine effects are required. The fluid preparations are asserted to act more kindly and more efficiently than berberine itself. It

was very early used in domestic medicine for sore eyes, and later by practitioners for chronic catarrhal ophthalmias. The decoction is employed for this purpose, and is equally efficient in aphthous sore mouth. It is decidedly tonic and if pushed, purgative. Used short of its cathartic action it is of value in non-obstructive jaundice and in gastric and intestinal dyspepsia. In renal catarrh, occasioned by the presence of calculi, small doses may be given when there is burning and soreness and excess of mucus in the urinary tract.

BOLETUS.

The fungus *Polyporus officinalis*, Fries (*Boletus laricis*, Jacquin). (Nat. Ord. Fungi.) Asia, Eastern Europe, and Central America.

Common Names: White Agaric, Purging Agaric, Larch Agaric.

Principal Constituents.—*Agaric Acid* (Agaricin) (C₁₆ H₃₀ O₅+H₂ O), resins, 79 per cent and *agaricol*. The purging constituent is a red resin (C₁₅ H₂₄ O₄).

Preparation.—*Specific Medicine Boletus*. Dose, 1/2 to 5 drops.

Derivative: *Agaricin*. Dose, 1/10 to 1/3 grain.

Specific Indications.—Ague with alternate chills and flushes of heat; impaired nutrition and feeble cerebral circulation; colliquative sweats.

Action and Therapy.—This fungus is remarkable for the high per cent (79) of resins it contains. It is a decided nerve stimulant and antiperiodic. Boletus is but little used, but occasionally will be needed in irregular intermittents, not reached by quinine medication and presenting alternate chills and flashes of heat, accompanied by a heavy bearing down pain in the back. The patient perspires freely at night and has a yellow-coated tongue, bitter taste, capricious appetite, slight fever, and has for some time been experiencing a dull, languid feeling. It may also be used in cases of impaired nutrition with feeble cerebral circulation. To some extent it controls diarrhea, cough, hectic fever, rapid circulation, and the profuse night-sweats of phthisis. The dose for these purposes is from the fraction of a drop to 5 drops of the specific medicine. For the last named use that of controlling colliquative sweating, *agaric acid* or *agaricin*, as it is more commonly called, is one of the most effectual of antihydrotics. In 113 grain doses it controls the

thirst, cough, and the excessive sweating of consumptives.

BRYONIA.

The root of *Bryonia dioica*, Jacquin, and *Bryonia alba*, Linne (Nat. Ord. Cucurbitaceae.) Europe.

Common Names: Bryony, Bastard Turnip, Devil's Turnip, etc.

Principal Constituents.—Probably a colorless, very bitter glucoside, *bryonin* is the chief active body in bryonia.

Preparation.—*Specific Medicine Bryonia.* Dose, 1/20 to 5 drops. Usual method of administration: Rx Specific Medicine Bryonia, 5-10 drops; Water, 4 fluidounces. Mix. Sig.: One teaspoonful every 1 to 3 hours. The smaller doses are preferred for specific medication.

Specific Indications.—Sharp cutting pain, or tearing pain from serous inflammation; tenderness on pressure; tearing pain with sore feeling in any part of the body and always aggravated by motion; moderately full or hard wiry vibratile pulse; headache from frontal region to occiput; soreness in eyeballs upon movement; hyperesthesia of scalp or face; irritating, hacking or racking cough or provoked by changes of air; lethargy short of dullness; tired, weary or apathetic feeling, too tired to think; perspiring on slight movement.

Action.—The fresh root of bryonia is a strong irritant, and when bruised and kept in contact with the skin blisters it. When taken internally in overdoses it causes severe gastro-enteritis, and has caused death. The chief symptoms are uncontrollable diarrhea and vomiting, dizziness, lowered temperature, dilated pupils, cold perspiration, thread-like pulse, colic, and collapse. Large but less than fatal doses sometimes cause bronchial irritation with cough, hepatic tenderness, increased urination with vesical tenesmus, cerebral fullness and congestion, jaundice and depressed action of the heart. These effects are never experienced from the small medicinal doses. Tannin is said to counteract the untoward effects of bryonia.

Therapy.—Bryonia, practically unused in the dominant school, and much employed by Homeopaths, is regarded by Eclectic physicians as an indispensable agent. Personally, we use few agents more frequently than bryonia. It is a remedy for debility and the long train of

miseries accompanying it, and in acute diseases it is of first importance as a remedy for pain and inflammation in serous membranes. The bryonia patient is weak and perspires readily upon the slightest movement. The stereotyped assertion, “aggravated by motion,” and learned by us from the Homeopaths, is a true dictum when applied to bryonia cases. Though not necessarily dull, the patient is lethargic in the sense that he does not wish to move lest he aggravate his condition. There is no dullness or hebetude as with belladonna, but the patient is tired, languid, and torpid, and though much awake has little inclination to move about.

Bryonia patients, except in the acute infections, often display a deficiency of nervous balance and with this may or may not be associated the bryonia headache pain from the frontal region to the occipital base; thinking is an effort and the patient is irritable if disturbed. Temperature may be slightly increased, and the tissues contracted. Pressure elicits extreme tenderness and soreness, especially when the viscera are involved.

Bryonia is of especial value in fevers, and is decidedly a remedy for the typhoid state. Many cases of severe typhoid fever may be carried through with no other medication than bryonia in very small doses. In fact, it is a medicine that gives the best results from minute doses. In fevers the patient is decidedly apathetic, the secretions are scant and vitiated, the nervous system markedly depressed, and the tendency is toward sepsis and delirium. The victim cares little whether he recovers or dies. There is a dry tongue, sordes, a deepened hue of the tissues, capillary circulation is sluggish, and there may be frontal headache. Chilliness is not uncommon, and there is a tendency to sweat easily. In such cases it proves a mainstay during the prolonged fever, and never does the patient harm.

In diseases of the respiratory tract and pleura, bryonia heads the list of useful remedies. The well-known indications given by the founder of specific medication hold good, to-wit: “A hard, vibratile pulse, flushed right cheek, frontal pain extending to the basilar region, and irritative cough.” It is a splendid agent for cold in the chest. It is the most decidedly efficient remedy we possess for acute pleurisy, being usually given with, or in alternation with, the indicated special sedative-*aconite* (quick, small pulse), or *veratrum* (full, bounding pulse). It promptly meets the sharp, lance-like pain, or the cutting or tearing

pain, all made worse upon movement. Not only does it subdue pain, but the temperature is lowered and capillary obstruction is overcome, thus freeing the disordered circulation. After the acute symptoms have subsided, it may be continued alone for a long period, to prevent, or to absorb, effusion. In these cases the apathy observed in the febrile diseases is absent, the pain and circulatory excitation throwing the patient into a condition of nervous excitement, which is quite readily controlled by bryonia. While of great value in all forms of pleurisy, it is particularly valuable in that form that comes on insidiously. In pleuropneumonia, it should be given to promote absorption of exuded serum. In la grippe, it is one of the best of remedies, both for the cough and the debility. We use it confidently in pneumonia to control pain, when present; but above all, to allay the harsh, harassing cough. Bryonia is an excellent agent for cough brought on by use of the voice, or by motion of any kind, as walking, swallowing food, entering a warm room, and for that form of cough induced by tickling sensations in the throat, or when excited by vomiting. The cough which bryonia relieves is laryngotracheal; it is most frequently dry, hacking, rasping or explosive, showing its origin in irritation or erethism. Tensive or sharp pains are almost always present, and the secretion, if there is any, is small in quantity and of whitish or brown, frothy mucus, sometimes streaked or clotted with blood. It is one of the most efficient remedies in la grippe, for the cough, pain, and the headache, and in bronchitis, bronchopneumonia, and even phthisis, all with blood-streaked expectoration, it is a great aid in relieving the distressing, hacking cough.

Bryonia is an invaluable agent in the treatment of peritonitis. In peritonitis, from septic causes, as in puerperal peritonitis, it will only aid; a surgical or cleansing process will prepare the way for its use. The pain indicating it is colic-like, attended with marked tensive tenderness. Similar conditions indicate its employment in cholera infantum and typhomalarial fever. In synovitis it is one of the most certain drugs to relieve pain and remove effusion. Nor should bryonia be neglected in the treatment of pericarditis, in which it will help to control inflammation and to prevent and absorb effusion. Recent reports confirm its earlier reputation as a remedy of the first value in cerebro-spinal meningitis.

Disorders of the liver and gall apparatus frequently call for the small doses of bryonia. It is especially serviceable when there is jaundice,

deep orange-colored urine, and soreness upon pressure. There may or may not be an accompanying headache. A peculiarity of the tongue that we have seen bryonia clear up in these cases is a semi-transparent coating of the organ, appearing like a wash of buttermilk. When the liver capsule is involved, with sticking or cutting pain, bryonia will materially help to bring about a healthy condition. The prolonged use of bryonia and aconite in small doses has given us better results in cholecystitis than anything we have ever used, and we believe it has often warded off surgical intervention. Bryonia is a strong aid in the medicinal treatment of appendicitis. In indigestion, where the food lies heavily like a stone, bryonia is often very effective. Scudder valued it for relief of abdominal pain and tenderness in typhomalarial and zymotic fevers, and with ipecac or euphorbia in similar conditions in cholera infantum.

For mammitis, aconite, bryonia and phytolacca are our three best remedies. The first two are to be employed when the inflammation is marked, and the glands are swollen and tender and feel knotted. Phytolacca is always indicated in this trouble. Both bryonia and phytolacca are equally effective in orchitis and ovaritis, with tenderness upon pressure.

Bryonia is a remedy of much value in the treatment of acute rheumatism, being best adapted to those cases where the joints are stiff and swollen. Locke declared it the most certain remedy for rheumatic swelling of the finger joints. As a remedy for headache, bryonia has long enjoyed a well earned reputation. There is frontal pain (some claim on the right side chiefly), sometimes rheumatoid; again, it may be from a disordered stomach, or a hemicrania, with sharp, tearing pains and a tender scalp. Occasionally it relieves facial neuralgia, but ordinarily it can not be relied on in that complaint. All bryonia headaches are made worse by motion. Bryonia is sometimes useful in rheumatic iritis, and in partial deafness from pressure of swollen glands after scarlet fever, or from colds. A very true indication for it is soreness of the eyeballs, upon movement, occurring in any acute disorder. The best bryonia preparation is specific medicine bryonia. For all the uses mentioned above, from one to ten drops may be added to a half-glass of water, and of this mixture a teaspoonful may be given every one to two hours.

Finally, but in larger doses than are required for the preceding uses,

bryonia (up to drop doses) is one of the best agents to overcome infantile constipation due to difficult digestion of cow's milk and in other forms of constipation, where the stools are dry and scybalous.

In former years, when it was the prevailing belief that insanity was caused by indwelling evil spirits, drastic cathartics were invoked for their removal. In England large doses of a syrup of the fresh juice of bryonia were given. Hence the oft-recurring reference to bryonia in literature as a cathartic—a use to which it is never put in Eclectic Therapy.

BUCHU (Barosma).

The dried leaves of (1) *Barosmabetulina* (Thunberg), Bartling and Wendland, or of (2) *Barosmaserratifolia* (Curtis), Willdenow. (Nat. Ord. Rutaceae.) South Africa.
Dose, 5 to 60 grains.

Common Names: Buchu; (1) Short Buchu; (2) Long Buchu.

Principal Constituents.—A volatile oil, with a penetrating peppermint-like aroma, yielding *diosphenol* (C₁₄ H₂₂ O₃), or *barosmacamphor*, which may be obtained in colorless needles, of a peppermint taste.

Preparation.—*Specific Medicine Barosma. Dose*, 1 to 60 drops.

Specific Indications.—Abnormally acid urine, with constant desire to urinate with but little relief from micturition; vesico-renal irritation, with catarrhal secretion; copious mucous or muco-purulent discharges; cystorrhoea.

Action.—Buchu increases the appetite, slightly quickens the circulation, and disinfects the urinary tract. It has but slight effect upon the renal organs, but such as it has is to stimulate slightly the output of both liquids and solids. It acts feebly upon the skin, increasing secretion. Large dose may produce gastro-enteritis and strangury.

Therapy.—Buchu is an aromatic stimulant, tonic, and urinary antiseptic. As a diuretic its action is not pronounced, but it is frequently used with other agents, as citrate or acetate of potassium, digitalis, or spirit of nitrous ether, which make it more efficient for the purposes of renal depuration. Buchu disinfects the urinary tract,

imparting its aroma to the urine, and is to be used only in chronic conditions when there is an excess of mucus, or muco-purulent and acid urine, with vesico-renal irritation. Acid and muddy urine, loaded with urinary salts, and continual urging to urinate with but little relief from the effort, are the cases in which buchu renders good service. Under these circumstances it may be given in chronic cystitis, pyelitis, urethritis, prostatitis, lithaemia, and chronic vesical irritation. For catarrh of the bladder it is frequently effective, and in long standing irritation of the viscus, particularly in old persons, "buchu and iron" once a popular fad, is really of service. Rx Specific Medicine Barosma, 3 1/2 fluidounces; Tincture of Chloride of Iron, 1/2 fluidounce. Mix. Sig.: One teaspoonful 4 times a day in a wineglassful of infusion of hops, or of sweetened water. Occasionally it is used in dyspeptic conditions and in bronchial catarrh, but for these disorders we have far better remedies. Buchu renders the urine dark, the latter depositing a brownish precipitate. It should never be used in acute disorders.

monographs extracted from
The Eclectic Materia Medica, Pharmacology and Therapeutics
by Harvey Wickes Felter, M.D. (1922)

NOTE: Throughout these monographs are references to “Specific Medicines”. In some respects Specific Medicines are the single reason that Eclecticism survived so long in the face of “Organized Medicine” and were still being manufactured for the surviving Eclectic M.D.s as late as the early 1960s. Using up to eight organic solvents and the Lloyd Extractor, Specific Medicines represented the strongest possible concentration of the bioactive aspects of botanicals that would stay in a colloidal solution.

Perfected over four decades by John Uri Lloyd, each Specific Medicine was prepared according to the nature of THAT specific plant. You cannot translate a Specific Medicine into “tincture” or “fluidextract”. The latter are GENERIC or standard strengths applied across the board to ALL botanicals. A Specific Medicine represented the greatest strength, without degradation, for a PARTICULAR plant, using anywhere from several to all of the solvents to achieve this. The Eclectic physician was trained to use botanicals in an oftentimes rural setting, and these medicines had to resist breakdown in the deepest winter and the hottest summer. Since they needed to contain even the most ephemeral constituents of a plant remedy, Lloyd approached each plant separately.

The amazing quality of these preparations assuredly maintained the Eclectic Movement long after others had faded. Lloyd’s recipes were Patent Medicines, were not “official”, and when relatives finally closed down the Lloyd Brother’s Pharmacy in Cincinnati, these formulae disappeared. One of the hottest topics for many years amongst professional herbalists in North America and Europe has been “So who has the Lloyd Formulas, already?” Since we cannot access them, the best approach is the use of well made tinctures, capsules or tea. I might suggest the preparations and doses recommended in my Herbal Materia Medica 5.0 as a starting place...in many respects I am perhaps a “Neo-Eclectic” at heart, and have tended to follow the later Eclectics in my approach to plants and dosages.

Michael Moore
Bisbee, Arizona
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