

QUASSIA.

The wood of *Picrasma excelsa* (Swartz), Planchon (Nat. Ord. Simarubaceae). A tall tree of Jamaica and neighboring islands. *Dose*, 10 to 30 grains.

Common Names: Quassia, Quassia Wood, Bitter Wood.

Principal Constituent.—The bitter substance *quassiin* (quassin).

Preparations.—1. *Infusum Quassiae*, Infusion of Quassia (1 drachm to 7 ounces of cold water). Dose, 1/2 to 2 fluidounces.

2. *Specific Medicine Quassia*. Dose, 1 to 30 drops.

Action and Therapy.—Quassia is a bitter stomachic and tonic. A cold infusion (1 to 100 of cold water) used as an injection is one of the most useful agents to remove ascarides. An acidulated infusion may be employed to lessen the craving for alcoholics. For this purpose the wood may be extracted with vinegar and administered in drachm doses in a glass of water. Specific medicine quassia may be given in doses of one to thirty drops, in water, for impairment of the appetite in feeble and emaciated persons. Cold infusions of the chips are to be preferred to hot, as less extractive matter is drawn out.

Quassia is not without danger, and established doses must not be exceeded. Even rectal injections of it have caused collapse in a child. Having no tannin, quassia may be given with iron, if desired.

QUERCUS.

The bark of *Quercus alba*, Linné (Nat. Ord. Fagaceae). Indigenous. Dose, 5 to 20 grains.

Common Names: Oak Bark, White Oak Bark.

Principal Constituent.—Tannic Acid (quercitannic acid).

Preparations.—1. *Decoctum Querci*, Decoction of Oak Bark (Quercus 1 ounce, Water 16 fluidounces). Dose, 1 to 2 fluidounces; used chiefly locally.

2. *Specific Medicine Quercus*. Dose, 5 to 20 drops.

Specific Indications.—Relaxation of mucosa, with unhealthy discharges; ulcerations with spongy granulations.

Action and Therapy.—*External.* Oak bark depends chiefly for its virtues upon the tannin it contains. However, it sometimes proves more agreeably effectual than the acid when used in decoction or poultice upon ill-conditioned ulcers, with stinking, spongy granulations, in gangrene, as an astringent for relaxed uvula, with flabby or ulcerated sore throat, and as an injection for leucorrhoea, prolapsed rectum and hemorrhoids. The bark of *Quercus tinctoria*, Bartram (Black Oak), has similar properties, but is objectionable on account of its staining quality.

Internal. Oak bark is astringent. Combined with aromatics, as cinnamon or nutmeg, the decoction is often an effectual means of checking serous diarrhoea and intestinal hemorrhages. In small doses it is a general tonic for debility, with tendency to relaxation of tissue and looseness of the bowels. In dysentery with a tendency to chronicity and not yielding readily to ordinary treatment the bowels may first be flushed by means of castor oil or magnesium sulphate, after which the decoction of oak bark may complete the cure.

RESINA.

Rosin, Colophony.

The residue left after distilling the volatile oil from the concrete oleoresin derived from *Pinus palustris*, Miller, and other species of *Pinus* (Nat. Ord. Pinaceae). United States and Europe.

Description.—Amber-colored, brittle, sharp, angular, translucent fragments, usually covered with a yellow dust, and having a slight terebinthinate taste and odor. Freely soluble in alcohol, ether, benzene, glacial acetic acid and oils, both fixed and volatile; also by the dilute solutions of the hydroxides of the alkalies.

Preparations.—1. *Ceratum Resinae*, Rosin Cerate (Basilicon Ointment). (Rosin, Yellow Wax, and Lard.)

2. *Emplastrum Resinae*, Rosin Plaster (Rosin Adhesive Plaster). (Rosin, Lead Plaster, and Yellow Wax.)

3. *Emplastrum Elasticum*, (Rubber Plaster, Rubber Adhesive Plaster). Rubber, resins, and waxes with a farinaceous absorbent filler, mixed and spread upon cloth or other fabric.

Therapy.—*External.* Rosin is used chiefly in ointment or plaster, and seldom internally. Rosin cerate is a useful application in sluggish ulcers, promoting granulation and healing.

RHAMNUS CALIFORNICA.

The bark of *Rhamnus californica*, Eschscholtz (*Frangulacalifornica*, Gray), (Nat. Ord. Rhamnaceae). Sparingly in northern California and more abundant southerly in the Sierras, and easterly, especially in Mexico and Arizona.

Common Names: California Buckthorn, California Coffee Tree.

Principal Constituents.—Probably similar to those of Cascara Sagrada.

Preparations.—1. *Specific Medicine Rhamnus Californica*. *Dose*, 10 to 30 drops.

2. *Decoction Rhamni Californici*, Decoction of Rhamnus Californica (1/2 ounce to 16 fluidounces). *Dose*, 3 to 6 fluidrachms every 3 or 4 hours.

Action and Therapy.—Rhamnus californica is cathartic and antirheumatic. It sometimes is indiscriminately gathered with cascara sagrada (*Rhamnus Purshiana*) and is known to coast dealers as “thin cascara bark.” As a domestic medicine it has long been used in rheumatic disorders, and its introduction into Eclectic medicine for that purpose is due to Webster, who regards it as one of the best of antirheumatics. Given short of producing a laxative effect, he employs it (in the decoction, tincture, and the specific medicine) as the most positive remedy he has ever used for rheumatism and muscular pain of rheumatoid character. He also advises it in longstanding and obstinate dysmenorrhea, not requiring surgical rectification. The remedy may be administered for months, provided it is used short of catharsis.

RHEUM.

The denuded and dried rhizome and roots of *Rheum officinale*, Baillon; *Rheum palmatum*, Linné, and var. *tanguticum*, Maximowicz, and probably other species of Chinese and Thibetan *Rheum* (Nat. Ord. Polygonaceae). Western and central portions of China and in Thibet. *Dose*, 5 to 30 grains.

Common Names: Rhubarb, Rhubarb Root.

Principal Constituents.—*Chrysarobin* (C₃₅H₂₆O₇) (the yellow coloring glucoside, chrysophan or rhein) yielding chrysophanic acid (C₁₅H₁₀O₄); the anthracene cathartic body *emodin* (C₁₅H₁₀O₅); erythroretin, phaeoretin, aporetin, and the astringing principle rheotannic acid (C₂₈H₂₆O₁₄); and quite a proportion of oxalate of calcium giving to rhubarb its grittiness.

Preparations—1. *Specific Medicine Rheum*. *Dose*, 1/10 to 60 drops.

2. *Syrupus Rhei*, Syrup of Rhubarb. *Dose*, 1 to 4 fluidrachms.

3. *Syrupus Rhei Aromaticus*, Aromatic Syrup of Rhubarb. *Dose*, 1 to 4 fluidrachms.

4. *Syrupus Rhei et Potassa*, Compositus, Compound Syrup of Rhubarb and Potassa (Neutralizing Cordial). *Dose*, 1/2 to 4 fluidrachms.

5. *Pulvis Rhei Compositus* (Eclectic), Eclectic Compound Powder of Rhubarb. (Equal parts of powdered rhubarb, peppermint and bicarbonate of potassium). *Dose*, 1/2 to 2 drachms.

6. *Pulvis Rhei Compositus*, Compound Powder of Rhubarb (Gregory's Powder). (Rhubarb; Magnesium Oxide, and Ginger). *Dose*, 5 to 60 grains.

7. *Beach's Neutralizing Mixture*, Neutralizing Cordial, or Physic.—Take of rhubarb, pulverized, salaratus, pulverized, peppermint plant, pulverized, equal parts. To a large teaspoonful add half a pint of boiling water; when cool, strain, sweeten with loaf sugar, and add a tablespoonful of brandy. (The original formula from Beach's *American Practice*.) *Dose*, 1 to 4 fluidrachms.

8. *Locke's Neutralizing Cordial*. (Formula.) Take of coarsely ground rhubarb, peppermint herb, and potassium bicarbonate, of each three ounces; boiling water, four pints; diluted alcohol, one pint; essence of peppermint, one-half ounce; white sugar, two pounds. Macerate the rhubarb, peppermint, potassium bicarbonate in the boiling water for two hours (do not boil) in a warm place. Strain and while still warm add the sugar; after the sugar is dissolved and the liquid is cold, add the diluted alcohol and the essence of peppermint (Locke). *Dose*, 1 to 4 fluidrachms. (We have found that by adding the potassium salt to the strained infusion of the rhubarb and peppermint a clearer preparation is obtained.)

9. *Glyconda*.—A sugarless preparation of Neutralizing Cordial, in which glycerin is the sweetening and preservative agent. *Dose*, 1 to 4 fluidrachms.

Specific Indications.—Gastric irritation, with elongated, reddened tongue, and nausea and vomiting; irritative diarrhea, with tenderness of abdomen on pressure; light-colored fecal discharges; gastro-intestinal irritation, with marked nervousness and restlessness, and screaming and convulsive muscular contractions. Sour-smelling discharges are relieved by small doses of neutralizing cordial or glyconda, while larger doses of either, or of specific medicine rheum or powdered rhubarb, are indicated for the relief of constipation with a sense of intestinal constriction and muscular contraction.

Action.—Rhubarb is stimulant to the gastro-intestinal tract, in sufficient doses increasing muscular contraction, and thus, rather than by increase of secretion, causing a cathartic action. This is probably due chiefly to the anthracene body, emodin. It affects the whole intestinal tract, especially the duodenum, and acts most

certainly in the presence of bile, the secretion of which it probably promotes. The latter property, however, is still a point in dispute. Rhubarb usually purges in from four to eight hours and the stools are papescent and not watery, and of a yellowish-brown color (due to chrysophan). Their passage is attended with mild griping. The rapid absorption of the coloring matter imparts to the urine a yellow (if acid) or a carmine (if alkaline) color; the serum of the blood and mother's milk are stained yellow, and the sweat has a tawny hue. The cathartic effect of rhubarb is succeeded by a mild astringency due to the rheo-tannic acid, thus making the drug a calmative after a preliminary stimulating catharsis.

Therapy.—Rhubarb is an ideal laxative and cathartic according to the dose administered. In smaller amounts it is a gastro-intestinal stimulant and tonic, promoting the gastric secretions and insuring good digestion. As a laxative it is one of the best that can be used for children and women—specially the pregnant woman. As the evacuations produced by rhubarb are neither watery nor debilitating, when a tonic laxative is required for the feeble and for old people, rhubarb cannot be improved upon.

In severe febrile or inflammatory affections of the alimentary canal it is usually contraindicated, but where there are enfeebled digestion and irritation, or where food causes distress and irregular bowel action, either diarrheal or constipating, its use is attended with excellent results. Aromatics mitigate its griping tendency. In lenteric diarrhea, and where fecal accumulations are to be removed, and as a laxative following parturition, rhubarb is perfectly safe and effective.

In the summer diarrheas of children, when necessary to clear the intestinal canal of slimy, acid, or other irritating material, whether there is diarrhea or not, and there is both stomachic and intestinal indigestion, laxative doses of syrup of rhubarb, or the aromatic syrup or, preferable to either, the neutralizing cordial, have a most happy effect, and where other laxatives might leave an irritable condition and prolonged diarrhea, rhubarb, through its mild after-astringency, calms the excited intestinal tract. Sometimes castor oil, which also cleanses and afterwards checks the bowels, may be given with these preparations if so desired. For the constipation of dyspeptics, with hepatic torpor, it may be given with podophyllin or aloes; and in ordinary constipation it is sometimes effective if administered in pill

with soap, which, in a measure, prevents its after-constringing effect. Ten-drop doses of specific medicine rheum in a glass of cold water, taken before breakfast, may be effective in overcoming constipation. Locke advises the following during convalescence from delirium tremens: Rx Rhubarb, Leptandra, Gentian, each 1 drachm; Ginger, 2 drachms; Diluted Alcohol, 16 fluidounces. Macerate. Sig.: *Dose*, One teaspoonful as required. Rhubarb is not a suitable agent where depletion is desired.

Rhubarb is an ideal summer gastro-intestinal remedy when not used as a laxative. It frequently is demanded in the practice of the specific medicationist to restrain bowel activity when the drug is administered in small doses. It thus controls diarrheal discharges due to gastro-intestinal irritation. When the tongue is red, long, narrow, and pointed, and the tip and edges reddened and the organ shows in its every fiber the signs of irritation—whether it be during summer complaint or in the papescent diarrhea of indigestion—it is a remedy of first importance. Here the dose should not exceed two grains of powdered rhubarb or two drops of specific medicine rheum every one-half or one hour until the character of the stools changes. An excellent medium for such conditions is the neutralizing cordial or, when sugar is contraindicated, glyconda may be substituted.

Neutralizing Cordial.—Neutralizing Cordial is one of the very best correctives yet devised for disorders of stomach and bowels, caused by overfeeding or change of water. It has three especial qualities: Rhubarb, through its specific adaptability to irritation of mucous surfaces, makes the cordial the ideal gastric sedative, for in such cases there is marked irritation, as shown by the reddened and pointed tongue. With most of these cases there is a fermentative state, with sourish and burning eructations, and often the bowel discharges contain sour and fermented material. For this condition there is no more pleasing antacid and corrective than potassium bicarbonate, though should the tongue show more pallor than redness, sodium bicarbonate may answer a better purpose. The aromatic qualities of the cordial derived from the peppermint oil and herb make it grateful as a carminative, and render it especially pleasant for children. Full doses (4 fluidrachms) act as a laxative, smaller doses as a corrective of irritation and acidity.

The physician who has not an intimate acquaintance with Neutralizing Cordial, or the Compound Syrup of Rhubarb and Potassa, has failed to

realize the richness and fullness of the therapeutic allies handed down by the fathers of our school. This preparation has been prepared under various formulas, but as we have stated many times, we prefer that based upon Beach's original formula. That which we employ with greatest confidence is Locke's formula, which contains rhubarb, potassium bicarbonate, peppermint herb, peppermint essence, alcohol, and sugar. However, all of the preparations known as neutralizing cordial are of high order and possess similar properties. In sufficient dose, usually a tablespoonful, all of them are efficient agents to clear the intestines of undigested and irritating material. In Eclectic practice they have largely supplanted the use of such agents as castor oil. They are useful to cleanse the intestinal tract in indigestion, both gastric and intestinal-and in fermentative and irritative conditions of the stomach and bowels. The remedy should be given freely until the color of the stools shows the characteristic color of the medicine. Then to tone the bowels and allay irritation it may be continued in smaller doses at less frequent intervals. On the other hand, if the cathartic effects are not desired no remedy will be oftener indicated to control irritative diarrhea. Here the dose should not be larger than one drachm. Neutralizing Cordial finds a useful field in diarrhea of undigested aliment, in watery, copious diarrhea, in muco-enteritis, and in dysentery. Many physicians employ it as a vehicle for the administration of indicated remedies in stomach and bowel disorders. It is an ideal tonic to the stomach in the disorders of childhood, creates an appetite, and gives relief from pain and flatulence. The headache of indigestion, with sourish eructations, so common to children, is often cut short, as if by magic, by a laxative dose of Neutralizing Cordial. It is the most efficient remedy we have ever employed for diarrhea induced by change of drinking water and diet when travelling. Neutralizing Cordial is one of the best of the compounds handed down to us from early Eclectic pharmacy.

The representative sugarless substitute for neutralizing cordial is Glyconda, which many employ, not alone for the purposes named above, but as a vehicle for compatible medicines. For those who object to the presence of sugar in medicines, and particularly for those who are diabetically inclined, a glycerin preserved preparation has advantages. Where the tendency, even in the presence of the bicarbonate, is toward fermentation of the gastric contents, the glycerin preparation is sometimes to be preferred.

RHUS TOXICODENDRON.

The fresh leaves of *Toxicodendronradicans* (L.) Kuntze (*Rhusradicans*, Linné, *Rhus Toxicodendron*, Linné) (Nat. Ord. Anacardiaceae) A common indigenous plant in fields, woods, and fence rows.

Common Names: Poison Ivy, Poison Vine, Poison Oak.

Principal Constituents.—A volatile *toxicodendric acid*, and the poisonous *toxicodendrol*, a non-volatile oil soluble in alcohol, and forming an insoluble lead compound with lead acetate, hence the use of an alcoholic solution of the lead salt to remove it and prevent poisoning or its extension. It is allied to cardol found in cashew-nut.

Preparation.—*Specific Medicine Rhus. Dose*, 1/20 to 5 drops.

Specific Indications.—The chief and most direct indication is the long pointed tongue with prominent papillae, associated with burning heat, and redness and great unrest. Others are: The moderately quick, small, sharp pulse, sometimes wiry, sometimes vibratile; great restlessness with or without vomiting; child starts from sleep with a shrill cry as if from fright; tongue red and irritable, exhibiting red spots; strawberry tongue; pain over left orbit; burning pain; rheumatic pain aggravated by warmth; pinched countenance; burning pain in the urethra with dribbling of urine; acrid discharges from the bladder or bowels; tympanites; brown sordes; bright, superficial redness of the skin with burning, itching, or tingling; red glistening erysipelas, with burning pain; redness of mucous surfaces; conjunctival inflammation with pain, photophobia, and burning lachrimation; inflammation with bright-red tumid surfaces and deep-seated burning pain; tumid red swellings; inflammation with ichorous discharges, the tissues seemingly melting away; old ulcers with shining red edges; induration of the submaxillary glands.

Action and Toxicology.—Internally, administered in small doses, Rhus Toxicodendron is slightly stimulant, increasing the renal and cutaneous secretions, and proving feebly laxative. Employed in paralytic states it is reputed to have effected a return of sensation and power of movement, the good effects being ushered in with a sensation of pricking and burning, with twitchings of the affected parts. Large doses occasion stupefaction, or a sort of intoxication, exhibited by vertigo, impairment of the special senses, pupillary dilatation,

chilliness, sickness at the stomach with thirst and burning pain, and a feeling of constriction in the temporal regions. The pulse becomes slow, irregular and small, the activity of the skin and kidneys increases, weakness, trembling, and fainting occur, and sometimes convulsions ensue. A pint of rhus berries induced drowsiness, stupor, delirium, and convulsions in two children who partook of them. The infusion of the root taken internally is asserted to have produced the characteristic local eruptions, besides producing a harsh cough, scanty urine, and severe gastrointestinal symptoms.

Locally, rhus is a powerful irritant poison. The toxic manifestations produced by the different species are of precisely the same nature, differing only in degree of intensity. Rhus Toxicodendron ranks next to poison dogwood (*Rhus venenata*) in point of virulence. While locally poisonous to some persons, others are totally unaffected by it. Many are but mildly poisoned by it; many more, however, show serious evidence of its great activity. Contact is not always necessary to obtain its effects. Indeed, many individuals apparently are poisoned merely by exposure to an atmosphere contaminated with the toxic exhalations of the plant. This is especially true when the air is heavy and humid, or when the susceptible individual is freely perspiring. Alcoholic solution of the toxic principle retains its virulence for many years (Johnson). The dried leaves are, as a rule, inert.

A singular feature connected with rhus poisoning is its recurrence from month to month, and from year to year, even when the affected individual is far remote from all exhalations of the plant. This was early noted by Barton, who personally experienced such recurrence for five successive years—a portion of which time was passed in Europe far from proximity to the plant in question. We have also observed this phenomenon. The smoke from burning rhus wood was noticed as early as 1720 by Sherard, Wangenheim, and Kalm, to produce poisonous effects. It appears that horses eat the plant with impunity (Barton). According to William Bartram, they are very fond of the leaves. Cows are wholly unaffected by the ingestion of the plant. Thunberg observed that sheep ate of the leaves of *Rhus lucidum*, a similar species, without harm. To dogs and guinea pigs, on the other hand, poison vine is fatal. The statement that the infusion of the leaves was administered to consumptives with non-poisonous results may seem contradictory, but we cannot but believe that a portion of the poisonous principle is volatile, in spite of the assertion that non-volatile toxicodendrol is the

toxic agent, and consequently driven off in heating.

The nature of poisoning by rhus has always partaken somewhat of the mysterious, and it has been the subject of much speculation. Various reasons have been assigned as to why it poisons at all, and as to why it affects only certain individuals. It has been customary to attribute the deleterious effects to emanations from the living plant. Later, Prof. Maisch announced a volatile substance of acid character as the offender, and named it toxicodendric acid. Still later, a bacterium was charged with creating the mischief. The latter cause, however, has now been satisfactorily disproved. An oil has now been isolated, and this, even when purified, excites exactly the same form of dermatitis as the growing plant. This discovery was made in 1895 by Dr. Franz Pfaff, of Harvard University. It is present in every part of the ivy plant, and even the dried wood is said to retain it. It has been named toxicodendrol, and is asserted to be in reality the only tangible substance found thus far to which may be attributed the toxic effects of the vine. Still, this does not explain why individuals are poisoned when not in contact with the plants. Alcohol freely dissolves this oil, but water, as with oily bodies, does not, nor does it wholly remove it from the skin; hence the reason why washing after contact with ivy does not prevent the appearance of the characteristic eruption. Experimentation (see V. K. Chestnut, *United States Yearbook of Department of Agriculture*, 1896, p. 141) has shown that if the oil be placed upon the skin, and immediately removed with alcohol, but slight effects are observed. The longer the interval, however, the more pronounced the effects become. In all, the effects were less marked than when no such treatment was given. From the fact that several portions of the skin could be impressed without coalescence of the areas, it has been concluded that the action of the oil is wholly local, and that the poison does not enter the blood. We are not, however, satisfied with this view of the matter, for if so, how are we to explain the recurrence of the trouble after weeks and months, and even years, in persons who for some time have not been near the plants or in the neighborhood of their growth?

The local effects of rhus are well known. Briefly stated, it occasions an eczematous, sometimes erysipelatoid, inflammatory eruption, characterized by intense itching, redness, and tumefaction, followed by burning pain, sympathetic febrile excitement, and vesication. The vesicles are at first small, closely aggregated in characteristic patches, and filled with a watery fluid; sometimes they become yellow, as if pus

were present. Finally, as they mature, they rupture, when a yellow scab forms. The tongue is coated white, and headache and delirium are often symptoms. The effects are observable a short time after exposure to the poison, the affection usually spending its force in the course of four to five days, and is followed by desquamation of the cuticle. The face and genitalia seem to be favorite localities for the most pronounced swelling to appear. One case of poisoning by *Rhus venenata* came under our observation, in which the swelling of the face was so great as to wholly obliterate the features, giving to the individual a swine-like, rather than human, appearance.

Treatment.—Domestic medication, in the shape of bruised *Impatiens pallida* and *fulva* (jewel weeds) gave prompt relief. Lack of space forbids more than the partial enumeration of the many remedies that have been extolled for the cure of this malady. The chief, however, are lobelia (infusion), veratrum, gelsemium, hamamelis, grindelia, stramonium, eupatorium, serpentaria, lindera, sassafras bark, dulcamara, oak bark, tannic acid, alnus (boiled in buttermilk), carbolized olive oil, sodium bicarbonate, borax, alum curd (especially to be used near the eyes), and, perhaps the best of all, solution of ferrous sulphate (green vitriol) . Sugar of lead (lead acetate) has long been a favorite agent for the relief of this trouble, but as it has most frequently been applied with water, it has very often failed to give relief. It has now been shown that a solution in weak alcohol (50 to 75 per cent) often gives immediate and permanent relief. Occasionally, zinc and copper sulphates, oxalic acid, potassium chlorate, and other salts are effectual. Sodium carbonate, sodium sulphate, chlorinated lime, weak ammonia solution, and lime-water have been similarly employed. Echafolta has recently been extolled in this affection.

In our opinion, the following are among the best:

Aqueous solution of sodium salicylate and colorless hydrastis, freely applied. Aqueous solution of specific medicine lobelia., to which is added a little glycerin. An alcoholic solution of lead acetate sometimes relieves promptly. An aqueous solution of ferrous sulphate is excellent. It has the disadvantage of staining. A weak aqueous solution of potassium permanganate often relieves remarkably, but it, too, stains the skin and linen.

If obtainable, fresh alder bark (*Alnus serrulata*) in decoction gives quick

relief in many cases.

Another effective application is the so-called “Eclectic Wash” composed of lobelia, baptisia and zinc sulphate, a preparation which is now marketed under the name “Citcelce”.

In every instance, if much skin is involved, the diet should be light and cooling, and the bowels should be kept well opened to relieve the kidneys of some of the extra work put upon them through insufficient cutaneous action. In fact all treatment should be accompanied by a light, cooling diet, and cooling laxatives or diuretics.

Therapy.—Rhus is a medicine for nervous irritation, nervous tension, and the typhoid state. Its range of application is wide but distinct. Acting primarily and most pronouncedly upon the nervous system, it proves secondarily an ideal sedative to control excited circulation. The action of rhus is best understood, as with other well-worked-out specific medicines—by its fitness for conditions rather than for disease-condition groups which we know as particular diseases. It is especially of great value in children's diseases, and as far as our observations go is less required in patients past fifty years of age, except as a stimulant after paralytic attacks. Its value in irritative conditions of the brain and sympathetic nervous system, as well as in disorders of the gastro-intestinal tract, is very apparent, especially 'in the summer bowels affections of the young. It is a remedy best adapted for infants, young children, adolescents, and for those in the prime of manhood and womanhood.

The patient requiring rhus has a small, moderately quick and vibratile pulse, especially showing sharpness of stroke and associated with burning sensations. There is always a peculiar state of erethism which indicates it. The tongue is long and narrow, with marked redness, or reddened edges and tip, and prominent papillae, clearly disclosing a state of decided irritation and involvement of the brain centers. There may be only gastric irritability, there may be headache, there may be a jerky condition bordering closely upon a convulsive state, there may be delirium. The most noticeable symptom, however, is the great nervous unrest displayed, the little patient being excessively nervous and explosive. In this respect it somewhat resembles the great unrest which gelsemium relieves, but the latter is usually accompanied by bright eyes and contracted pupils and high temperature. The

gelsemium patient is hot and agitated and the mental excitement is great. With rhus the nervousness takes on the form of twitching, jerking, and seems motor rather than -mental alone. The rhus patient sleeps fretfully and disturbedly, frequently starting suddenly from out its slumbers, and uttering a sharp, shrill cry, as if in fright—the brain cry (*cry encephalique*)—which, once heard, will never be forgotten. For the condition which this cry announces no agent is equal to rhus. Brain cry is often heard in grave disorders, as typhoid fever and meningitis. The rhus patient may have some elevation of temperature, or have normal or subnormal heat. He is jerky, apprehensive, but when very ill, apathetic. His secretions, unless it be a diarrhoea, are in abeyance. His mouth is dry and the tongue is long, narrow, red at tip and edges, and inclined to dryness. In grave disorders indicating a dissolution of the blood there is a marked glutinous character to the secretions of the mouth, or they may be nearly absent and replaced by dry, black and fetid sordes. In this will be recognized the "typhoid state".

The circulatory disturbance requiring rhus upon which the nervous phenomena chiefly depend is usually localized and not general; small areas of the brain or nerve centers only may have a disturbance of the blood supply. As a rule the marked restlessness is all out of proportion to the apparent circulatory derangement. Frontal pain, sharp in character, is a prominent indication for this drug. The rhus tongue is reddened on the tip and edges, and even may take on the strawberry character, typical of gastric irritability, typhoid, and scarlatinal states. Associate this with the kind of pulse mentioned, and with tympanites, brown sordes, and reddened mucous surfaces, and the indication is still more direct. Discharges of an acrid character, and ichorous flow from tissues which seem to disappear by mere drainage, are further guides to its use. It is a certain remedy for vomiting when the tongue is of the kind above referred to. In fact, great unrest with vomiting is one of the most direct indications for its selection.

Rhus is of value in gushing diarrhoea, with or without vomiting. It has served well in cholera infantum with copious gushing, watery stools, both to control the discharges and to relieve irritability. In muc-enteritis it may be used to alleviate nervous disquietude, and to some extent to restrain the evacuations. During dentition it is extremely useful when the nerve stress borders upon the convulsive, but for the fretful and peevish and worn-out, teething patient *matricaria* is the

better drug.

Rhus is a drug of the very greatest value in typhoid fever. We have successfully carried many cases of enteric fever through with no other medicine than rhus-the indications being the dry tongue, low muttering delirium, sordes on the lips and teeth, and diarrhoea. Should the urine become suppressed its use should be stopped until renal activity is improved. In typhoid dysentery, fortunately now rare, it is often serviceable when associated with the head symptoms indicating rhus. Nor should rhus be overlooked in the treatment of remittent and intermittent types of fever showing a typhoid element.

Rhus is frequently a remedy for pain. The more burning in character the better it relieves. Thus it relieves deep and superficial neuralgic and neuritic pains, the pain of pleurisy, and that of cystitis. Rhus is an aid, seldom a master, in acute rheumatism, but it helps to control pain when of a burning character, and the surfaces present an erysipelatoid redness. There is swelling, tension, and a glistening skin. When rheumatism is aggravated by the warmth of the bed, rhus appears to be indicated. Acute cases are more benefited than so-called chronic rheumatism, though it is especially useful in both to control restlessness. In toothache not due to caries, occurring in a rheumatic subject, rhus often relieves. These cases are said to be aggravated by warmth or by warm liquids. There are two forms of rheumatism especially benefited by rhus, whether they are acute or chronic. One is that induced by dampness and having pain of a subacute type; the other, so-called rheumatic involment of the fibrous tissues of the body-the tendons, fasciae, ligaments, and muscle sheaths. The latter cases are probably not rheumatic, but due to toxic impression through retained poisons which impress the nervous system and produce pain. Only indifferent results attend its use in lumbago-though it should be tried when general rhus indications are present. Administered for a long period in small doses, rhus is one of the most satisfactory drugs for the articular stiffness resulting from rheumatic inflammation.

Rhus is frequently administered to relieve headache. That occurring in the frontal region is most amenable. Many contend that left-sided headache is that in which it is indicated, but we have never been able to verify this contention. With the rhus tongue and sharp stroke of the pulse and nervous tension present, we have found it to act equally well on either side of the head, or for that matter, upon any part of the body.

The same may be said in neuralgia, whether in sciatic, facial, intercostal, or other forms. When it does relieve headache and neuralgia it usually acts promptly.

Rhus is a valuable aid in pneumonia, bronchitis, la grippe, and phthisis, when the patient is extremely irritable and suffers from gastric irritation. With the small wiry pulse as a guide it often controls restlessness and delirium in these disorders and in adynamic fevers, which are probably caused by irritation and local hypervascularization of limited areas in the cerebral and other nerve centers. It is indicated in typhoid pneumonia, with red, glazed tongue, and offensive muco-purulent expectoration. Uncontrollable, dry, spasmodic, and tickling cough is frequently relieved by it.

In the exanthemata rhus appears to exert a special antagonizing influence, for which it may be given in scarlatina and measles where the vital powers are greatly depressed, and in variola, with livid color of the surface and foul discharges.

Rhus has been employed successfully in paraplegia without marked organic lesion, and in paralysis of the bladder and of the rectum. In paralytic states, however, it is usually of little value except in those conditions which follow attacks of rheumatism. We have, however, found it of great value in restoring power after hemiplegia and paraplegia. It should be given in liberal doses for a continued length of time. Its efficiency in sciatica, however, is admitted by some who think the drug practically valueless as a medicine.

Rhus is a remedy in the various disorders of the skin presenting the characteristic rhus indications—redness, intumescence, and burning. For vivid, bright-red, glistening erysipelas, especially when confined to the upper part of the face, with marked puffiness, it is one of the most successful of remedies. In fact in acute inflammations of the skin it is often more serviceable than aconite and veratrum. It is of great value in herpes where there are burning, itching, and exudation of serum. Eczema, pemphigus, and many irritable and inflammatory skin affections are relieved by it when redness, intumescence, and burning are prominent symptoms. It frequently proves the indicated drug in urticaria and functional pruritus. Erythematous and erysipelatous inflammation of the vulva, with burning pain, and the itching and vulval irritation following micturition, are often permanently relieved

by rhus. Tumid, reddened, and glistening enlargements, and ulcerations with red glistening margins, syphilitic or nonsyphilitic, likewise call for rhus. In the ulcerative forms the parts seem to melt away without sloughing. It is of much value in parotitis, and in swelling of the submaxillary gland with great induration few remedies are better (Locke). Its constitutional effects are often manifested in slowforming carbuncle and carbunculous furuncles. By some rhus has been used internally to hasten the cure of cutaneous rhus poisoning. Of this antitoxic power over poisoning by itself we have never been satisfactorily convinced.

In ocular therapeutics rhus is considered by many Eclectic oculists as an important drug. It is sometimes administered to prevent inflammatory action after cataract operations. Palpebral edema with marked redness is said to be relieved by it, while neuralgic and other pains in the globe of the eye, and aggravated by motion and warmth, often vanish under its use. Acute and subacute forms of conjunctivitis are relieved by it on account of its special affinity for the blood vessels of the orbit. In the catarrhal ophthalmia of scrofulous children with strongly inflamed palpebral edges and conjunctivae and marked photophobia and burning lachrimation, the action of the remedy is decided and prompt. There is usually a sensation as of foreign particles, such as sand, etc., in the eye.

The proper dose for specific effects, and it is scarcely employed in any other manner, is the fraction of a drop of specific medicine rhus, thus; Rx Specific Medicine Rhus, 5-15 drops; Water, 4 fluidounces. Mix. **Dose**, One teaspoonful every hour in acute disorders; four times a day in chronic affections. Rhus should, as a rule, be given unmixed with any ingredient but water.

RHUS AROMATICA.

The bark of the root of *Rhusaromatica*, Aiton (Nat. Ord. Anacardiaceae). A small shrub of the rocky regions of eastern United States. **Dose**, 5 to 60 grains.

Common Names: Fragrant Sumach, Sweet Sumach.

Principal Constituents.—Volatile and fixed oils, tannin, and several resins.

Preparation.—*Specific Medicine Fragrant Sumach.* **Dose**, 5 to 60 drops.

Specific Indications.— “Stools profuse, skin cool and sallow, pulse small and feeble, loss of flesh, abdomen flabby, tongue pale, trembling and moist, trembling in lower limbs; general sense of lassitude and languor” (McClanahan). Painless diarrhea nocturnal enuresis, from weakness of sphincter vesicae; and malarial hematuria.

Action and Therapy.—*Rhus aromatica* is a remedy for excessive discharges of urine and painless but profuse forms of diarrhoea. It is also serviceable in some forms of passive hemorrhage, particularly malarial hematuria, a disorder quite prevalent in the Southern States. Occasionally it will serve a useful purpose in purpura hemorrhagica and in very mild cases of hemoptysis of phthisis, but is a better agent for the diarrhea and night sweats of that disease.

The principal use of fragrant sumach is to control bedwetting in children with weak bladder. In some instances its action is more satisfactory than that of any other drug; in others it fails. When irritability of the urinary passages is due to sphincteric weakness it is usually successful; when due to colds, worms, and various other extraneous causes it is likely to prove ineffectual. Polyuria is one of the conditions markedly-improved by this drug, and some have thought it to have a restraining effect both upon the hypersecretion of urine and the output of sugar in diabetes. Apparently it is only in exceptional cases that it displays this power, and too much reliance should not be placed upon it in severe cases. As an aid to control some of the phases of diabetes, as excessive urination, it should be used in conjunction with other approved methods. While chiefly of value in the enuresis of children, it sometimes proves of service in that of the elderly, and especially when there is much irritation, occasional passages of bloody urine, and evident relaxed habit of the urinary tract. It is sometimes useful in chronic, painful, vesical catarrh. It is also useful in chronic bronchitis with profuse blood-streaked expectoration.

Fragrant sumach often restrains diarrhoea of the free and painless type, notably in cholera infantum. In all disorders fragrant sumach should not be used where there is inflammation. The drug is best dispensed in glycerin as follows: Rx Specific Medicine Fragrant Sumach, 1/2 fluidounce; Glycerin, 3 1/2 fluidounces. Mix. Sig.: From one-half to one teaspoonful, in water, every three or four hours.

RHUS GLABRA.

The fruit, leaves and root bark of *Rhus glabra*, Linné (Nat. Ord. Anacardiaceae). Common in thickets in the United States and Canada. *Dose*, 1 to 30 grains (bark).

Common Names: Smooth Sumach, Upland Sumach, Pennsylvania Sumach.

Principal Constituents.—A large amount of tannin abounds in the bark and leaves; resin (bark); tannic and gallic acids, malic acid and malates, volatile oil, and red-coloring matter (fruit).

Preparation.—*Fluidextractum Rhois Glabrae*, Fluidextract of Rhus Glabra. *Dose*, 5 to 60 drops.

Specific Indications.—Relaxed mucosa, with unhealthy discharges; mercurial ulcerations; aphthous stomatitis; spongy gums; flabbiness and ulceration of tissues; ulcerative sore throat with fetid secretion.

Action and Therapy.—*External.* All parts of the smooth sumach are astringent and antiseptic and of much value in flabbiness of tissue, with tendency to ulceration and unhealthy secretion. An infusion of the fruit provides an excellent gargle for fetid sore throat and a wash for aphthous ulcerations. It is a useful drug in decoction of the bark, infusion of the berries, or in fluidextract wherever a mild and deodorant astringent is required; especially is it serviceable in the spongy bleeding gums of scorbutic patients and that of hemophiliacs.

RUBUS.

The bark of the root of *Rubus villosus*, Aiton; *Rubus canadensis*, Linné; and *Rubus trivialis*, Michaux (Nat. Ord. Rosaceae). Wild and cultivated in the United States. *Dose*, 5 to 60 grains.

Common Names: (1) Blackberry; (2) Low Blackberry; (3) Low-bush-Blackberry.

Principal Constituents.—Tannin. Fruits contain citric and malic acids; the glucoside *villosin* (in *Rubus villosus*) a body similar to saponin, and about 20 per cent of tannin.

Preparations.—1. *Specific Medicine Rubus.* *Dose*, 5 to 60 drops.

2. *Syrupus Rubi*, Syrup of Black Raspberry. *Dose*, 1 to 2 fluidounces.

Specific Indication.—Gastro-intestinal atony, with copious watery and

pale feces.

Action and Therapy.—The decoction of rubus is a mild and agreeable astringent in watery diarrheas, especially in children, when the stools are clay-colored or pale. There is marked enfeeblement of the stomach and bowels, and the child is fretful, has no appetite, and there is marked pallor of the skin. The syrup or a spiced cordial of the bark and another of the fruit have been used largely in domestic practice to control intractable diarrheas. They act best after a thorough purging with castor oil or similar cathartic has been resorted to. *Rubus strigosus* (Red Raspberry) has similar uses.

RUBUS IDAEUS.

The fruit of *Rubus Idaeus*, Linné (Nat. Ord. Rosaceae). Cultivated.

Common Name: Raspberry.

Principal Constituents.—Malic and citric acids, laevulose, 4.6 per cent and dextrose (2.5).

Preparation.—*Syrupus Rubi Idaei*, Syrup of Raspberry (chiefly a vehicle).

Action and Therapy.—An infusion of the leaves is useful in the diarrhea of relaxation, with copious watery discharges. The fruit as prepared in a syrup—*Syrupus Rubi Idaei*—is highly prized as a flavored vehicle for medicines and for the beautiful color it imparts to pharmaceutical mixtures. Diluted and iced it forms an agreeable acidulous drink for fever patients. A refreshing fever drink is also prepared by mixing equal parts of syrup of raspberry and vinegar and diluting with water to taste.

RUMEX.

The root of *Rumex crispus*, Linné (Nat. Ord. Polygonaceae). A common weed introduced from Europe, and found abundantly in this country in waste places, among rubbish, and in cultivated grounds. **Dose**, 5 to 60 grains.

Common Name: Yellow Dock.

Principal Constituents.—Yellow Dock has not been satisfactorily analyzed.

Preparation.—Specific Medicine Rumex. Dose, 1 to 60 drops.

Specific Indications.—Vitiating blood with chronic skin disorders; low glandular and cellular deposits with tendency to indolent ulcers; feeble recuperative power; chronic sore throat, with glandular engorgement and hypersecretion; cough, with shortness of breath and praecordial fullness; dry, irritative laryngo-tracheal cough; stubborn, dry summer cough; nervous dyspepsia, with epigastric fullness and pain extending into the chest.

Action and Therapy.—Rumex is decidedly alterative and might be used more extensively for that purpose. It should especially be brought into requisition in depraved states of the body fluids with tendency to chronic skin disorders, with glandular engorgement, tendency to ulceration, and slow recuperative powers. It is especially valuable in strumous patients with low deposits in the cellular and glandular tissues which break down easily but are very slow to repair. In small doses the specific medicine is also useful in nervous dyspepsia with epigastric fullness, and pectoral pain from gaseous distention of the stomach. It is also serviceable in laryngeal irritation, with cough of the types alluded to under Specific Indications.

RUTA.

The leaves and unripe fruit of *Rutagraveolens*, Linné (Nat. Ord. Rutaceae). A half shrubby perennial introduced into American gardens from Europe. **Dose**, 1 to 10 grains.

Common Names: Rue, Garden Rue.

Principal Constituents.—A volatile oil (*Oleum Ruta*), *coumarin*, the yellow glucoside *rutin* (rubic acid), and a volatile alkaloid.

Preparations.—1. *Oleum Rutae*, Oil of Rue. **Dose**, 1 to 6 drops.

2. *Tinctura Rutae*, Tincture of Rue (fresh herb, 8 ounces; Alcohol, 16 fluidounces). **Dose**, 1 to 10 drops.

Action and Therapy.—Rue is a gastro-intestinal irritant and a poison to the nervous system, capable, in large doses, of causing death. It is emmenagogue and anthelmintic. Acting strongly upon the uterus, it may be given in amenorrhoea due to atony, but the dose must be small lest an inflammatory action be induced. It is a good vermifuge, though

its disagreeable taste is a decided obstacle to its use. It has been suggested as a remedy for irritability of the urinary tract when due to atony, and in nervous disorders of a spasmodic type. On account of its ecbotic qualities it should not be administered during pregnancy.

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.

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Bisbee, Arizona
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