

weigh ten times their primitive volume. M. Borne has built conveniences for the reception of the cocoons, and for their artificial incubation. By care and tenderness he has succeeded thus far in preventing any epidemic or sudden mortality in his reservoirs. The leech is very apt to be carried off by sudden disorders, and history mentions the loss of a colony of 18,000 in one winter, of the destruction of 60,000 by a hard frost, and of the consumption of 200,000 in Soloque, by a flock of wild geese. M. Borne has taken extraordinary precautions against any invasion of the sort. In the middle of his ponds is a light-house, or look-out, where a man is constantly stationed, armed with guns and other means of defence; the edges of the ponds are guarded in such a way as to keep out all aquatic enemies, such as water-rats, moles and frogs; traps are set for the trochètes, glossiphonies, hydrohiles and dytiscques, which nourish a traditional animosity toward all leeches. Marauders and poachers are also keenly watched. In short, M. Borne hopes soon to be in a position to furnish France a supply sufficient to render any further importation useless; and later he expects even to be able to export for his own account.—*Boston Med. and Surg. Journal.*

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*Verbena Hastata* (Tall Blue Vervain,) and *V. Urticifolia*, (Common Vervain.) By Silas Hubbard, M. D. Having become well satisfied that the roots of the above named plants possess valuable medical virtues with which the medical profession are not generally acquainted, I am induced to offer a few suggestions in regard to them, trusting that should the experience of others verify the conclusions I have drawn from my own, I shall thereby add something to the general stock of useful knowledge.

These two varieties of vervain possess essentially the same properties. They principally grow on the road-sides, in the vicinity of towns and villages. The *verbena urticifolia* grows more abundantly, and has a more luxuriant root than the other variety, and is the kind I generally use—I will, therefore confine myself to it. The root, when fresh, has a peculiar characteristic odor, and a nauseous and very bitter taste. The latter part of September and the first of October, is the best time to collect the root. I sometimes give it in the form of tincture, but usually in infusion. I prefer to merely pour boiling water on it and let it cool forth, because, by simmering or boiling it, some of its qualities are dissipated. The complaints for which I have prescribed it with the most benefit, are the various types of intermittent. I am convinced, by my own experience, that it is fully as efficacious as the best cinchona bark in curing these complaints. To cure an intermittent, administer the infusion of the dried root of the strength of 1 oz. to a pint of water; dose fʒss every four hours during the apyrexia, and it can be administered with good effect, and without any injurious tendency, even during the paroxysm; given in this way, or with brandy, wine or dilute alcohol, the patient rarely suffers a second attack. Its use ought to be continued for some time after the cure to prevent a relapse. It is not necessary to precede its use with a cathartic or an emetic, as physicians frequently do in giving quinine or bark, because, together with its tonic effect, it also promotes the secretions and acts as an alterative. When the