

have been made for it, such as its use for piles, sores, cuts, and all hemorrhages. It has, owing to its decided action in these diseases, become in America a standard domestic remedy, which is frequently resorted to by physicians, more particularly those residing in the country.

Successful results have again and again been noted, by many physicians, of the action of this drug in numerous diseases in which other remedies have failed. Ringer, among others, has noticed, I may say, this uniform action of hamamelis, and reports that he has known it to arrest hæmaturia in four cases which had resisted many other remedies. It has been found to be equally effective as a hæmostatic in bleeding from the lungs and other organs. Its action is claimed to be that of a vascular sedative.

Dujardin-Beaumetz thinks that it has an action on the muscular fibres of the veins. Hector Guy, however, alleges, after testing the drug thoroughly, that it shows no special physiological action on the vascular system. Several American investigators have also recently denied the action claimed for hamamelis.

Clinical experience, however, is more reliable than physiological theory, and clinically I know of its value. I have referred to it at greater length in a paper, on its general action, read before the Section of Therapeutics at the last annual meeting of the British Medical Association. I again affirm that it possesses undoubted action in lessening local inflammation.

Abundant evidence, clinically, has been furnished of this action by a large number of physicians, chiefly in America, in which country it is the more largely used. It is not my object, in this brief paper, to give an extensive *résumé* of hamamelis, but to limit my remarks to its good effect in the treatment of disease of the skin.

Hamamelis may be employed in diseases of the skin, both internally and externally. Administered internally, in the form of the fluid extract, it appears to lessen the flow of blood through the vessels in inflammatory affections of the skin. Its action is, perhaps, more decided in eczema, especially in the acute and subacute forms. In cases in which the disease is more or less general, the surface red, hot, and tumid, the use of from one to thirty minims of the fluid extract of hamamelis in water or on sugar, every two or three hours, often has a most decided and speedy good result. The engorgement lessens and often disappears. It may be necessary in order entirely to remove the disease, to apply, in addition, some appropriate local treatment. The action claimed for hamamelis is, not that it always cures the disease, but that it lessens the flow of blood through the vessels, and thus relieves, benefits, and hastens a cure. In no class of cases will witch-hazel act so well as in those unfortunate infants suffering from pustular eczema or crusta lactea. The fluid extract of hamamelis in infantile eczema can be

administered in from a half to five drops, in syrup or milk, every two or three hours. In many cases its use will cause all constitutional excitement to abate, the serous or sero-purulent discharge to lessen, and the inflamed and swollen condition of the tissues to decline. It will, if persisted in, very often thus bring to the little sufferer the greatest relief from the high vascular excitement and the intolerable itching.

Hamamelis is also a valuable remedy locally in eczema, either in the form of the tincture, or in that of the diluted fluid extract. In some cases, in addition to its internal use, it may also be well to apply the drug locally. In others the tincture is the preferable form to use, from two to eight drachms being employed with four or five ounces of water. A piece of old muslin is saturated in the lotion and spread constantly over the inflamed part. In others, again, an ointment is better borne, and can be prepared by incorporating from a half to two or more drachms with some fatty vehicle—lard, suet, or lanolin being always preferable. Hamamelis thus used has both an astringent and a sedative action on the tissues, and will often quickly lessen inflammatory action in the part to which it is applied.

In erysipelas, I have known some good results to follow from its internal administration, but the results so far are not sufficient to warrant my recommending it as a remedy to be depended upon to control the constitutional symptoms of this disease. Locally, a lotion of hamamelis, one part of the tincture to five or six of water, may be employed in erysipelas in addition to other topical agents. It has, by its evaporating action, a most delightful refrigerant and soothing effect upon the hot and tumid skin. Its efficacy is often enhanced locally in erysipelas by adding one or more parts of tincture of opium to the lotion. Hamamelis in acne, particularly in the pustular form, acts well both internally and locally. It lessens the discharge, and, by its local astringent action in the form of a lotion, brings great relief to the inflamed and distended glands. In rosacea, its action is even more decided by its controlling effect upon the enlarged capillaries used both internally and externally. In obstinate cases, I usually push the drug to full doses, giving often as much as two drachms three or four times daily, and I have applied at the same time a lotion of one part of the tincture in four or five of water. The lotion is increased from time to time until it is applied in full strength. The enlarged capillaries slowly contract under its continued use, the engorgement lessens and the tissues of the part tend by degrees to become normal.

Hamamelis in the form of the tincture is a remedy of very great benefit in both seborrhœa oleosa and sicca. A lotion composed of one part of the tincture, with three or four of water, removes rapidly the greasy and glistening condition present on the face and other parts of the body in those afflicted with seborrhœa oleosa. In