

Forgotten Friends, or Good Remedies Out of Fashion Reintroduced to Pharmacy.

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(Continued from Page 52, Feb. Number, 1894.)

CARRAGEEN.—Irish moss, *Chondrus crispus*, natural order, *Algae*, is a very popular remedy for consumption in Ireland. It is undoubtedly an excellent nutritive demulcent, but the idea that it has any specific effect against the *tubercle bacillus*, is, of course, fallacious. The decoction, however, is one of the best bases for cough mixtures I am acquainted with.

COCCULUS INDICUS.—The Levant Nut, *Anamirta cocculus*, natural order, *Menispermaceae*, was formerly in considerable repute for destroying the parasites in ring-worm and pediculosis. Its active principle, picrotoxinum, which is now official, possesses all the bad and good qualities of the drug, and has been highly commended in the exhausting night sweats of phthisis.

CONTRAYERVA.—*Contrayerva*, *Dorstenia contrayerva*, natural order *Moraceae*, is highly esteemed in Jamaica and Trinidad for its tonic and diuretic properties. It is administered as a fresh infusion (one in ten, half-hour) in ounce doses every four hours, but its introduction into this country, many years ago, has not been attended with the success which West Indian practitioners say the drug deserves.

COTYLEDON UMBILICUS.—The navel-wort, *Cotyledon umbilicus*, natural order, *Crassulaceae*, now almost unknown to the qualified M.D., is still the sheet anchor of the herbalist, as it was that of the regular practitioner "when George III. was king," in the treatment of epilepsy, hysteria, St. Vitus' dance and other nervous diseases. It is certainly a reliable antispasmodic, worthy of being once more put on its trial in the treatment of the fearful neurosis, which, for want of a better name, our fathers called "the falling sickness."

CURCUMA.—The *Curcuma longi*, natural order, *Zingiberaceae*, is held in high esteem by the natives of India as a carminative and tonic, and finds a place in most of their polypharmacy. I think it is worthy of a better position among our modern drugs than that of a mere test for alkalies.

CYMINUM.—The fruit of the umbelliferous plant *Cuminum cyminum*, is one of the oldest known, carminative stimulants. It is quite as useful as caraway or many of the carminatives still popularly prescribed, but now-a-days rarely finds its way to the English palate, save through a curry, or in that delicious Russian liqueur *Kumel*.

CYDONIUM.—The seeds of the *Cydonium vulgare*, natural order *Rosaceae*, were very popular among a past generation of

hairdressers as a constituent of quince hair wash, which was prepared from various formulae, of which the following is a fair sample:

B Quince seeds	 1 part
Glycerine	 40 parts
Rose water	 80 parts

Mix. Macerate two days and then strain.

Therapeutically, the seeds are merely demulcent.

CYPRIPEDIUM.—*Cypripedium pubescens* or *Parietorum*, the well known ladies' slipper, has a reputation as an antispasmodic in the same class of cases in which valerian is usually prescribed, and is still retained in the United States dispensatory.

DAUCUS CAROTA.—This humble member of the *Umbelliferae* is still highly esteemed in country districts as a stimulating poultice for chronic ulcers, and was formerly widely used as a galactagogue. Carrots and celery boiled in milk constitute an old Antrim remedy for rheumatism.

DULCAMARA.—Although no longer official, the Bittersweet is still largely used in Ireland by both physician and quack. As an alterative, diuretic and diaphoretic, I have always found it infinitely preferable to sarsaparilla, which is still retained in the B. P. for two reasons: first, because it is costly; and second, because, unlike the vulgar *Dulcamara*, it does not grow in England.

DIPHYLLA.—The *Jeffersonia diphylla* is a member of the *Berberidaceae*, and hails from the States, where it is attributed with most important anti-syphilitic properties by the Indians. It is a tonic, alterative and diuretic, and said to enter into the famous *Succus McDuca*. Dose of the powder root, 20 grains.

DICENTRA.—This is another importation from the same region with similar properties. The tubers of the Turkey corn, or *Corydalis* (*Dicentra formosa*, natural order, *Fumariaceae*), may be administered either as a decoction (1 in 20) $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. to 1 oz. tincture (1 in 10), 20 to 60 minims, or in the form of corydalin, the active principle in doses of from $\frac{1}{2}$ grain to 3 grains.

EUPHORBIIUM.—Although the concrete resinous juice of the *Euphorbia canariensis*, a member of the *Euphorbiaceae* from the Atlas Mountains of North Africa, is well known in veterinary practice; it is rarely if ever used by the physician. It was originally introduced as an irritant, emetine, emetic and cathartic, but has been abandoned owing to its extreme potency. Five-minim doses of a one-in-80 tincture have been used by the writer in spasmodic asthma and chronic bronchitis with considerable success. It has frequently been used as a poison, when the best antidotes are demulcent drinks and enemata, followed by opiates and stimulants, if necessary.

EUPATORIUM PERFORIATUM.—The Bonaset is another Indian remedy worthy of introduction into this country. It re-

sembles chamomile, and belongs to the same natural order, and like it, is a valuable bitter tonic and emetic when given, as a warm infusion, but, unlike *Anthemis nobilis*, it is also a powerful diaphoretic and purgative.

FENUGREEK.—The *Trigonella fenum-graecum* (natural order, *Leguminosae*) is another plant better known to the veterinary than the medical prescriber. It is a cheap and effective aromatic carminative, worthy of a more important place than it now holds among this class of remedies.

FECUS VESICULOSUS. It is not generally known that the Bladder wrack was at one time included in the Dublin Pharmacopoeia as a remedy for scrofula, various glandular and joint troubles, and purulent bronchitis. Of late years it has attained a world-wide reputation as a remedy for obesity, but its power of producing absorption of fat is by no means an unquestioned fact, as many authors consider it uncertain or powerless to produce the results attributed to it, and refer the so-called cures of obesity to the strict regime, dietary and otherwise, enjoined, and perhaps the mere alterative character of the drug. Whitla points out a fact which I can corroborate from my own experience—viz., "that the pig, which is regarded by some as closely allied to man in some physiological and structural points, has been fattened for the market on the *Fucus vesiculosus* in the North of Ireland."

GALANGA.—The root of the *Alpinia galangal* has been used as a substitute for *Zingiber officinale*, to whose natural order it belongs, and which it closely resembles in every way. It has a huge reputation among the peasantry of the north of Ireland as a remedy for toothache and neuralgia. The drug is a constant ingredient in many Chinese remedies, and is used by the descendants of Confucius in the treatment of ague and dysentery.

GALIUM.—Like navel-wort, wild rosemary, *Galium aparine*, natural order, *Rubiaceae* was one of our old English remedies for epilepsy, and has long been used as a domestic remedy in Devon and Cornwall for the King's Evil and other scrofulous affections. Dr. Quinlan, of Dublin, has recently pointed out to the profession a property long known to the wise women of the Irish peasantry, viz., its action as a powerful stimulant and healer when applied as a poultice to chronic ulcers. It is an excellent palliative in cancer, Dr. Boyce recommending five ounces of the juice to be taken daily, and a strong ointment to be applied locally, in this loathsome disease.

(To be Continued.)

Brooklyn, N. Y., grocers are up in arms against Colgate's soap, the manufacturers of which sell it to consumers at retail prices. The Brooklyn Retail Grocers' Association have passed a resolution not to handle this firm's goods.