

cases of great tenesmus. As a general rule, when sent for to attend a case of cramps resulting from unripe fruit, or anything of that nature, I order a castor oil enema at once, with the immediate application of a hot spiced hop poultice over the abdomen. If necessary I add a subcutaneous injection of morphine, and leave the patient with the assurance that he will be well in a few hours, and that nothing more will be necessary. If an adult patient comes to my office complaining of an active diarrhoea, attributable to no other cause than that of heat and over-exertion, I order him a few powders of the oxide of zinc and bicarbonate of potash, to be followed by a mixture of the elixir of calisaya and sulphuric acid. If the diarrhoea be due to constipation we have nothing better than a pill of extract of nux vomica, extract of belladonna, with extract of physostigma. These should be taken regularly, to overcome the habit, which is due probably to a relaxed condition of the muscular coat of the bowel.

In the *Practitioner*, Dr. J. M. Fothergill writes as follows : "Look at the treatment of diarrhoea. How commonly is an astringent mixture, containing an opiate, prescribed, without further reflection? Of course, in a great many cases immediate effects are produced which are gratifying to the patient. Yet in a certain percentage of such cases such a plan is not only not successful, but does harm; in those cases where there is an offending mass in the intestines, setting up a secretion to sweep it away, but where the secretion is set up too low for its removal there is a teasing diarrhoea, a persistent desire to go to stool, with small, ineffective motions, affording no relief. Here the ordinary diarrhoea mixture does harm; and what effect it has is to arrest a spontaneous reflex act, often of a beneficial character. The proper treatment is to administer a dose of castor oil, or better still, a scruple of rhubarb, in powder, by which secretion is set up above the offending mass, and it is swept away; after which diarrhoea ceases. The secondary action of rhubarb in constipating the bowels renders it the agent *par excellence* for the treatment of this form of diarrhoea. The astringent and opium treatment of diarrhoea is