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ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF CASTOR OIL.

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Castor Oil is indisputably nauseous and unpleasant to take, so much so that some patients cannot be induced to swallow it, by any device or on any consideration. At the same time its qualities are such that in some disturbed states of the system no other purgative can be substituted with safety. On this account a great deal of ingenuity has been exercised in endeavouring to devise means by which the dose may be swallowed without tasting it. So far as I know, success in this attempt has been only partial, and I fear the difficulties in the way are too great to be entirely overcome. Efforts seem to have been made in three directions: first, to enclose the oil in a tasteless envelope, such as the hard and soft castor oil capsules. To these there seem to be two objections. One, from the number of capsules necessary to be taken for a purgative dose; the other from the fact that most of the makers, in their efforts to reduce the size of the dose, have been tempted to add a foreign ingredient, such