

My attention was first called to the *hemostatic* properties of this substance when I was a lad, by seeing it used in this way among horse-farriers and in domestic practice. The following cases, in which it appears to have been used with advantage, I have noted from among several others which have occurred during a practice of twelve years. I have also prescribed it in hæmoptysis and in menorrhagia with benefit; and I consider it well adapted to any internal or external passive hemorrhages in which astringents are generally esteemed beneficial; for beyond its merely astringent action, I conceive that it has a power over bleeding vessels; possessed by few other substances either vegetable or mineral. And, though its action on the various organs differs from such medicines as matico, gallic acid, oak bark, uva ursi, &c., it may without doubt, be prescribed with equal or greater advantage in many cases where these are used.

The following will briefly illustrate its uses:

CASE I. This occurred before I began to study medicine. A young man received a severe cut from a scythe, just external to the patella, by which some branches of the external articular arteries were severed. Bleeding was profuse and persistent; all domestic remedies were exhausted in vain, when, on the advice of an old man, who was something of a horse-farrier, cloths soaked in a decoction of alder bark were bound upon the cut, and kept constantly wet with the liquid. In a short time the wound was filled with a very firm clot, and the bleeding permanently restrained.

CASE II. A case of epistaxis in a boy thirteen years of age. He began to bleed on Friday at noon, and I first saw the case on Saturday night. An old physician, the regular attendant of the family, had labored faithfully with various means—plugging the anterior nares, &c.—for six or eight hours without avail, when I took the case in hand. He was then so much exhausted as to be in a state of almost constant syncope, and was considered hopeless. I wanted to try the alder bark before attempting to plug the posterior nares, so I immediately prepared a decoction, and soaking pledgets of cotton wool in it, pushed them as far back into the nostrils as possible, and then kept them wet with it by tilting back the head and pouring the liquid into his nostrils with a teaspoon from time to time. In a surprisingly short time, hemorrhage ceased, there were no symptoms of a return,