

Strange Medicines.

FROM an almost endless catalogue of healing spells which are to *this day* practised by the peasantry of various districts in England and Scotland, I will quote a few which are considered certain remedies. The Northumbrian cure for warts is to take a large black snail rub the wart well with it, and then impale the poor snail on a thorn hedge. As the poor creature wastes away, the warts will surely disappear. In the West of England eel's blood serves the same purpose. For goitre or wen a far more horrible charm must be tried. The hand of a dead child must be rubbed nine times across the lump, or, still better, the hand of a suicide. It is not many years since a poor woman living in the neighbourhood of Hartlepool, acting on the advice of a "wise woman," went alone by night to an out-house where lay the corpse of a suicide awaiting the coroner's inquest. She lay all night with the hand of the corpse resting on her wen; but the mental shock of that night of horror was such that she shortly afterwards died.

In the neighbourhood of Stamfordham, in Northumberland, whooping cough is cured by putting the head of a live trout into the mouth of the patient and letting the trout breathe into the child's mouth. Or else a hairy caterpillar is put in a small bag and tied round the neck of the child, whose cough ceases as the insect dies.

A peculiar class of remedy is that of making offerings of hair as a cure for whooping cough. In Sunderland, the crown of the head is shaved and the hair hung upon a bush or tree, in full faith that as the birds carry away the hair, so will the cough vanish. In Lincolnshire, a girl suffering from ague cuts a lock of her hair, and binds it round an aspen tree, praying it to shake in her stead. In Ross-shire, where living cocks are still occasionally buried as a sacrificial remedy for epilepsy, some of the hair of the patient is generally added to the offering. And at least one holy well in Ireland (that of Tubber Quan near Carrick-on-Suir) requires an offering of hair from all Christian pilgrims who come here on the last three Sundays in June to worship St. Quan; part of the ceremonial required is that they should go thrice round a neighbouring tree on their bare knees, and then each must cut off a lock of his hair, and tie it to a branch, as a charm against headache. The tree, thus fringed with human hair of all colours, some newly cut, some sun-bleached, is a curious sight, and an object of deep veneration.

Travellers who remember the tufts of hair which figure so largely among the

votive offerings in Japanese temples may trace some feeling in common between the kindred superstitions of these Eastern and Western Isles.

Hideous is the remedy for toothache practised at Tavistock in Devonshire, where a tooth must be bitten from a skull in the churchyard, and kept always in the pocket.

Spiders are largely concerned in the cure of ague. In Ireland the sufferer is advised to swallow a living spider. In Somerset and neighbouring counties, he is to shut a large black spider in a box and leave it to perish, while in Flanders he is to imprison one in an empty walnut shell and wear it round his neck. Even in sturdy New England a lingering faith in the superstitions of the old mother country leads to the manufacture of pills of spiders' web as a cure for ague, and Longfellow tells of a popular cure for fever

By wearing a spider hung round one's neck in a nutshell.

This was the approved remedy of our British ancestors for fever and ague; and I am told that in Sussex the prescription of a live spider rolled up in butter is still considered good in cases of obstinate jaundice.

Many and horrible are the remedies for erysipelas. Thus at Loch Carron in Ross-shire we know of a case in which the patient was instructed to cut off one-half of the ear of a cat, and let the blood drip on the inflamed surface.

It appears that the old superstition may even survive in such an atmosphere of strong common sense as that of Pennsylvania, where so recently as the year 1867 a case was reported in which a woman was found to have administered three drops of a black cat's blood to a child as a remedy for croup. Her neighbours objected to her pharmacy, and proved their superior wisdom by publicly accusing her of witchcraft.

Of the burial of a living cock on behalf of an epileptic patient we have had many instances in the north of Scotland in the present century, but this savours rather of devil-propitiation and sacrifice than of medicine lore.

GEO. H. JARVIS,
Barrister,
SOLICITOR, CONVEYANCER, ETC.

Office, 10 Building and Loan Chambers, 15 Toronto Street,
TORONTO, CANADA.
Ascend by Elevator.

MACDOUGALL & BEAUMONT,
Barristers, Solicitors, &c.

EQUITY CHAMBERS, 20 ADELAIDE STREET EAST,
TORONTO.

ALFRED MACDOUGALL.

E. S. BEAUMONT.

Where
the Cat
Fumps,

614 QUEEN STREET
WEST.



LADIES who desire to appear fashionable should not fail to inspect the enormous assortment of

**BANGS, and Other Styles,
LONG HAIRD SWITCHES,
WIGS, etc., at**

A. DORENWEND'S
PARIS HAIR WORKS,
108 & 105 Yonge Street,
Between King and Adelaide E.
P.S.—Goods sent per mail if desired.

MISS STEVENS,

✦ **MILLINER** ✦

To **H. R. H. Princess Louise.**

FASHION WITH ECONOMY.

Miss Stevens invites her numerous friends and the public to an inspection of her splendid stock of

Millinery, Feathers, Flowers and Fancy Goods

251 YONGE ST.,

Opposite Holy Trinity Church, **TORONTO.**

MOURNING MILLINERY A SPECIALTY.

A. E. KENNEDY,

**Pharmaceutical and
Dispensing Chemist,**

233 QUEEN ST. WEST, TORONTO.

Prescription Department Always Open.

Reliable Attendants.

Particular attention given to old Family Receipts and orders by mail.

"THIS STORE IS ALWAYS OPEN."