

hosh, and when thus administered Mr. Strath has known more than one instance where a three-months' foetus has been expelled from the uterus without ensuing danger to the mother. He even goes so far as to say that abortion procured in this manner precludes all possibility of future conception. This powder they never allowed Mr. Strath to see, and in spite of his offer of \$50 for a small sample, the secret has been kept profoundly sacred. Menstruation at the age of 11 years is the rule, and he considers it a remarkable fact in a cold country, where the thermometer often registers 50 degrees below zero.

Ladies' Slipper, the *Cypripedium* of the *Pharmacopœia*, imported from the tribes to the south, is chiefly used in rheumatism in very large doses. It is also used in the treatment of epilepsy; but this disease is of rare occurrence.

As an aromatic stimulant *Hedeoma*, or *Pennyroyal*, is as much used by the Cree women, and in a similar manner, as by our own people.

Plantago, or *Plantain*, is used commonly as a hemostatic, and is chewed by the doctor and applied as a paste to the bleeding surface. This drug is also their remedy for toothache. It is not put in the aching tooth, but is swallowed. Some of you will be surprised to hear that the Indians suffer very much from their teeth, and that my informant has practised a great deal of dentistry during his residence with them.

Juniper is used in three forms. The berries are stewed and eaten as a diuretic. The leaves are dried and dusted over indolent sores, healing them with wonderful rapidity, and the root infused is administered in cases of gravel. Though Bright's disease is rare, gravel is very common and most of the old men die of it. *Hydrangea* is used with *Juniper* and with great success.

Spear-mint, *Sarsaparilla* and *Dandelion* are taken for the same complaints as we ourselves take them.

Hemlock Spruce is much thought of. The inner bark of the tree, freshly peeled, is mixed with equal parts of *Poplar* and

Black Birch to make a decoction. In the process of boiling, an oil is taken from the surface. This oil is mixed in the proportion of two drams to a quart of water, which quantity is drunk in the course of two or three days, as an abortive medicine.

We must no longer pride ourselves on the nursery toilet powders which we present to our customers in such a variety of charming packages. To the Indian, whose untutored mind, as Pope says, sees God in clouds and hears him in the wind, must we go for the most agreeable and most absorbent article of the kind yet introduced, a sample of which I have with me. It is nothing but the rotten interior of the *Hemlock Spruce*, lacking perhaps the extreme fineness which could only be obtained by modern methods and machinery.

We now come to *Willow Bark*, which is used as a hemostatic in the form of infusion. It is the belief of the Indian that bleeding should be arrested at once. He has an awful fear of death from loss of blood, and an Indian has been seen to faint whilst watching another having his finger amputated.

Regarding *Salicin*, "the important constituent of *Willow Bark*," the Cree is incredulous as to its source. He cannot understand how a white powder can be made from a bark, and it is entirely without faith that he is occasionally induced to take this remedy or the salicylates for rheumatism.

The belief that fever can only be cured by vomiting it up has a strong hold on the Cree mind, and he therefore swallows the strongest remedies by taking what we would consider more than a maximum dose of *Veratrum Viride*, or the *Green Hellebore* of the *Pharmacopœia*; but this powerful drug has another use, the story of which will, to say the least, be news to some of the gentlemen present. The rootlets and the rhizome are powdered between two stones, and as such is taken as a snuff to reduce hernia. The *modus operandi* is thus: The patient, naked, of course, is elevated to a horizon-