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OLEUM ERIGERONI IN UTERINE HÆMORRHAGE.

By J. G. RICH, M.D., OF BRANFORD, C. W.

The essential oil of the Canada fleabane is obtained by distillation from the leaves and flowers of the *Erigeron Canadense*, an indigenous annual growing wild throughout this province and the northern and middle sections of the United States. The plant, which is very branching, rises from two to six feet in height, and is covered with stiff hair; its narrow slender leaves being also bearded with them. Its flowers are small and white, and bloom luxuriantly in terminal panicles. The oil, which is sometimes as clear and colourless as water, is generally of a pale straw colour, and of an agreeable aromatic odour, and a warm bitterish pungent taste. It is distilled both in Pennsylvania and in Ohio: that which I have obtained from Philadelphia have found the more efficacious as a remedy. I have not heard of its manufacture in Canada.

The first notice of the employment of oleum erigeroni for the arrest of uterine hæmorrhage, with which I am acquainted, was in 1854, when it was brought prominently forward by Dr. Bourneville of Philadelphia, in whose hands it proved extremely successful in such cases. He gave it in doses of from five to ten minims every two hours. Dr. Alison also, in a communication to the college of physicians of Philadelphia, speaks very highly of it for the same purpose. And after years of frequent experience of its benefit, I desire to add my recommendation to theirs, for like them I feel justified in saying that it is one of our most certain remedies in cases of flooding.

I usually prescribe ten drops of the oil previously dissolved in a drachm of alcohol, to be taken in half a wineglassful of water, repeating it every hour, or half hour, or even more frequently if required. But I have seldom found it necessary to administer more than two or three doses. Should the case be emetic I substitute cinnamon water in lieu of aqua fontana; or add a few drops of essence of cinnamon. I have occasionally given the oil upon sugar, but have noticed that it does not act so readily and certainly as when previously cut with water.

Another effect of this remedy which I have often observed is that of causing the uterine contractions to become more regular, and the expulsion of the placenta to become accelerated.

I have occasionally also prescribed this oil in cases of hæmorrhages, and in chronic bronchial affections with seeming benefit, but my experience has not been too limited to express a decided opinion concerning its merits in these. But in uterine hæmorrhages I commend it to my brethren; and if it should be as successful with them as with myself, it will certainly be worthy of a more extended employment.

J. G. R.

DISEASE IN THE WIND.

Read before the Canadian Institute, Toronto, March 22nd, 1862, by C. Ziel Gyles, M.D., Lecturer on Materia Medica and Therapeutics in the Toronto School of Medicine.

No subject connected with the science of medicine has ever occupied a larger share of attention, than the causes of disease, nor has there been on any bestowed a more intelligent scrutiny.

No inquiry is likely to yield higher or more advantageous results, both to the profession and the public.

In proportion as we comprehend the nature, habits, and tendencies, of the causes of disease, will we be enabled to direct our prophylaxis, treatment, and prognosis with success and certainty.

I wish to draw attention to some points connected with certain elements, believed to exist at times in the air, carried from place to place by the wind, and which often strike down whole communities at once with some serious ailment.

I hope to bring before you a number of facts and opinions, at present widely scattered through our periodical literature, in order that you may, by an intelligent scrutiny, select those points worthy of consideration, and assist us in establishing some general principles, which shall give a positive direction to further investigation, and I hope lead to useful and practical results.

I do not pretend to solve the problem of the identity or non identity of zymotic poisons, although we are told that you will often see intermittent, remittent, typhoid and typhus fevers, cholera, and scarlatina, giving place to each other in the same localities, and (apparently) convertible into each other in some instances by injudicious treatment.

Although some writers, as Marechal, Addison, Jenner, Wardell, and Gairdner, have endeavoured to draw a distinction between the forms of atmospheric poisons that give rise to the different forms of fever, it has been pretty clearly proven that zymotic diseases are, in several instances at least, convertible into each other; and I think the observations of Drs. Bell, of Glasgow, Stokes and Kennedy of Dublin, Huss, Skoda, and Carpenter, bear me out in the assertion.

It has been established to the satisfaction of most observers, that many zymotic poisons, if carried by physician, nurse, or wind, to the puerperal female, will produce in her, not the disease from which the poison was derived, but puerperal fever, because you have the system at such times, strongly pre-disposed to take on that peculiar malignant form of action.

The cause and results of this pre-disposition may throw some light upon the varied operation of atmospheric poisons, in other instances.

From the violent muscular effort during labor, rapid disintegration of the uterine and other muscular tissues takes place, filling the blood with a