

To satisfy the skeptical mind, let the intelligent practitioner try it in cases of irritation of the stomach, bowels, or bronchial tubes, in small dose, such as tinct. ipecac two to ten drops, according to the age of the child, in four ounces of water, and given one teaspoonful every fifteen to fifty minutes, and in adults in proportion, and when he obtains the certain relief from obstinate nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea, which he certainly will when due to irritation; diarrhoea of the simplest form to the severe cases of cholera infantum or dysentery, and when accompanied with fever, combined with similar doses of aconite; then let him answer in his own mind whether he is better pleased with the physiological or drug effect of the remedy. In this respect ipecac seems to be the converse of nux vomica, which proves so efficient in the same disease, when due to enfeeblement or atony instead of over-excitement or irritation.

#### LOBELIA.

Let us hastily glance at this, another of the nauseant and emetic medicines, when given in full doses. Like its relative, ipecacuanha, its physiological is different from its drug effect. Given in cases of difficult or oppressed breathing, suffusion of the face, congestion, and especially in mucous rattling of the bronchial tubes, small doses of lobelia will improve innervation, give energy to the oppressed organs, and enable them to throw off the congestion and over-supply of mucous secretion; while in a little larger doses short of its emetic effect, it is an excellent antispasmodic in croup, asthma, and, in the hands of the obstetrician, proves a kind and valuable remedy in overcoming the rigidity of the *undilatable os uteri*, when given in one-drop doses, repeated every fifteen to twenty minutes.

#### BRYONIA AND ASCLEPIAS.

These two medicines, whose special province seems to be to allay irritation of serous membranes, sometimes surprise us with their kindly and positive influence.

Well do I remember, some years ago, of attending on a Mr. F., æt. 40 years, German descent, usually healthy, strong and robust, but then suffering with severe pleuro-pneumonia, and most intensely with the pleuritic stitch, which was so interfering with respiration as to be alarming at times; and after prescribing the usual sedatives, aconite and veratrum for fever, with full doses of Dover's powder and morphia to control the pain, and feeling confident of early relief, I repaired to the country. But some hours after my visit, instead of the expected relief, the pains in the chest became more severe and the interference with respiration more alarming, and another physician, my friend T. G. Matheny, was called to administer to him until my return. His prescription was tinct. bryonia and tinct. asclepias a gtt., xx.; water, ℥iv. M. Sig.: One teaspoonful every thirty minutes until pains were relieved, and every hour thereafter.

On my return and learning the above facts, and having confidence in the intelligence of the physician, and seeing the relief approaching, I continued the above prescription, not resuming the opiates, which had been set aside. Next morning I found my patient almost entirely free from pain, and fever very much abated, perspiration well established, and my patient very cheerful.

During the week following, the pains would occasionally return, but would again subside under the influence of the bryonia and asclepias. This repeated experience strengthened my resolution to study to know more of these remedies, and to more fully test them in other cases, which I did, usually with good satisfaction. After careful study and experiment, I find, as I believe, the physiological effects of bryonia to be sedative to serous membranes especially, and thus a remedy in irritation of such membranes, whether of the chest as in pleuritis, or in the joints as in articular rheumatism, or abdomen as in peritonitis, and more especially if the pains are lancinating and accompanied by a tension of the muscles of the affected part, and excessive tenderness on pressure or motion of the parts, accompanied with restlessness, high fever, hot skin, and hard corded pulse; asclepias, as a type of diaphoretics, certainly quiets the nervous system, brings down the temperature, induces perspiration, relieves pain in serous membranes, and is thus a valuable remedy in such inflammations, and especially when accompanied with a hot, dry skin.

#### BAPTISIA.

Although I have used this remedy for many years in my treatment of children in septic fevers, believing it to be antiseptic and thus antifebrile, I confess, however, to many disappointments in its use, and a very imperfect knowledge of its real nature, and although we think we know more about it now than we did in former years, yet we know but very little, compared to what we believe is to be known of its therapeutic properties. I remember reading an article written by Prof. Scudder, of Cincinnati, in which he regarded it as an antizymotic, and its antiseptic and antifebrile properties depending on its power to antidote a peculiar ferment or poison in the blood causing the attendant fever, and this having peculiar manifestation, different from any other poison, producing a peculiar dusky color of the face, like one who had been exposed to severe cold. He recommended it in cases where the sepsis produces a deep red or violet color of the mucous membrane, with brown or black shade or tinge, and especially where there is foul breath, with a tendency to ulceration; and since using it in that class of cases, and in ulcerative sore mouth and throat, especially where there is any putrescence, both locally and internally, I am the better pleased with its effects.

Dose to child:

℞ Tinct. baptisia.....gtt. v to xx  
Aqua dist..... ℥ iv.  
M. S. One teaspoonful every one or two hours.