

should strictly adhere to the rules of drinking but little during the evening, and voiding urine just before going to bed. The best form for use is the fluid extract, and a nice formula for its administration is :

R. Fl. Ext. Rhus Aromatica . . . . . ℥i.  
 Glycerine . . . . . ʒss.  
 Aquæ. ad. . . . . ʒiv. M.

Sig. ʒi four times daily.

Several medical friends, who have been using this drug in various affections, have furnished me with records of cases treated by it, which may be thus tabulated :

Disease.	No. of cases treated	Result.
Chronic Cystitis	1	Much improved.
Phthisis.	5	In all, attacks of diarrhœa and night sweats were relieved.
Diarrhœa of Children	9	Six cured ; three died.
Diarrhœa of Adults.	2	One cured ; in the other the drug seemed to have no effect whatever.
Menorrhagia.	5	In all there was a wonderful effect in checking the discharge at the time. In three cases, after use at two menstrual periods the discharge was normal, and has since, now five months, continued so. The fourth case is improving, but the fifth shows no radical change.
Enteritis.	3	Two cured ; one improved.

This record speaks strongly in favour of an extended trial of the remedy in the class of cases enumerated, though its greatest benefit would seem to be shown in menorrhagia and enteritis.

*Rhus Glabra*, variously known as sleek, smooth, Pennsylvania and upland sumach, official in the United States' Pharmacopœa, is found over the greater part of North America, south of the Arctic circle. It is a shrub two to twelve feet high, with straggling branches, covered with smooth, light gray or somewhat reddish bark. The compound leaves, consisting of eleven to thirty-one leaflets, whitened beneath, in autumn change to a beautiful red. Growing along fences, borders of woods, and in rocky fields, its flowers open about July, and the fruit, often eaten by the country people, ripens in early fall. Excrescences produced on the under surface of the leaves have been used as a substitute for the official galls obtained from the oak, *Quercus Infectoria*. Like galls, these excrescences are due to puncture of the young shoots by a hymenopterous insect to deposit its eggs. This irritates the part, and a tumor

arises, the result of morbid growth. The eggs enlarge with this growth, and are converted into larvæ, which feed on the vegetable matter. Finally the larvæ become flies, and escape by eating their way out. For use, these excrescences should be collected when of full size, just before the eggs are hatched. All parts of this plant contain a large amount of gallo-tannic acid, and the bark is often used in tanning. The berries have a sour astringent taste, and owe their acidity to malic acid, which, according to Mr. Cossens, is not contained in the berries themselves, however, but in the pubescence which covers them. An infusion of the fruit has been used as a refrigerant drink in febrile complaints, and as a detergent astringent gargle in common and ulcerated sore throat. It has also been employed with great success in mercurial ptyalism, but for this, an infusion, or still better, a fluid extract of the inner bark of the root, is best adapted. The fluid extract also possesses tonic properties, and may be used in doses of  $\frac{1}{2}$ -1ʒ.

*Rhus Copallina*, dwarf sumach, mountain sumach, or the Gum Copal tree, is a shrub with running roots, one to seven feet high, inhabiting rocky hills. Its branches are downy, and the petioles between the leaflets are wing-margined. Gum copal, so largely employed in making varnishes, is the product of a number of different trees, one of which, according to some authorities, is the *Rhus Copallina*. This plant possesses similar, but less strongly marked, medicinal properties to *Rhus Glabra*, and may be used as a substitute therefor.

*Rhus Typhina*, staghorn sumach, grows very commonly throughout Canada along railway tracks and on sterile hill-sides. It forms a tree ten to thirty feet high, with orange-coloured wood. The branches and stalks are densely, velvety hairy, with serrate leaflets, pale beneath. This, the fourth and last of the innocuous native species, also possesses properties similar to *Rhus Glabra*, and may be substituted when that plant cannot be had.

Of the four indigenous species which possess poisonous properties, one is an inhabitant of the southern States, and a second of California, while the third and fourth are common in all parts of North America, between the 35th and 60th parallels. Since their poisonous, and probably their therapeutic, effects are similar, I will first give a short description of each species, and devote the remainder of my remarks to the physiological and therapeutic actions of *Rhus Toxicodendron*, the common form of poison ivy in Canada.

*Rhus Pumilum*, growing only in the southern States, and very common in North Carolina, is a pubescent shrub, about a foot high, said to be the most poisonous of the Eastern varieties.