

aware of other virtues in ipecacuanha than forming an ingredient of almost every cough mixture, and being used as an emetic. However, no matter how much may have been known as to the therapeutical value of this drug, a very great deal of information, and much of it of a very practical character, can be learned from this unpretending little volume of about one hundred and fifty pages, the name of which heads this brief notice. The author claims ipecacuanha is a direct nerve stimulant, acting chiefly, if not entirely, upon the sympathetic system. This he attempts to prove by facts, chiefly clinical, and we think many of the cases which he reports strongly corroborate his assumption.

ELIXIR FERRI ET CALCOIS PHOSPHATIS CO.

This is a very elegant, agreeable and valuable preparation, which is manufactured by Dr. Wheeler, of Montreal, and concerning which we can speak from actual experience. We have prescribed it for several years past, and have found it to answer our expectations to the fullest degree. We direct our readers to an advertisement concerning it, which will be found on the back page of the *Record*.

SMOKING BELLADONNA IN ASTHMA.

Dr. Reeves states, in the *Melbourne Med. Record* that smoke derived from the leaves of belladonna possesses much more power in cutting short an attack of asthma than that from stramonium. A long pipe is the best means of smoking them, the patient being instructed to draw the smoke deep into the chest. If, when the attack is at its height, he has not the power of doing this, the leaves may be placed in a saucer containing lighted charcoal or wood-ashes, which should be placed on a chair in front of the patient—this chair, as well as his own, being covered with a large sheet, so as to confine the fumes before the leaves are put on the hot charcoal. From two and a half to five grains of the leaves are sufficient when smoked, and from five to twenty grains when burned. If the smoke is drawn deeply into the chest, the relief is immediate, expectoration of phlegm taking place. It is in the spasmodic form of asthma, where there is little or no expectoration, that the greatest relief is obtained, for, when the tubes are loaded

with mucus, the smoke cannot get access to their muscular tissue. The relief is most marked when the remedy is used after the paroxysm has commenced, before the spasm prevents access of air to the smaller tubes and air-cells. Tobacco-smokers do not receive the same amount of relief as others. Temporary headache of a throbbing character may be produced if the leaves are used too freely.

TO DESTROY WARTS.

A medical exchange states that a drachm of nitrate of silver dissolved in an ounce of nitromuriatic acid makes a solution which, applied to warts with a fine brush, will permanently cure them in four days.

We may add that we know of nothing better to remove warts than the leaves of a common bean. Crush the leaves between the fingers, and squeeze out the juice upon the warts two or three times a day, until they dry up and disappear. The cure will generally be complete in less than a week.

"UNION IS STRENGTH."

A good story is told of Dr. Radcliffe, to the effect that once, when attending an intimate friend during a dangerous illness, he declared (actuated by a generous feeling) that he would receive no fee. But when cure was complete, and the physician was taking his leave, "I have put every day's fee," said the patient, "in this purse, my dear doctor; nor must your goodness get the better of my gratitude." The doctor eyed the purse, counted the days of his attendance in a moment, and then, extending his hand by a kind of professional mechanical motion, replied, "Well, I can hold out no longer; single, I could have refused the guineas; but all together, they are irresistible!"

CHLORAL OINTMENT.—An ointment, useful in eczema and allied affections, is made by incorporating from thirty to sixty grains of chloral hydrate with one ounce of simple ointment.

BIRTHS.

In Toronto, on the 7th December, 1876, the wife of Dr. H. E. Buchan, of a daughter.

In this city, on the 15th instant, the wife of William H. Hingston, M.D., of a son.

DIED.

In Montreal, on the 3rd of January, after a few days illness, Edward K. Patton, M.D., aged 32 years.