

further south, beyond the tropic which seems to be its general habitat, there is a great probability that they are not the same; if not the same, *Jaborandi* is a nearly allied, perhaps, as yet, undescribed species. This I leave for Mr. Holmes, who has taken the subject in hand, and will give a full botanical description of the parts of the plant that have been received, and other botanists, to decide.

In forwarding the supply the agents in Pernambuco wrote that "it is a medical shrub known by us, but little used, notwithstanding its excellent virtues, as the medical men here prefer using foreign medicines. It is an excellent sudorific in the dose of one octave to a cup of infusion. It is a good sialogogue. The tincture is used as a friction on paralysed members."

Of the importation lately received the leaflets form about one-fourth of its weight, the remainder being stems and leafstalks, with a few roots and fruit, but unfortunately no flowers. Compared with that which I first obtained from Paris, the leaflet of this is much more pungent in taste, and, I believe, for reasons given below, much more active physiologically. When chewed the taste is piquant, and excites a glowing heat on the tongue, like that caused by peltitory root. I also find from working with it that it irritates the skin when applied externally. On the inner surface of the bark of the root, white, shining crystals are distinctly visible; but as Dr. Attfield is about to make a chemical investigation of the different parts it is premature to offer any opinion about these. Therapeutically, Dr. Ringer, is continuing his investigations at University College Hospital.

Having heard doubts expressed about the activity of the *Jaborandi* last received, as compared with the results obtained in the first trials I witnessed at University College Hospital, I became somewhat sceptical about its efficacy, and, therefore, expecting to get little results, tried it upon myself. To me the effect seemed simply marvellous. I made an infusion of sixty grains of the bruised leaf in five ounces of boiling water, let it stand fifteen minutes and strained it. On pouring the water upon the drug I noticed the characteristic odour almost entirely disappeared. The infusion was of a pale sherry colour, had a mawkish bitter taste, but did not excite the glowing heat upon the tongue that the leaf itself did; this I thought strange, and on tasting the dregs I found they still retained their pungent taste when chewed. It was evident to me that if its diaphoretic properties depended on the principal having this pungent taste, boiling water does not extract it. At 11:30 p.m., on retiring to rest, I swallowed as much of the dregs as I could, probably 50 out of the 60 grains used, and washed them down with the infusion. In five minutes I felt a glow, an increased circulation, an uneasiness in the head, became restless, and the secretion of saliva began to increase. At 11:45, a quarter of an hour after taking the dose, I was