

remedy; yet this by no means wholly explains the phenomenon, as its influence in controlling action in inflammatory diseases, whether seated in the serous or mucous tissues, can only be explained by such absorption.

Dr. West again states—"in early life mercury instead of affecting the mouth usually acts very speedily as an irritant on the intestinal canal," and he points to the green stools as proof—and further on remarks "calomel acts as an irritant on the mucous membrane of the stomach producing nausea and vomiting, and giving rise to so great a degree of depression as to necessitate its discontinuance. We must observe that such results have never been witnessed in our experience. In cases of *cholera infantum*, in which the irritability of the stomach is extreme, we possess no more efficacious treatment than the administration of calomel, in repeated doses, and these by no means small. In some instances we have seen it act like a charm arresting the vomiting after every other remedy had failed. We scarcely remember having lost a case of infantile cholera, and we have had during a practice of about twenty-five years some hundreds, in which the most perfect relief followed the treatment by this medicine.

Again with reference to *antimony*. With regard to this medicine Dr. West condemns its indiscriminate employment as an emetic and diaphoretic preferring as its substitute Ipecacuanha, for the reason that its depressing influence on the system is less. In ordinary catarrh and in whooping cough, he gives a preference to the Ipecacuanha; in pneumonia, croup, and capillary bronchitis to antimony, because he considers it as only capable of keeping the inflammatory action in check. We have seldom resorted to emetics of antimony in cases of pneumonia and bronchitis, although we place great reliance upon it in small nauseating doses; but in croup we have most frequently found such beneficial effects from the Ipecacuanha, as to lead us usually to prefer it as the safer of the two, unless in extremely robust children. In fact in such cases we discriminate, for although in one case we found the antimony in its effects nearly as bad as the disease, the depressing influence having nearly reached the point of collapse compelling us to administer wine and ammonia to counteract that condition, yet we would not hesitate to administer it in cases in which we considered that its depressing influence over the vital powers could be borne.

And again with reference to *opium* and other medicines of the same class. We agree with the author that at no period of life is the demand for such remedies more called for, as at no other period is the nervous system so easily disturbed; yet are there none to whose action that nervous system is so susceptible. Dr. West believes that these dangers have their origin in three different causes, the employment of preparations of uncertain strength, the administration of over doses, or their too frequent repetition. Presuming that physicians would employ only preparations of known strength, and putting out of the question over-doses of the medicine, we come to the third source of danger, which according to the author is to be averted by giving "a larger dose of the remedy once or twice in the twenty four hours," or in other words once in twelve hours. We see much to object to in this recommendation; because if it is necessary to administer