

ing Scarlet Fever, with speedy benefit and effected a complete cure. Too often in dropsical affections ordinary diuretics only temporarily remove the collection of water, but I am satisfied, comparing my former experience with my present, that this less frequently happens when the patient is treated with the combination now mentioned. Give the following instance its due weight, and it will be seen that not only was a large quantity of synovial fluid removed, but that the patient was completely and permanently cured of a disease usually believed to be beyond the influence of diuretics. A man who in consequence of a blow, for two years had had inflammation of the synovial membrane of the knee accompanied with great effusion of watery fluid, giving rise to lameness, and for eight months to so much pain as to interfere with sleep, applied to me saying that he had been under the care of several medical men, and that he was now willing to submit to amputation. I gave daily in divided doses two grains of Digitalis, and four of each of the other two. In two months she was thoroughly cured, all pain removed, no trace either of lameness or swelling left behind, so that the most strict examination could not detect which knee had been diseased, and further the cure was permanent. In a similar case which had lasted three months, and where for a fortnight previously pain had greatly interfered with sleep; in twenty-four hours the patient was so much relieved as to sleep soundly, and in a week was nearly well; the cure was permanent. The smallness of the doses, and the speed with which they take effect are usually very striking, frequently in twenty-four hours the flow of urine is increased, and there is no necessity of pushing Digitalis to the verge of causing sickness.

Sir Thomas Watson thus expresses himself in favour of several diuretics put together, "sometimes a combination or farrago of diuretic substances prove more efficacious than larger doses of any of the ingredients administered singly."

A few years after the idea of forming the preceding diuretic combination had occurred to me, at the successful conclusion of the treatment of a case of dyspepsia, the patient told me that a goitre of long continuance had considerably diminished. In this the diuretics could have had no share, the absorption must therefore have been owing to the other constituents. The

patient was contented with the gain obtained, and declined taking more medicine, but profiting by the hint, I have since always given these along with our recognized deobstruents, Iodide of Potassium, Henbane, and Hemlock (*Conium Maculatum*) the medicine consequently consisting of Iodide of Potassium, two of the *Solanaceæ* extract of Henbane and Stramonium, and three of the *Umbelliferae*-Hemlock, *Cicuta Maculata*, and *Conio-selinum Canadense*, combined in the proportion of two parts of the first to one of each of the others, and given in doses of three grains twice or thrice in a day. The effect is more certain and speedy than a much larger dose of Iodide of Potassium. The following is an example: a lady 25 years of age had a large goitre from her early girlhood. It was wholly removed in fifty days by 100 grains of Iodide of Potassium, and 50 of each of the others.

I had placed the diuretics in a separate combination, and in glandular affections found that the remaining three added potency to the recognized deobstruents. I had also found headache arising from dyspepsia curable by the digitalis or squill combinations, but the same medicine useless and even hurtful in nervous affections unaccompanied by dyspepsia. In searching for the change necessary to suit such cases the diuretics were found to be injurious, and I resorted to the deobstruent combination, in some cases with advantage; lastly, a case occurred which showed beyond doubt that Stramonium was decidedly hurtful. Unlike cases of dyspepsia, which seem to be more numerous in Canada than those of any other disease, nervous affections with which dyspepsia has nothing to do are few in number. In endeavouring to find a remedy I therefore could not subject each member of the contemplated combination to the same rigid examination, as I had done to the others. There being no evidence against the *Umbelliferae*, Hemlock, *Cicuta-Maculata*, and *Conio-selinum Canadense* therefore remained; looking to the undoubtedly powerful effects of Strychnine and Calabar Bean in nervous diseases, I added them, the latter partly on its own account, and partly to counteract the poisonous tendency of Strychnine; lastly, I made the addition of *Spigelia Marylandica*, belonging to the same natural order as Strychnine, on the supposition that it might heighten the medical properties of the latter, without increasing