

*New and Important Therapeutic uses of Nux Vomica.* By S. C. SEWELL, M.D., L.R.C.S., EDIN., &c. &c., Ottawa; late Lecturer on Materia Medica and Clinical Medicine, McGill University.

In May, 1862, Miss M., aged 20, applied for advice for hordeolum. For four years she had not been a day free from styes, and her eyelashes had all dropped out. I ordered four minims of tr. of nux vomica to be taken in a drachm of water twice a day. A sty that was then coming on receded, and she has only had two or three since. The eyelashes in a short time began to sprout, and she has now long and perfect rows of them. She took the medicine for six weeks, and has since taken it for the same length of time twice.

15th August, 1862.—Miss D., aged 15, came under treatment for styes, which she had had continuously for two years. Six weeks of the same treatment effected a permanent cure. The sty she had on her eye at the time suppurated, but she has never had any since.

9th December, 1862.—Mrs. V. B., aged 20, applied for abscess which always formed in one or other of the labia pudendi, a day or two before or after the menstrual period. This had occurred every month for four years, and she had tried a great many physicians in vain. She had been five years married, and had had no children. Looking at her eyelids, I saw the marks of old styes, and asked whether she had had many of them. She replied, that from fourteen years old to sixteen she never was without them. I then enquired whether she had any since the abscesses had begun to form. She said "not one." I made up my mind that the abscesses were vicarious of the styes, and put her on six minims of tr. of nux vomica twice a day. Since then she has had only two abscesses, one six months and the other nine months after the treatment was commenced. I have since treated her for sterility, and she is now five months pregnant. I employed nux vomica as part of the treatment.

Cases of recent hordeolum yield as quickly as old ones to this treatment.

Miss D., who is not a resident of Ottawa, had been troubled with impetigo of the scalp for several years, which had baffled the medical men in her city. Under the use of this remedy, the skin disease soon began to mend, and then yielded speedily and permanently to local remedies. This led me to use it in cachectic or scrofulous cases of various skin diseases, with great benefit in many instances. Its use in habitual costiveness is well known to the profession, and need not be dilated on.

Reflecting on the therapeutic action of nux vomica, I came to the conclusion that it exerts its action on the ganglionic system of nerves, of