

## Fanciful Animal Remedies in Pharmacy.

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In the present day Hygeia entrusts her reputation, and the safety of invalids chiefly to vegetable and mineral substances. But it has been well observed if science is reserved in the employment of animal substances in the Pharmacopœia, ignorance and credulity have given full flight to their fancy in many countries. "Fools have rushed in where angels feared to tread." Especially is this the case in the Chinese Empire, where animal substances enter extensively into the remedies of the doctor. The following are reliable statements, published in connection with the pharmaceutical collections shown by the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs at different international exhibitions.

The gall bladder of the bear is prescribed for affections of the liver and ophthalmia. They fetch about \$2.50 each. The cow bezoar is considered a sedative and tonic, and cow's gall expectorant. Glue made from asses' hides is a tonic for the liver and kidneys, and stimulant. Glue from tigers' bones is also tonic, that made from buffalo hides is considered sedative.

Musk is used as a stimulating and antispasmodic medicine, and pills made of musk and Barus camphor, etc., covered with wax, are considered sedative and mildly expectorant. Portions of a tiger's skull are administered in typhoid fever, ague and rheumatic headache, and are also given to a person who has been bitten by a mad dog to prevent hydrophobia.

The horns of a small species of antelope are given as a cooling medicine, and supposed to cure inflammation of the lungs and liver. They range from 80 cents each to \$180 a picul or 1½ cwt. A gelatine made by boiling down young deer horns is given as a tonic, but this costs \$500 the picul. In some years 600 pairs of these horns are secured. The horns broken and boiled to the consistency of jelly are also given as a stimulant in nervous ailments, for spermatorrhœa and leucorrhœa. The horns sell at \$5 a pair.

A decoction of the shavings of rhinoceros horns is taken in fever, small-pox, ophthalmia, hæmoptysis, etc. These horns of the Sumatran and Siamese rhinoceros imported from Signapore, cost \$24 per horn. But it is not only the quadrupeds which are utilized in Chinese pharmacy, the binana also contribute their quota in the genus homo.

Dried human placenta is considered tonic in consumption, and can be bought at \$2.50 each.

Dried human urine is given in pulmonary complaints, and is said to possess demulcent properties. Taken internally it is supposed to cure debility and as a lotion is good for weak or sore eyes. Eggs boiled in boys' urine are also considered very strengthening. Dried urine seems to be cheap, since it only fetches \$7 a picul. Another prescription is boys' urine, gypsum and dew mixed, and stirred with a

piece of mulberry wood. This process is gone through several times. The resulting deposit is put on paper, with lime underneath, and is dried in the sun. It is then powdered, put into a small pot with water and evaporated to dryness. It is given in phthisis, gonorrhœa and spermatorrhœa, and also used as salt with rice! The price is 20 cents a catty or pound.

What is known as a "medicine stone," is a stone roasted and afterwards put into the urine of a child. After having gone through the process seven times, the stone is dried and powdered, and the powder is applied to ulcers and opacities of the cornea. This medicine stone costs \$3.20 per catty or pound.

The skin of the common hedgehog is sold for 50 cents and decocted for pulmonary complaints and made into pills for cutaneous diseases.

The sea-horse (*Hippocampus*), used as a stimulant, fetches \$200 to \$500 the picul.

The lining membrane of the gizzard of the common fowl, peeled off and dried, is sold \$38 to \$47 the picul. It is prescribed in dyspepsia, diarrhœa, spermatorrhœa and urinary disorders. That of the male bird is used for preparing the drug for female patients and vice versa.

Snakes and reptiles play a prominent part in medicine in China. Dried lizards are sold at 10 cents the pair.

Snake skin is administered for small pox, and used as a carminative. The skins cost \$1.20 each. They are also believed to relieve itching in skin diseases and applied to piles and fistula. Salted scorpions are given in small-pox. The price of these is \$45 per picul.

A tincture of scorpions, much vaunted for its miraculous effects, is given as a diaphoretic for rheumatism, paralysis and ague. The price is a dollar a pound for the salted scorpions. Dried toads are tonic and sudorific, but they can be had as cheap as 2 cents each.

The under shell of the land turtle being considered strengthening and stimulant, is administered in decoction to the old and weak. Made into glue, it is given as a tonic, and sells at \$400 the picul of 1½ cwt.

The scales of the amadillo are administered for cutaneous diseases, and are worth from \$75 to \$90 the picul. The scales of the ant-eater are used in rheumatism and to hasten eruption in small-pox. They sell at \$1.50 a pound.

Leeches are not used alive, but a decoction, either in water or spirit, of dried leeches is taken as a purgative, and is applied outwardly to bruises, etc. Reduced to powder in spirit it is given in abdominal tumors etc. They fetch \$10 a picul.

Edible bird nests are, of course, in high repute as aphrodisiacs, but they are more food articles than medicines.

The shells of the mollusca are used medicinally, thus clam shells are cathartic; oyster shells administered for deafness. Fossilized shells are used as a powder in ophthalmia and scabies; internally in fever and in syphilis. Coral is also applied in

powder to opacities of the cornea, and as an astringent for epistaxis.

Seed pearls are prescribed in affections of the heart and liver; in the form of a powder to ulcers, and opacities in the cornea; in deafness it is put into the interior of the ear, and is applied to pustules of small-pox. This remedy is, however, dear, being quoted at \$160 the catty or pound.

Petrified crabs are applied to boils and sores, etc. Fragments of these fossil crabs crushed, powdered and finely levigated are used in opacities and others affections of the eyes and sell at from \$30 to \$300 a picul in different localities.

If we pass to the lower order of insects, we find the skins of the dung beetle fetch £3 the cwt. for medicine. The flesh flies (*Musca Carnivora*) collected on putrid carcasses are torrefied and employed as drugs. Maggots are prescribed in the delirium of fever and dysentery. Silk worms in cystitis; after being burnt the ash is mixed with wine and drunk, in order to cause the bursting of abscesses.

The larva of the grasshopper, torrefied and pulverized, made into pills, are considered anthelmintic and given to children in fevers.

Wood bugs (*Cimex*) are also torrefied and given as medicine. The bodies of ciada sanguinolenta, with the wings and feet taken off, are considered a cure in hydrophobia.

Caterpillars are considered good for bronchial complaints; are given as a purgative and antispasmodic, and are apparently cheap, selling at \$6 the picul. The cocoons of a caterpillar are applied in inflammation of the eyes.

A decoction of centipedes is used in gonorrhœa; powdered they are applied externally to venereal sores, but it costs \$150 a picul.

Cantharides are used in hydrophobia. Cuttle-fish bone, mixed with native wine, is given for cancer.

A species of green mantis and its nests are used in cases of incontinence of urine and spermatorrhœa. The cricket forms the basis of a medicine to throw out splinters which have entered in to the skin. It is considered antihydrotic. Three or four such crickets are administered in a wine-glassful of Chinese rice wine. The drone or wasp is used in cases of bites by spiders, ulcers and leucorrhœa. It is said to cure toothache.

But while we may smile at most of these Chinese remedies, it should be borne in mind that as great ignorance prevailed, and as much prejudice existed among ourselves in times not long passed, before chemical knowledge and scientific discoveries had made such rapid strides.

Take for instance the following asserted facts:

Had one of our ancestors a distressing toothache, there were ready at hand the weevil and the lady-bird, either of which would be crushed and applied to the afflicted part. Nay, did he wish to get rid of the offending organ altogether, he had but to touch it with the ashes of burnt