

ence among the profession of a state of therapeutic nihilism in regard to their use, one is led to sympathize with the reaction against drug treatment when viewing the full extent of our capabilities in respect to their use in this wide-spread affection, and to realize that to a large extent in regard to our therapeutic resources generally, when antitoxin and surgery are not available, climatic and hygienic measures, hydrotherapy and probably electricity are the physician's chief resource.

Schulz, of Greifswald (*Deutsch. Med. Wochensch.*, May 25, 1899) says that generally speaking the remedies used against tuberculosis vary little from one century to another. It frequently has happened that a remedy advocated by the profession has been discarded by the latter only to be taken up by the public.

Aside from a few synthetic chemical remedies and certain exotic newly discovered plants, the *materia medica* of phthisis is old. On account of the malignancy of tuberculosis the number of remedies which have been used in its treatment is of course very great; but all of them may be grouped under two heads.

The first division is composed of remedies directed against the disease itself which have actually shown themselves to be possessed of real therapeutic efficacy.

The second group, on the other hand, comprises all substances which have no real efficacy against the disease, and which have been given oftentimes with intent to deceive the patient and encourage false hopes, and which through the influence of suggestion may appear to produce benefit at times.

The author attempts to enumerate all the articles of the *materia medica* which have been recommended for phthisis. For convenience he divides these remedies into two groups, one of which comprises such drugs as benefit the organism at large while the other is limited to remedies having special indications.

He enumerates drugs once officinal but now used only by the laity, and other plant products no longer thought of by physicians in connection with phthisis but which once enjoyed great favor among the members of the profession.

Some of the substances mentioned by him are agrimony, *chelidonium majus*, *marrubium vulgare*, *pulmonaria officinalis*, *sticta pulmonaria*, and so on through an endless list of plants, a number of which have entered into the formulae of secret remedies, popular "teas," etc.

The use of fats, including milk, for phthisis is old.