

less and odorless. Whether the tasteless forms of cascara are as active as the others is a moot question. However this may be, a serious objection to this preparation is that it contains two substances having different actions, one acting mechanically by softening the feces, the other as an irritant to the intestinal wall. It is impossible to increase the dose of one without increasing that of the other also. It is much more rational, therefore, if both agar-agar and cascara are indicated, to give them separately, in order to be able to vary the doses of each independently. Agar-agar is sometimes eaten dry in the stick form, but is more often cut up into small pieces and eaten like a cereal with cream and sugar. It has almost no taste but a rather characteristic gelatinous feel in the mouth. In other instances it is mixed with cereals or cooked in with soups or broths. Schmidt cautions against using it in a too finely divided form, as the rapid swelling from the absorption of moisture in the stomach may cause colic and diarrhea.—*Medical Standard.*

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