

than in the ordinary means applied, which usually require so much time that the patients depart with half-cured ulcers, soon to find themselves in their previous deplorable condition.—*Medical Times*.

#### PHYTOLACCA DECANDRA IN THE TREATMENT OF INFLAMMATION OF THE MAMMARY GLANDS.

G. W. Biggers, M. D., of La Grande, Oregon, says, in the *American Journal of Medical Sciences*: The following cases are stated as the result of my experience only with the remedy in question, and I trust that others may try it and report the result.

Case I. Mrs. H., on the third day after labor with her second child; mammae commenced swelling, after an accumulation of milk. Did not see her until the symptoms were so urgent that there could be no mistake about the commencement of an abscess.

I pursued the antiphlogistic treatment, both general and local, until there was no promise of improvement; on the contrary, the case was continually getting worse. I then prescribed fluid ext. phytolacca decandra, gtt. xx. every three hours, in water. A very marked improvement took place in twelve hours, and in thirty-six hours the patient was well. There was also a suppression of the lochia, which was also re-established.

Case II. Mrs. B., whose child died a few hours after its birth, was attacked, after the secretion of milk took place, with inflammation of the mammary glands, from over-distension, and had the milk withdrawn very regularly, yet the case continued worse, threatening an abscess. I prescribed fluid ext. phytolacca decandra, gtt. xx. every three hours. Marked improvement in ten hours, and a complete recovery within thirty-six hours. There was also a suppression of the lochia in this case, which was re-established with the cessation of the mammary inflammation.

Case III. Mrs. G., at the fourth month of pregnancy, was attacked with inflammation of both mammae, severe pain, swelling, and very great heat, with severe rigors, amounting to a distinct chill. I prescribed fluid ext. phytolacca decandra, gtt. xv. every three hours in water. The symptoms all subsided, and the patient fully recovered within forty-eight hours, with no other treatment.

I have used the remedy above named in many other cases of mammary inflammation, and it has never yet failed in a single case.—*The Western Lancet*, August, 1873.

#### PHOSPHATIC FOOD IN DEBILITY.

Dr. Routh, of London, gives among others the following instructive cases in the *Medical Press and Circular*.

July 1, Rev. T. H. F., æt. about 60, has been a clergyman for many years, preaching with notes only, but lately has become confused while preaching, forgetting the thread; seems also to have experienced lately want of power to grasp subjects.

Recovers himself after a time, but the fear of this makes him very nervous; sleeps fairly, not troubled by dreams; lives in Cheshire, in a damp, cold neighborhood; loss of memory occurs frequently at other times than when preaching; no recollection, especially of names and figures; urine normal, no sediment; total loss of virile power; no backache, but a creeping sensation up from the nape of the neck; no loss of muscular power on either side; eye-sight weak; no indigestion; cannot digest lobster; first sound of heart rather prolonged, especially at base; bowels regular in London, more so than in country. Ordered Parrish's food, oyster and other shell fish, excepting lobster. As his teeth are bad, use a small digestive sausage machine.

July 31. Greatly better. Had profited greatly from the treatment. The mental faculties much improved. States is not the same man. He was now ordered allotropic phosphorus, gr. x. daily, after his dinner. My last account from this gentleman was that he had completely recovered.

Mrs. Y., æt. about 42, consulted me in November last for loss of mental power and strength. The catamenia had stopped twelve months, and she too had a large family, with small means, and was much worried by creditors. Her memory is very defective, indeed, gone; she can't remember anything, nor when she puts away any articles of dress. When she has a good night she is rather better for a few hours, and then the same state recurs. She is always worse if she has had her attention forcibly called to anything; is very restless at night; her feet being drawn up as if she was going to have a convulsion; is become shockingly bad-tempered; will become violent on the slightest contradiction; feels very anxious and unhappy; bowels open; tongue clean; no leucorrhœa at present, although five months back she used to have them copiously for two or three days in lieu of the catamenia.

Ordered mustard to nape of neck; feet in hot water; half a drachm of bromide of potassium every night in water; sol. phosph. used m. x. *ter die*. A week after (November 12) was generally better, except that she had one bad day.

On the 19th she was better, but she stated that she had taken the bromide very irregularly, finding she could sleep without it, and the head was much less giddy.

This patient I saw for several weeks after. The treatment was interrupted by a bilious attack, which obliged me to suspend the phosphorus; subsequently it was resumed. She is now greatly better; feels that the phosphorus acts as a sort of tonic, or rather, as she expresses it, can't sleep without it. Memory greatly improved; some days not so good; but the intervals are longer, and generally her improvement is marked, and she is, in fact, convalescent.—*Medical and Surgical Reporter*, August, 1873.

#### DILATATION OF THE CERVIX UTERI IN DYSMENORRHEA.

Dr. John Ball recommends the following method of procedure in cases of constricted cervix uteri.