

sanctity to the whole mass, and it is on this very account that it becomes so essentially bareful and disgusting. Young practitioners fall in love with the "new remedies," make trial of them, get bitterly disappointed, and henceforth declare their unbelief in the therapeutical power of any drug.

ARNICA.—I might mention many herbs possessed of so-called wonderful virtues, but lest they should be unfamiliar to many of the profession, I take up *Arnica*, as spoken of in the above-mentioned *Journal* for December last. Another reason for making this drug the text of my discourse is found in the fact that many intelligent physicians at one time had some faith in its efficacy, and that, inert as it may be, it perhaps occupies a front rank as compared with many of the eclectic remedies and Shaker herbs with the virtues of which the profession are sought to be gulled. This plant is as well known to the regular profession as any article of the *Pharmacopœia*. It is said to have been brought into notice originally by unscientific herbalists with profuse recommendations touching its benign power, and will doubtless be employed by such long after it has been demonstrated to possess no specific virtues. The tincture and the fluid extract are the usual forms in which we see it, and let us mention just a very few of the wonders which said tincture and fluid extract are alleged to accomplish. It may be noted, *en passant*, that the tincture consists chiefly of diluted alcohol, holding in solution substances slightly stimulating and astringent. Hundreds of Canadian herbs possess similar constituents, and are equally efficacious therapeutically in the indications sought to be fulfilled by *Arnica*. The fluid extract consists of pretty much the same as the tincture, only containing a little less alcohol. The preparations of *Arnica*, in brief, are composed of alcohol, water, resin, and an astringent, bitter principle; but, to refer to some of its alleged special uses:—

1st. **RHEUMATISM.**—"Eminent Physicians," use it, it is said, in this disease, but to fulfil what indications, I for one, am at a loss to discover. A single trial will do more to decide its value in such cases than pages of fools-cap. I assert as the direct result of experience, that *Arnica* has no action whatever in rheumatism, and no influence in the slightest degree over the fibrous tissues of the body, except such as the fancy of the exhibi-