

when it became manifest that the medicine had lost its former efficacy. I am happy that no patient died, I failed, however, where former experience had led me to expect success. Still believing that I was on the right path I doubled the quantity of each of the Umbelliferae, but without benefit, though without injury, then I fell back on Stramonium, the other components being Digitalis or Squills, Dulcamara, Stramonium, Sium Lineare, Cicuta Maculata*, and Conio-selinum Canadense, and the readers of this journal know with what benefit.

While investigating the Umbelliferae a wrong theory led me to discard Conio-selinum Canadense for another of the same order. I had at that time a patient who for a dozen years had had Dyspepsia, accompanied with constipation, greatly impaired sleep, severe headache, loss of memory, and, when I first saw him, a state of mind closely approaching to insanity, declining, for instance, to walk out of doors, because he said everybody looked at and talked about him. I directed twelve grains of the digitalis combination to be taken daily, digitalis being increased to a full proportion, and Stramonium reduced to half, to avoid thirst, which a larger quantity of the latter continued for a length of time would have excited. To obtain a naturally open state of the bowels, two parts of Aloes were added to five and a half of the combination, a laxative so gentle that the patient is generally unconscious of having taken medicine. This being accomplished the complement of the medicine was made up by the same, but without Aloes. He soon slept better, dyspepsia and headache diminished, his memory gradually improved, and he began to take out door exercise, not avoiding those whom he casually met. In the course of a year he was able to teach a school, nevertheless, he continued to take the Digitalis combination more or less regularly for several years. It was in the course of this period that conio-selinum was removed, from this time he never ceased to complain that the medicine had lost its efficacy till this plant was restored again, which I did without informing him, but he recognized the restoration as speedily as he had done its abduction. A case of

Dysentery gave a similar testimony, when I no longer hesitated to replace Conio-selinum Canadense, greatly to the delight of my dyspeptic patient.

The same testing process was resorted to with Cicuta Maculata. Retaining Conio-selinum Canadense, I kept it out, and several patients having dyspepsia failed to obtain relief to the extent I expected, till Cicuta Maculata was replaced. As stated in my papers on Dysentery and Scarlet Fever, I pulled down the combination, and built it up again, examined thirty-two plants or their products, and occupied between five and six years in the investigation.

Prior to my first paper on Dysentery between 400 and 500 patients had been treated, of whom only four had died. To avoid unfairness I published every report transmitted to me, yet in my second paper (1867) the same measure of success is recorded. Towards the end of the year a medical gentleman in Michigan and another in Illinois, wrote to me that the medicine which had been very successful the preceding year, had that autumn not shown the same power. Still the general testimony of my correspondents was one of success, and the failures few in number; Dr. Clarke's letter, (Aug. 73 *Lancet*) bringing up his experience to last midsummer, was not at variance with the tenor of reports from others. The failures in the Western States, those mentioned by the Rev. Dr. Robb in Western Africa, and more especially the case of the gardener, (Sept. *Lancet*, which occurred to myself, convinced me that a renewed search was needed to obtain a medicine capable of combating such cases successfully. This opinion has been confirmed by the results of last autumn. In some parts of the country the treatment has been very successful, but in others there have been failures, the total of which make a greater number than in all my previous experience put together. The steps which have led to what I trust may prove to be a remedy began fourteen years ago with a different object.

In each of my two combinations there are three diuretics, Digitalis or Squills, Dulcamara, and Sium Lineare, belonging to three natural orders. Convinced of the benefit derived from carefully selected, not random, combination, I gave these to two children having Anasarca follow-

*I do not doubt that the other species of Sium and Cicuta might be substituted. Only one species of Conio-selinum exists on this continent. See the works on American Botany by Gray and Wood.