

the precious obstetrical and hæmorrhagic properties that it has always been acknowledged Ergot possessed. The very different nature of the two products of Ergot, permits their easy separation, and we are enabled to obtain the remedy entirely free of the poison. Thus, then, does the oil of Ergot and Ergotine contain in themselves all the properties, whether medicinal or toxicological, of Ergot, and it was for this discovery that the Pharmaceutical Society of Paris honored Mr. Joseph Bonjean with a gold medal, at their meeting on the 21st of December. 1842. Ergotine has been generally considered as one of the most useful acquisitions that has for a long time enriched therapeutics. The good results that are obtained in affections against which medicine has frequently been ineffectual, has already spread its use in different regions of the globe, and every day practice confirms the marvelous properties that its author attributed to it from its first discovery. Ergotine is one of the most powerful specifics known against hæmorrhages in general; it is equally approved of in menorrhagia and bloody flux, in epistaxis, and in spitting and vomiting of blood, and hæmaturia, &c. It has also been employed with good results in cases of spermatorrhœa, and in troublesome periodical vomitings of blood, and in diseases brought on by a deranged state of the nervous system, that have resisted other remedies. Moreover, it promotes uterine contractions, and causes to cease the hæmorrhages that succeed parturition; as well as prevents them when administered some time previous to this event. Ergotine presents an immense advantage over Ergot in the quantity that can be administered at discretion in a dose, without the fear of resulting in any of those accidents that is caused by Ergot taken in its natural state. Dr. Chevallay, professor of medicine in Chamberg, administered five drachms of this extract in the space of five hours to a woman who would infallibly have succumbed to a most terrible attack of menorrhagia, if it had not been for this auxiliary, which in two days afterward was completely suppressed, and the woman finally recovered. After this, many celebrated doctors have endeavored to extend the use of this remedy, and to this end Dr. Arne, of the Paris Asylums, has used it with happy effect in some chronic affections of the uterus. Drs. Sacchero and Teissier, professors of medicine in the university of Turin. Dr. Mosea, and some other practitioners connected with hospitals of the same capital, have used it with happy success in chronic and acute pain, from which we conclude that Ergotine has direct action on the mucous surfaces, when found in a state of super-excitation or active hypercæmic; it is also useful in dry and obstinate coughs, with or without spitting of blood, which so often accompanies consumption. Dose from 20 gr. to 1 oz., according to circumstances; given in pills or solution.

*Mode of Preparing Ergotine.*—Powdered Ergot one pound, and as much water as it will absorb (cold water), and allow it to stand for twelve hours; then place in a porcelain or glass percolator, and pour over it successive portions of cold water, until the menstruum passes through the mass colorless; the liquid thus obtained is to be evaporated by means of a water bath, unto the consistence of an extract. This extract is the Ergotine of Bonjean.

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