

paralysis. In rabbits, small doses slow and large doses quicken the pulse. Electrical irritation of the vagus gives no constant result. This has also been observed by Rossbach. A few drops of a 1 per cent. solution causes a dilatation which lasts six hours. Dilatation of the pupils is produced by the internal administration of this drug, but it requires very large doses. It causes dryness of the mouth and throat. In man, doses of two centigrammes cause dilatation of the pupils. The pulse becomes slow; in no case was it observed to be quickened. This is quite contrary to what is seen in the experiments on animals, where we have first irritation and then paralysis of the vagus ends in the heart. Two centigrammes are not sufficient to paralyze the vagus ends in man, and large doses would be unsafe. Homatropin differs from atropine in requiring larger doses, and in its effects being much more transient. This last quality will make it valuable in many cases where temporary dilatation of the pupil is wanted.

JAMAICA DOGWOOD—(*Piscidia Erythrina*.)

This drug has recently been recommended as a substitute for opium. It is named the "fish-catching coral tree" by the natives of Jamaica. Dr. Isaac Ott\* has investigated its physiological action very fully. He finds that it is narcotic, and without any action on the irritability of the motor nerves. Its action is on the sensory ganglia of the spinal cord, and not on the extremities of the sensory nerves. It reduces the frequency of the pulse, probably by an action on the muscular structure of the heart. The arterial tension is first increased, and then soon falls. It first contracts and then dilates the pupil. In its action on a man in health, it reduces the pulse, causes salivation and sweating, disturbance of vision, itching of the skin, sleep. It has been used in cases of neuralgia with considerable success.† I have found it to act well in the semi-delirium and sleeplessness of the very aged. It has caused in a few cases alarming symptoms.

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\* Brain, January, 1881, *Archives of Medicine*, February, 1881.

† See numerous cases reported in different numbers of the *Therapeutic Gazette*.