

Glycerine may also be used in the form of suppositories, various kinds of which are now manufactured, but these will generally be found to be inferior to the glycerine itself.

Other enemata that have been recently recommended are *yeast* in small quantities, and an infusion of *tobacco*, one drachm to the pint, half of this quantity being injected at once. I do not know that they possess any advantage over glycerine or soap and water.

Another drug has been lately recommended by Flatau which I may notice here, though it is not used in the form of enema; this is *boracic acid* in powder, applied by insufflation to the mucous membrane of the rectum in doses of 45 grains. It is serviceable in torpor of the colon, and causes strong peristalsis in from one to three hours.

(4) *Drugs by mouth.* Turning now to the administration of drugs by the mouth, we find a goodly number of so called eclectic remedies which have been more or less thoroughly investigated and made use of by the regular profession for the last few years. These are vegetable preparations which act principally as hepatic and intestinal stimulants, and include *enonymin*, *juglandin*, *iridin*, *leptandrin*, and *baptisia*, which are somewhat similar in their action to the better known podophyllin and rhubarb.

Hydrastis in 5-drop doses of the tincture given in water night and morning is recommended for chronic cases; and *collinsonia canadensis* as fluid extract in doses of 2 to 10 minims, or as tincture in doses of 5 to 30 minims, is said to be useful in constipation due to hemorrhoids. Another drug that has lately come into use, of which we may expect to hear further good accounts, is *damiana*. It is similar in many of its actions to strychnine, stimulating the spinal centres and sympathetic system. It has proved very effective in overcoming the habitual constipation of certain classes of neurotics. It may be given in fluid extract in doses of one-half to four drachms in milk or glycerine three times a day.

By far the most useful drug, however, that has been introduced of late years for the treatment of constipation is *cascara sagrada*. It is especially beneficial in chronic cases where the digestive powers are weak, and one great advantage it has is that there are no secondary constipat-

ing effects. It is usually employed as the fluid extract, in doses of 5 to 30 drops from 2 to 4 times a day. The one objection to its use in this form is its nauseating, bitter taste, but this may be masked to a certain extent by giving it combined with glycerine and extract glycyrrhizæ fluid, or the cordial orelixir in drachm doses may be substituted. There is no better treatment for the constipation of gouty patients than *cascara*, and in general terms we may say that it is useful in all cases of deficient glandular secretion.

In reviewing thus imperfectly these additions to our resources in the treatment of constipation, personal experience leads me to place a high value on glycerine and *cascara sagrada*, and to say that while we cannot afford to do without some of the older and well-tried remedies, yet we will not be doing our patients justice if we neglect the employment of these newer methods.

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Selections.

IMPRESSIONS OF SOME OF THE NEWER DRUGS IN DERMATOLOGICAL PRACTICE.

BY CHARLES W. ALLEN, M.D., NEW YORK,
Surgeon to the City Hospital, Genito-Urinary Division, etc.

Ichthyol has had so much written about its value that I will refer to it only with a word. I have no hesitancy in stating my belief that in this preparation we have the best known application for erysipelas. I also believe it to be valuable in many cutaneous affections, not only as a reducing agent, but also as an antiseptic. In lichen, acne varioliformis, impetigo, eczema too much has been claimed for it by over-enthusiastic observers, but no doubt can longer remain that *ichthyol* is to have something more than the popularity of a day. I gave my views on *ichthyol* in erysipelas in the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, July, 1891, and I can only add that in about a dozen cases treated since then *ichthyol* has given uniformly good results.

Resorcin is another of the many new remedies which has weathered the storm. Articles unfavorable to this as well as *ichthyol* deterred me, in the early days of their introduction, from giving them the extended trial I otherwise would;