

ing scale in the cases of disease cured, that it gradually became able rising from slight to cure the more severe. A greater proportion of all cases occurring to me were cured, but among those which resisted treatment were some apparently not worse than others which had yielded readily to the same combination; on the other hand Henbane, Camphor, and Hemlock, nearly inoperative in the greater part of severe cases, removed dyspeptic symptoms from a boy after the accompanying headache had brought on amaurosis, restoring him to health in all respects, except blindness. The test of increasing efficiency, therefore, consisted in previously unyielding cases being cured, and in a greater number of apparently slight, as well as evidently severe, being also cured.

Numerous cases still baffling me, farther improvement was necessary, which could only be gained by the addition of medicines unrecognized by the pharmacopœia; my thoughts were, therefore, turned to the wild plants of the woods and swamps. While pondering on where to begin, I was struck by the number of umbelliferæ known as poisons, but not as medicines, and determined to investigate this order. Passing by in this sketch those which gave no proof of gain, I added *Cicuta Maculata*, and obtained decided improvement, and subsequently the *Conio-selinum Canadense* with increased benefit. In a case of obstinate Dyspepsia I tried these successively and afterwards conjointly, together with the other components, and obtained a perfect cure. A case of Dysentery, which had resisted the preceding combination, was also speedily cured.

At this stage I ceased to retain Camphor on account of several dyspeptic patients having from time to time complained that it aggravated the tenderness of the stomach, and now one positively refused to take medicine containing it.

In some instances, especially in children, *Digitalis* disagrees; to suit such Squills were substituted.

The combination now consisted of *Digitalis* or Squills, Henbane, Stramonium, *Conium Maculatum*, *Cicuta Maculata*, and *Conio-selinum Canadense*. In this form it had gained considerably more power not only in Dyspepsia, but with opium also in Dysentery. The latter was epidemic in the autumn of 1856, and in one intensely severe case, characterized by that generally fatal symptom profuse sanguineous discharges, accompanied by

great tenderness of the abdomen, and latterly for two days with total sleeplessness, when agony was extreme, and death apparently not far off, relief succeeded by sleep was obtained in an hour, and recovery completed in little more than a week; the total quantity of medicine given amounting to only forty-nine grains, or seven of each ingredient.* The rapidity of relief and of cure were in striking contrast with the inefficiency of the ordinary medicines, which, under the direction of two medical gentlemen had been administered for several days previously. In another, though much less severe instance, the medicine failed, fortunately, however, a case of Dyspepsia threw light on the cause of failure. This patient assured me that every dose was followed by pain in the stomach. Suspecting *Conium Maculatum*, I substituted another Umbelliferous plant *Sium Lineare*; no further complaints were made of pain, and a cure was obtained. Applying this experience to the case of Dysentery, a similar change was made with the like result.

Failures or tardy success caused me to re-investigate the Solanaceæ, and the opinion arrived at was that those which best aided the other components were *Dulcamara* and *Stramonium*. I tried three of this order in the combination, but the peculiar effects of the Solanaceæ, thirst and dimness of vision, became too disagreeable to allow more than two members of it to be retained. During the investigation, each change, which never consisted of more than the addition or subtraction of one plant, was tried in all the cases of disease of the mucous membrane which occurred to me. Notwithstanding these precautions, progress was not always forward. If the patients happened to be curable by less potent combinations, I might be led astray and getting into a wrong path might deviate considerably, till failures where there ought to have been successes told me that I was in error. Returning to the narrative, my suspicion was roused respecting *Stramonium*, which I discarded, adopting another of the Solanaceæ, and possibly when I did so the case under treatment was one that I now know to be exceptional, where *Stramonium* does disagree. The cases immediately following did not indicate loss of power, but soon Dysentery set in epidemically,

*At this period all the ingredients were equal.