

Forgotten Friends, or Good Remedies Out of Fashion Reintroduced to Pharmacy.

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(Continued from Page 139, May No., 1894.)

GAULTHERIA.—The *Gaultheria procumbens*, natural order, *Ericaceae*, popularly styled Winter Green, Partridge Berry, or Mountain Tea, is an old remedy for rheumatism recently re-introduced. It was formerly in repute as an aromatic stimulant, emmenagogue, and astringent, but its main utility seems to be in the treatment of acute rheumatism, as it contains natural salicylic acid, which many therapeutists maintain succeeds in cases where the artificial acid wholly fails to give relief. Dr. Seelye says of the oil:—"It has all the valuable properties of salicylic acid to which it is closely allied. Its action is more prompt and efficient in obstinate cases; it has a more agreeable taste; relapses under its use are less frequent; the unpleasant effects of overdosing are no greater, and it is less depressing. Cardiac complications are no more frequent. It is important not to substitute oil of birch (which it resembles closely) or a diluted article for it. Large and frequent doses (10 minims in water and glycerine every two hours) are necessary to get the best effects. It is an excellent palliative in chronic and irregular forms of rheumatism, and a local anodyne to inflamed joints."

Geranium Maculatum.—The rootlets and rhizome of the spotted geranium or cranesbill, once highly prized in this country, are still valued in America as a mild unirritating astringent in infantile and puerile diarrhoeas. It is quite as useful as rhathany as a gargle in various forms of sore throat, is a good application to piles, and excels most vegetable astringents in the treatment of leucorrhoea and gonorrhoea. The dose of the infusion (1 in 20) is 1 to 3 ozs., of the tincture (1 in 10) 1 to 2 drs., and of the powdered root, 10 to 30 grs.

GEUM URBANUM.—The well known common avens or herb bennet, *Geum urbanum*, nat. ord., *Rosaceae*, is in great favor among the rural herbalists of the Midlands as an anti-dyspeptic remedy. It is certainly a good bitter tonic, resembling dandelion.

GRANA PARADISA.—Few, if any, chemists are aware that the sale of the seeds of the *Annonum melaynetta*, natural order, *Zingiberaceae*, is governed by a special Act of Parliament, yet by 56 George III., cap. 58, it is enacted, "No brewer or dealer in beer shall have in his possession or use grains of paradise, under a penalty of £200; and no druggist shall sell it to a brewer under a penalty of £500 for each offence." Like the levant nut, it is now rarely used for adulterating beer, but wholesale druggists will do well to bear in mind the above statute. Therapeutically the grains of paradise constitute a valuable carminative, largely used in

Africa by the natives, but seldom used in this country, except in cattle medicines.

HELLEBORUS NIGER.—This ranunculaceous plant, from the sub-Alpine regions of Europe, has long been considered a powerful ecbotic or abortive, and drastic purgative. It is a useful emmenagogue in those cases benefited by aloes and myrrh, when administered in doses of 5 to 10 grs. of the powdered rhizome, or $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 drachm of the tincture (1 in 8, proof spirit, percolate). Like colocynth it should be sold with caution to the general public.

HYDRANGEA ABROSCENS.—Seven barks is a popular remedy for gravel and stone in the bladder, among the poorer classes in the United States. It is taken either in 30 to 60 gr. doses of the powdered root, or ounce doses of a 1 in 20 decoction four times daily.

HYDROCOTYLE.—The pennywort (*Hydrocotyle Asiatica*) is a member of the *Umbelliferae*, highly esteemed by the native doctors in the East as a tonic and alterative in the treatment of the scourges of Oriental sensuality, syphilis and leprosy. Eight grains of the powdered leaves should be administered in milk thrice daily.

IGNATIUS AMARA.—The bean of St. Ignatius (*Ignatis Amara*, natural order, *Loganiaceae*), from the far-off Philippine Islands, is a valuable bitter tonic and nerve stimulant, similar to *nux vomica*. Dose of the extract $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 gr.

ISULA CAMPANA.—Elecampane has long been used by the peasantry in Ireland and on the Peninsula as a specific in consumption, whooping cough, and various enteric affections. Its active principle *Helenin*, has recently been advocated by the physicians of the General Hospital at Madrid in the treatment of tuberculosis. It is certainly a powerful non-irritating antiseptic, of great value for intra-uterine injection, and for destroying the bacilli in ozena, anthrax, and all purulent discharges. It is used as an antiseptic as a 1 in 1,000 or 1 in 1,500 solution, and has no toxic properties. Ferran lauds its properties in destroying the comma bacillus of cholera and Baeza says it will cure infantile diarrhoea in doses of $\frac{1}{2}$ gr., and the summer diarrhoea of adults in doses of 2 grs., quicker than any other remedy. Whittle says of this product, from one of our oldest friends, that "It promises from the Spanish accounts of its use to become one of our most valuable therapeutic weapons."

INDIGO.—It is not generally known that indigo was formerly highly esteemed in the treatment of epilepsy.

IPOMEA CERULEA.—This valuable convolvulaceous plant is an excellent substitute for jalap. It acts similarly to this drug, except that it never gripes and has no unpleasant taste. The tincture of the seeds (1 in 5) is an inestimable addition to our vegetable cathartics, in doses of 2 drachms and upwards.

IUS.—Orris root, or rather rhizome

(*Iris florentina*, natural order, *Iridaceae*), was formerly used as a purgative and emetic in large doses, but has now, with more or less wisdom, been handed over to the sole use of the perfumer.

IRIDIX.—The blue flag (*Iris versicolor*) is a member of this order, which is destined to hold a good position in British therapeutics. It has long been used as a liver stimulant, and anthelmintic in America, and a limited experience of its utility enables the author to advocate its administration in sluggish liver, and the group of symptoms conveniently labelled Biliousness.

JUGLANS CINEREA.—The butternut (natural order, *Juglandaceae*) is an excellent purgative, painless, rapid, non-osmotic and efficient. An extract is prepared from the inner bark, which may be administered in 10 gr. to 30 gr. doses.

JUGLANS REGIA.—The walnut, another representative of the same order, introduced into this country from Persia, was at one time highly esteemed in the treatment of scrofula, but is now only used as a hair-dye.

LICOPERDON GIGANTEUM.—The puff-ball (natural order *Trichogastres*) has long been known to possess haemostatic properties, and ranked with cobwebs for stopping bleeding among the simple remedies of the Midland peasantry. It has been introduced as a surgical dressing and advocated in bleeding from the alimentary tract.

LYTHRUM.—The root and dried leaves of this beautiful wild flower, the purple loosestrife, a member of the *Lythraceae* is largely used by the "herb doctors" in rural districts as an astringent bitter tonic, similar to chironia.

MANACA.—The root and stem of the *Franciscia uniflora* (natural order, *Scrophulariaceae*) has been used by the North American Indians for immemorial ages in the treatment of the disease, to which they, of all nations, seem most susceptible, namely, syphilis. It is recommended in chronic rheumatism, and has undoubted diuretic and emmenagogue properties. The best method of administration is to prepare a fluid extract in the same manner as extract of cascara sagrada, and give teaspoonful doses thrice daily.

MAMMUNUM.—Horehound (*M. vulgare*, natural order, *Labiatae*) a fine old English expectorant, has for some reason been expunged from British official remedies. In the writer's hands it has proved much more valuable than many of the much vaunted galenic expectorants.

MELISSA OFFICINALE.—Balm—a well-known member of the *Labiatae*—was formerly a favorite basis for nerve tonics, in the form of a 1-in-20 infusion.

MENTHA PULEGIUM.—Pennyroyal is an excellent emmenagogue and carminative, which, in spite of many slights from official authorities, holds, and will continue to hold, a secure position among the indigenous remedies of England.

(To be Continued.)