

you will see that the officinal veratrine is a mixture of alkaloids from *Asagraea officinalis*, not the pure single alkaloid to which my article has reference. Such a mixture is necessarily of uncertain composition since the alkaloids do not exist in exactly the same quantities and proportions in all specimens of the plant. The compilers of the Pharmacopeia evidently did not consider veratrine as a remedy for internal administration, but one solely for external application, for which the said mixture may answer. Still, they appended a dose, which, if applied to the dispensing of the pure alkaloid, offers a further explanation of the neglect of veratrine—"Average dose, two milligrams, gr. 1-30."

The average adult dose of pure veratrine to begin with is gr. 1-134, repeated every one to four hours. Many persons cannot take this amount without irritation of the stomach, unless the dose be given well-diluted. It should always be given in solution—a small dose may irritate if it comes in substance in contact with any mucous membrane. Irritation is manifested by a sense of warmth in the stomach, by which the outlines of that viscus are marked out to the patient's consciousness. Larger doses cause nausea, vomiting, and even doses of gr. 1-40 at bedtime will occasion a perceptible action of the bowels next morning.

When the exact daily dose has been ascertained, the quantity that will relax tension to the extent desirable in the case, the veratrine may be concentrated in three or four doses per diem, one at each meal and at bedtime. This may be continued—forever. The only possible harm that may ensue is that the patient may feel the good effects of the elimination to such an extent that he unduly increases his intake of food. No other objection has arisen to veratrine in the writer's use of it, which has been prolonged and somewhat extensive.

After making a generous deduction from the above statements on the score of personal bias, it seems that veratrine may deserve a trial in this condition.