

dulcamara supplanted henbane, as experience showed it to be better adapted to act beneficially along with the other members of the combination. Its constituents, when the investigation was concluded were as follows:—four officinal, viz., opium, stramonium, dulcamara, digitalis; three non-officinal, Sium lineare, Cicuta maculata, Conioselinum, canadense. All are more or less narcotic; and digitalis, dulcamara, and Sium lineare are also diuretic. So many are necessary evidently from each possessing some peculiarity in the way in which it affects the system: the combined effect of these peculiarities being required to combat the disease.

Without opium the combination is slightly aperient, improves appetite, promotes sleep, and, according to experience gained in dysentery and other diseases, heals ulceration of the mucous membrane. In dysentery, opium is necessary apparently to check the frequent motions of the bowels, the strictly curative power depending chiefly, if not altogether, on the other ingredients. In infants generally, and also in a few adults, digitalis does not act favourably. In such instances I have substituted squills with great benefit. Adults generally require the combination with digitalis; of a very few infants the same may be said; and to many adults the combination with digitalis, or that with squills, may be given indifferently. Excepting opium and squills, the part employed is the leaf. Digitalis and squills are combined in the proportion of half a part each,—all the others in that of one part. For infants, opium is reduced to a half-part. The usual dose to adults is six and a half grains, digitalis or squills being each half a grain, and all the others one grain each.

Between five and six years were spent in determining the components. Beginning with three, I never afterwards, either in adding or subtracting, changed more than one plant, till I had as fully as lay in my power ascertained the result of each change. In this manner I have experimented on thirty-two plants or their products. I have pulled down the combination, and built it up again, and thus done my best to ascertain the necessity for each component. For upwards of seven years the combination has been used with very great success; but as my own experience may be suspected of being biassed, I shall confine myself to the reports of others.

Dr. Brown, of Berlin, Ont., had a very severe attack, of which he published an account in the *Montreal Medical Chronicle* for December, 1858.