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I am, yours,

E. D. WORTHINGTON, M.D.

SHERBROOKE, Aug. 30th, 1879.

Progress of Medical Science.

INFLAMMATION OF THE BLADDER.

The best remedies to administer internally when vesical irritation and inflammation exist are gelseminum, belladonna, sulphate of magnesia, and pinus canadensis. If the pain be great, choose gelseminum; if the irritation will not admit the presence of a teaspoonful of urine in the bladder, give small doses of sulphate of magnesia; if too much urine be secreted (diabetes), administer pinus canadensis; if the kidneys secrete irregularly, belladonna is indicated. It is not to be supposed that no other agents are "specific" in cystitis, for every experienced practitioner knows of others. However, enough have been mentioned to begin with.

Such agents as are known to be diuretic in their action should not be administered in cystitis; better give those agents that tend to restrain urinary secretion. Spices are especially to be avoided. A man or woman having cystitis is made worse by taking stimulants and aromatics. Gin is occasionally prescribed in urinary troubles, but oftener with bad results than with good.

But the most valuable part of the treatment of cystitis is the use of laudanum and starch in the rectum. Let from twenty to sixty drops of tincture of opium be mixed with two ounces of starch mucilage, and thrown into the rectum with a syringe. This enema may be repeated two or three times a day. Those unacquainted with the quieting effects of this agency, in irritation of the bladder and cystitis, will be happily surprised when they carry the plan into operation. No internal medication through the stomach can equal in curative effects these sedatives and emollient enemas. In addition a bag of hot sand may be placed between the thighs, near the perineum, and a hot dinner-plate may be frequently placed upon the hypogastrium. By medicating the pelvic viscera and surroundings the stomach may be kept for food and drink. Sedative medicines injure the appetite and digestion. Run as few remedies through the stomach as possible, unless they be peptics.—*Southern Medical Record: N. O. Med. Jour.*

HOW TO POSTPONE THE USE OF SPECTACLES.

Dr. W. Cheatham writes to the Louisville, *Medical News*:—

"Till lately I have advised the use of spectacles the instant their want is felt; but now we have in sulphate of eserine a remedy (and a safe one, I

believe), by which the wearing of glasses can be put off for several years. In presbyopia we have loss of distinct near vision, caused partly by the loss of power in what is known as the ciliary muscle. Eserine is a stimulant to this muscle, producing contraction, and in that way assists in accommodation.

From my results so far I believe that spectacles may be dispensed with for several years after their want is first felt. I usually order eserine sulphat, gr. j; aquæ dest., ℥j; one drop to be put into each eye at bedtime. On account of the artificial myopia produced I order it to be put in at bedtime. It may be dropped in at any time, as the myosis soon passes away.

Besides its employment in glaucoma and other inflammations of the eye, and in presbyopia, I have found it of great use in asthenopic (weak) eyes, depending upon over-sightedness and weakness of accommodation, the latter the result of either overwork, general debility, diphtheria, etc.

Spectacles in presbyopia (the loss of near vision from age) always give ease; but there is a certain discomfort from the use of glasses, besides many other objections brought forward by patients, all of which, as a usual thing, can be referred to pride. This pride we should humor as much as possible. If by means of the eserine we can give them as great comfort and preserve their eyes as well as by means of spectacles, I think it proper that we should do so.

THYMOL AS A REMEDY IN SKIN DISEASES.

Dr. H. Radcliffe Crocker (*Brit. Med. Jour.*, Feb. 16, '78), has been using thymol to advantage in psoriasis, eczema, lichen planus, pityriasis versicolor, etc. He employs the following formulæ:

1. An ointment, consisting of one ounce of vaseline, and from five to thirty grains of thymol.

2. A lotion, consisting of thymol, five grains; rectified spirit and glycerine, each one ounce; water sufficient for eight ounces.

In the three former diseases, he found the ointment beneficial in sub-acute cases, in fact, in such cases as are commonly treated with tar. In pityriasis versicolor, he used the lotion.

As thymol is quite irritating in strong solution, it cannot be employed in cases that are all acute. Being colorless, and of not unpleasant odor, it presents manifest advantages over tar.—*H. G. P. in Hospital Gazette and Archives of Clinical Surgery.*

CANNABIS INDICA IN EPILEPSY.

This remedy, in doses of gr. one-sixth of the solid extract three times a day, has been very successfully used by Dr. Wharton Sinkler, of Philadelphia. One very severe case (fully detailed in *Phil. Med. Times*) was promptly cured by this agent.