

cough mixtures. A combination of carbonate of ammonia, tincture of nux vomica, and tincture of squill is a most excellent mixture for patients suffering from dyspnoea, and generally procures them "more breath," as they phrase it. One of the most important matters connected with such use of strychnia is its relation to sleep. In many of these cases sleeplessness is a prominent factor; and sleep can be procured only by a narcotic. But while the narcotic acts upon the nervous system generally, it also acts upon the respiration, probably at its centre in the medulla, and the patients are apt to wake up with an attack of dyspnoea. A series of cases has demonstrated that by the use of strychnia the respiration is so improved that the patient can go to sleep without the narcotic, and, more than that, sleep fairly well, and be quite free from attacks of breathlessness, which awaken the patient and cause him to add voluntary respiratory efforts to the automatic act of respiration. By resort to strychnine these patients can be much relieved. In a case seen recently of complex lung and heart mischief, to which was added chronic chloral poisoning, the good effects of strychnia were very marked. The patient was almost at once relieved from the attacks of dyspnoea in the middle of the night, to which he had long been subject. By the use of strychnia during the day, a narcotic pill at bedtime is often deprived of its tendency to produce nocturnal dyspnoea; and strychnia may be usefully prescribed in cases of shortness of breath, where there has been also long indulgence in hypnotics. There is no such thing in this world as unalloyed good, and strychnia, so used, sometimes acts so powerfully upon the bladder-centres, and produces such irritation there, as to necessitate its discontinuance. But this is not the rule by any means.

REMARKS ON SOME INDIGENOUS PLANTS.

Selections from PROF. ROTHROCK'S Lectures on Botany, University of Penn.

Too often physicians overlook the fact that numerous common plants, many outside of the *Pharmacopœia*, possess remedial virtues, and are used successfully as therapeutical agents by a great many physicians, especially in rural districts.

A knowledge of the uses may serve a happy turn, in ways least expected. Prof. Rothrock has paid considerable attention to the medicinal value of common plants, especially those indigenous, and in this sketch a few of his observations will be recorded.

Witch Hazel is almost a specific in sprains.

Ground Ivy is anti-spasmodic and anti-scorbutic.

Salvia (Cheia) can replace linseed. It is more than a demulcent, being also a nutrient, thus of value in certain gastric derangements. It is capable of maintaining life for some time. With the addition of a very little beef, Prof. Rothrock lived on it at one time for two weeks.

Fever Root is cathartic and emetic.

Dogwood is not often enough used; can frequently replace quinine.

Wormwood is much used and valued by the western mountaineers. Used as a tea, for malarial fevers, and as a general tonic.

Uva Ursi is used by some sailors as a chewing-medicine for gonorrhœa.

Common Poison Laurel is good in the treatment of facial neuralgia. May be used in the following manner.

R Tr. *Kalmia Lutea*.....1 drachm.

Tr. *Cimicifugæ*.....1 drachm.

Alcohol.....1 ounce.

M. S. 5 to 10 drops at a dose; repeated with care.

Trailing Arbutus. Leaves make an elegant diuretic tea. Used freely.

Canada Fleabane. Most excellent in uterine hemorrhage.

Gelsemium will prevent the toxic effects of quinine, especially ringing in the ears.

Not enough attention is given to *Peppermint*. It possesses decided stimulant properties. Useful in delirium tremens—steadies up. It may be combined with aromatic spt. ammonia and carb. soda.

Valerian Edulis is as good as the official valerian.

Water Arrow is a good astringent.

Pomegranate now grows in California, but is not an indigenous plant. Excellent for expulsion of tape worm.

Barberry. Cathartic and anti-periodic.

Blue Cohosh may be used in place of ergot.

Smart Weed, an emmenagogue, safer than savine. May be used as an ointment for baldness.

Bittersweet ought to be more used; a good laxative, useful in intermittent fever, and for habitual constipation, not producing secondary constipation.

Shellbark tea, for tæmia, is an excellent remedy.

Hydrastis Canadensis is excellent in gleet, etc.—*Phila. Chemist*.

LIBERALISM IN HOMŒOPATHY.

The resolutions recently passed by the Homœopathic Medical Society of the County of New York are a striking indication of the tendencies of the times. They say in effect that the dogma "similia" is no longer capable of universal application, and that, as honest physicians, the homœopaths are obliged to rely to a greater or less extent upon the practices and methods of the older school. In other words, they no longer desire to be considered as exclusives.

For many years it has been a matter of common notoriety that professing homœopaths have not infrequently availed themselves of the teachings of regular medicine, and applied them in purposely disguised forms. The inconsistency of such a course has undoubtedly led to much of the ill-feeling which we as a school have borne towards them. The present honest declaration, that homœopathy, pure and simple, is not all that their earlier fancies painted it is simply a public admission that the sectarian posi-