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THE ACTIVE PRINCIPLES OF PARSLEY
IN AMENORRHEA AND DYS-
MENORRHEA.

Various methods for the extraction of the active principle of parsley have been proposed from time to time, but there has been always a want of uniformity in the therapeutic results obtained with the so-called *Apiol* preparations, hitherto found in commerce.

With a view to obtain a reliable product, M. Chapoteaut recommenced a study of the plant and finally adopted a new process for the extraction of a thick, reddish liquid boiling at 275° C. (527° F.) specific gravity 1.113.

This is a product totally different from true Apiol (Von Gerichten), since the latter is a solid melting at 30° and boiling at 300° C., and different from the Essence or Oil of Parsley, boiling at 160° C., while its reddish color indicates that it cannot be confounded with ordinary so-called commercial Apiol, which is a yellow or green liquid having an approximate specific gravity of 1.07.

This new substance therefore has been named *Apioline (Apiolinum)* by M. Chapoteaut, and clinical experiments show it to be the true active principal of the plant.

Dr. Laborde* has made an exhaustive study of the action of *apioline* and its derivatives, *carol*, etc., on animals, which indicates that it stimulates the circulatory system of the intestines and genitals, causing vascular congestion of the uterus and ovaries and exciting contraction of the smooth muscular fibres of the genital organs, especially of the uterus and ovaries.

Experiments made on female guinea pigs and dogs demonstrated this special action in a very decided manner and corresponding genital excitement was also observed in males.

These results have been remarkably confirmed by their therapeutic application in the French hospitals.

Apioline Chapoteaut administered in spherical capsules 20 centigrammes each, always relieved the pain in spasmodic and congestive dysmenorrhea, cases in which principal reliance should be placed on equalizing the circulation and increasing the power of the ovarian nissus.

In amenorrhea, where the menses had been suppressed even for a considerable length of time, the flow promptly reappeared.

In fact, all cases depending on uterine troubles amenable to internal treatment, and where a correct diagnostic of the symptoms had been made and suitable hygiene and treatment observed, this drug relieved the suppression, regu-

lated and prevented or removed the accompanying pain, and proved to be the most powerful emmenagogue with which we are familiar.

In cases of scanty or deficient menstruation with pain, etc., one capsule can be given after meals; thrice daily for a week before the expected period, as recommended by Dr. Fordyce Barker.†

R *Apiolini* grm. IV. (about 3i)
ft. Capsule No. xx (Chapoteaut).

Sig.: Take three each day during the week preceding menstruation.

It is especially appropriate when amenorrhea depends upon anemia. The same authority suggests the administration of aloine or podophyllo-toxin when amenorrhea and dysmenorrhea are complicated with constipation. Although *apioline* is looked on as a specific for menstrual disorders by many gynecologists, it must not be forgotten that these troubles are often subordinate or associated with a general atony of the system, which requires tonics, hematics (*Ferrum Sanguinis*) and suitable hygienic agents. Finally *Apioline Chapoteaut* cannot be expected to remove dysmenorrhea depending on mechanical obstruction of the cervical canal—causes of failure which are sometimes overlooked.

Dr. Vadeboncoeur, after a series of trials with *Apioline*, writes: "I have obtained excellent results in painful cases of dysmenorrhea. One lady patient who was an hysterical subject, and who was obliged to use injections of morphine to relieve the pain, has found this unnecessary since I prescribed *Apioline*."

Dr. C. Hewson Bradford, of Philadelphia, November 21, 1890, reports: "I have used it successfully in amenorrhea. Miss H., æt. 19 years, had always been irregular; her menses were always scanty and for the last two months they had been absent.

She expected her menses on November 17th, so on the 12th inst. I gave her the *Apioline Capsules* and requested her to take one morning and evening until after her sickness had appeared—to-day I visited her and found her much improved. She stated that menstruation had begun early on the morning of the 18th inst.

* J. Laborde, directeur des Travaux Physiologiques à la Faculté de Médecine de Paris.—*Tribune Médicale*, January 8, 1891.

† See Shoemaker's *Materia Medica and Therapeutics*. Vol. II. page 447.

PERSONAL.

Dr. Charles E. K. Vidal (Bishop's '90) who for nearly a year past has been one of the resident house surgeons of the Montreal General Hospital, has resigned this appointment to accept the position of assistant to Dr. P. E. Menburn, residing at Lethbridge, Alberta, N. W. T. We wish him all possible success in his new undertaking.