

THE
Canadian Journal of Medical Science.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN MEDICAL SCIENCE, CRITICISM, AND NEWS.

U. OGDEN, M.D.,
EDITOR.

R. ZIMMERMAN, M.D., L.R.C.P., London,
171 Church Street Toronto, Corresponding Editor

SUBSCRIPTION, \$3 PER ANNUM.

All Communications, Letters and Exchanges must be addressed to the Corresponding Editor.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY, 1880.

Selections: Medicine.

VERATRUM VIRIDE AND ITS USES.

BY DR. EDWARD H. SHOLL,
Of Gainesville, Ala.

This article is intended to formulate a comprehensive and consecutive use of this drug for twenty years.

DISEASES OF THE AIR PASSAGES

will be first noticed. Here the law that governs its use, and from which I record no safe deviation, is, that it must be limited in its application in bronchitis and pneumonia, more particularly in the latter, to the first ninety-six hours of the attack, unless taken prior to the time, when its safe use may be indefinitely continued. It is out of place after the lung has become consolidated by inflammatory product, or its vesicular substance condensed by mucus or other product.

If this law is carefully followed I avouch its safe use, as I have never found but one case where it gave any cause for any unusual care, and in this case the depression was readily relieved.

Its action is that of a depurant, and an equalizer of the circulation, eliminating by the kidney and mucous surface of the bowel, and coordinating arterial action, so as to relieve either visceral or capillary congestion, and bring about an equilibrium.

In acute laryngitis, acute bronchitis and pneumonia, the best method of administration is to give the full dose, according to age, every two hours, till three doses are given, after that prolonging the interval to three hours, and continuing thus, with instruction to reduce dose and

prolong interval if nausea or vomiting ensues, and as the patient improves. Unless otherwise indicated, I prefer giving it alone, in a little water, so as to complicate its action as little as possible, using a mercurial or other purgative, if required, and an opiate if violence of cough and pleuritic pain at the outset require relief. I never give quinine within three hours before or after administering it, not fancying its combined action, and seldom or never finding any imperative demand for so doing, for in competitive tests, often repeated, I find here, in a region of country malarial from July to October, and impressing its type in the modification of many forms of disease, and where presumably quinine would be most valuable, particularly in pneumonia, that it bears so little value comparable to the veratrum, that I seldom resort to it, and when I do, have generally had cause to regret it. The largest dose for an adult, at one time, given as above directed, need seldom exceed four drops. For an infant one year old I give one-fourth of a drop as a dose; at one month one thirty-second of a drop. I would here say that, if anything, I prescribe it more frequently in infants and children, their ready susceptibility to all catarrhal affections demanding its more constant use for relief of their wants. In those diseases of people advanced in life, I use it steadily, but in smaller doses, ordinarily giving at the same time a teaspoonful of a mixture of equal parts of syrup of lactophosphate of lime and sherry wine, to stay waste and gently stimulate. With the infant I use, in addition, in an aggravated case, mustard to front and rear of chest, repeated as needed, with hot foot-baths, and if it be of the croupous variety, small blisters behind the ears.