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CANNABIS INDICA.*

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Of the making of many drugs there is no end, and so many new compounds are submitted every year for our consideration that we are apt to forget the old ones. I shall not give you much that is new about this drug, but wish to emphasize some points that seem to me important.

The drug contains an aromatic oil and a resin. Opinion is divided as to which of the two is the active principle.

A writer in the *British Medical Journal*, 1889, says the oil is the active principle, and thinks a watery infusion of the drug possesses many advantages.

As regards the taste of the drug, it is generally considered disagreeable, and in prescribing the tincture or fluid extract it is recommended to put a little chloroform with it to cover the taste.

Physiological Action.—From half an hour to three hours after taking a full dose the patient feels a sense of well-being, or as if he had heard "good tidings of great joy." There is a tendency to laughter, and the subject in many cases says comical and witty things. Thus among the Orientals it is called the "laughter-mover," "the increaser of pleasure," "the cementer of friendship." The subject sometimes feels like acting in a burlesque manner. Sometimes old memories are stirred up.

* Read at meeting of Medical Society of Nova Scotia, 1897.