

McClanahan, of Brownville, Mo., in 1879, in which he stated that his father and grandfather had been in the habit of using the bark for very many years as a remedy for diabetes, and in which he went on to detail the effects he himself had obtained. These were so encouraging, that I decided at once to give it a trial in a case that I was treating at that time that was giving me a good deal of anxiety. As it is in this case that I have had the best opportunity of studying what I take to be the effect of this remedy, it may be well here to give you a short sketch of it.

The subject of the disease was at that time a lady of sixty-one years of age, above the average height, stout in proportion, who for some time had been under some form of treatment without improvement. She had always lived well, and had been accustomed to eat and drink those very things which were most likely to increase the condition from which she suffered. Therefore, although there was a history of exposure to cold before the attack came on, still, from her general appearance, and from further study of the case, I made up my mind that the carbohydrates, instead of going to form fat, and contribute to force production, were now being excreted as glucose—that the glycosuria, in fact, was of the alimentary kind. She had constant and unquenchable thirst, was losing flesh at the rate of five pounds a week, although her appetite was particularly good, and she was passing an unusually large quantity of water even for a diabetic. The sugar excreted amounted to more than 1600 grains, or about $3\frac{1}{4}$ ounces per day.

In this condition I put her upon the Rhus treatment, beginning on July 9th, 1883. She continued to lose flesh for a week or two after the treatment was begun, but very shortly, the thirst grew very much less, the excretion of sugar improved, the amount of water passed grew rapidly less, till it reached a little above normal. I tried to restrict her diet, but found it of little use; but I continued the treatment more or less, always with the same result however, viz.: whenever the treatment was discontinued the old symptoms reappeared; when it was again persisted in for a week or two, they as regularly improved. On her return from a visit to the salt water, she was much improved, so much so, that it was thought that she had quite recovered. But as the cooler

weather came on about November she complained of drowsiness, with inability to sleep at night. Her conversation was rambling and disconnected, with a decided difficulty in pronouncing certain words. The medicine had been discontinued and the sugar had again appeared in the water, though the thirst and polyuria had not returned. These symptoms increased till she became almost comatose, in which condition she remained for about a month. She took fluid nourishment when it was given to her, at times partly waking, always with the idea that she was away from home, or with the remnant of some horrible dream firmly impressed upon her mind.

As, up to the time of the appearance of the coma, she had been taking a mixture of bromide of potash, chloral, and syrup of codeia, to obtain sleep at night, I attributed the character of the dreams to the use of these drugs. But these hallucinations and illusions continued for weeks after I ceased giving this mixture. Her convalescence from this attack seemed to date from a time when, after having given a full dose of hydrarg submur., I followed it for some days with saline purgatives. She now rapidly regained her former position of health and continued so during the summer. And when, in the following autumn, I saw again this cloudy condition of the intellect returning, I sent her off to the Bahamas, still continuing the same treatment. Her medical man at Nassau continued the treatment for some time, then left it off, and wrote me, saying that he thought her well. To all appearance she was so, but on her return here the following spring, she had a sharp attack of the pruritus vulvæ peculiar to diabetics, which however immediately disappeared on the use of Goulard's Extract. She was eating everything, but was not taking any beer or spirit. She continued very well for two years, until she got a severe chill while going up the Saguenay. On her return here many of the old symptoms were present, and she showed every sign of another attack of coma coming on. I again resorted to the Rhus with the salines, having first given a full dose of the submuriate. The attack completely passed off in ten days. From that time to the present she has had no return.

On May 10th of this year I examined the water with the following result:—Sp. gr. 1025. Picric acid test and Moore's test give negative results.