

painful, obstinate and common malady, designated by the term "*Rheumatism*, an affection obscure as to its origin, and obstinate as to its treatment. From these considerations it appears that any medicinal agent, which would exert particular control over this disease, would be of general interest to the profession, and on this account do I submit the following notes of cases, treated by the Tincture of the Polyporus or Boletus Laricis Canadensis, which up to the present has not found its way into the Materia Medica, nor am I aware of its having been previously prescribed in Rheumatism. The fungus, Polyporus Officinalis, or "Larch Agaric" of other countries, has been described by Dioscorides, and administered, according to Pereira, as an emetic, cathartic, discutient, anti-sudorific and astringent. The Canadian Agaric is procured in considerable quantity by the Lumberers on the various tributaries of the Ottawa River, by whom it is frequently used as a grateful tonic and stomachic. This fungus, as found, varies in size and form, some being almost square-shaped, and others oblong, weighing from 15 to 40 pounds, and arranged in parallel tiers. The trees from which it is removed are generally unsound, and useless for lumber purposes. In fact the perfect growth of these fungi appears to be the last act of vitality of the tree. They are most frequently observed thirty or forty feet from the root, and a short distance below the first branches. On rare occasions a small fungus may be observed above the branches; in other respects, it resembles the European Agaric.

CASE I.—James Stewart, æt. 21 years, a strong and generally healthy person, and engaged as a laborer on the Government works, July, 8th 1861, was seized with shivering and wandering pains, which during the night settled down into the right knee and left ankle, attended with much local pain and swelling. Two days previous to this attack, he was exposed during a heavy shower of rain, having suffered about three years ago much in the same manner, from exposure; skin hot; pulse 100 and hard; tongue covered with a white coat; urine scanty and high colored; inability to sleep during the night; and the body fixed in one position, owing to the painful state of the limbs, which rapidly became subjected to the *rheumatic influence*. The bowels having been relaxed by Ol. Ricini, I ordered—

R. Tinct. Fung. Laricis. Canadensis, $\bar{3}$ j.

Aquæ Puræ, $\bar{5}$ ij.

Misce. Ciat cochliare amplum quaque tertia hora.

Hop fomentations to the painful joints, and low diet. 9th. Passed a tranquil night, slept several hours, pulse 95, skin moist, tongue still coated, pain in the joints much relieved, urine voided in large quantity, acid and less high coloured; bowels regular. To continue mixture as formerly during the day, and R Morph. Acet. gr. $\frac{1}{2}$ H.S.S.

10th. Slept at intervals throughout the night; the joints much easier and the swelling around the knees and ankles almost entirely subsided, with moderate ability to move the limbs. Tongue moist and cleaner towards the tip and edges; perspired copiously; urine voided in still larger quantity and clearer; bowels continue regular; pulse 85 and full. Perfectly normal condition of the heart's sounds. To continue mixture every four hours during the day. 12th. Rested