

winds and the waves are nature's best scavengers. In my next letter, although I shall probably date it among the fogs of the English metropolis, I shall try to give you an idea of the treatment of wounds, surgical and accidental, as carried out by the principal New York surgeons.

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Progress of Science.

PALATABLE PRESCRIPTIONS.

Dr. John L. Davis at a recent meeting of the Cincinnati Medical Society read an interesting practical paper, which we find in the *Lancet and Clinic* of that city. We reprint below the most important portions of the article. Dr. Davis says :

It is with the view of suggesting agreeable and appropriate vehicles for some of the most repulsive drugs that I offer the following prescriptions. They are the result of a great many experiments and most of them I have used in practice and can recommend as the best combinations possible without modifying the drug in such a way as to affect its action. I have attempted to marshal these unruly drugs under something approaching order; though I confess the classification is far from being a perfect one. A few drugs of each class will suffice to illustrate how the whole class may be improved.

1. *Bitter Drugs*.—These comprise a very large class of unpalatable medicines: the climax of bitterness is reached in the cinchona bark. The best prescription for masking the taste of quinine is:

℞. Quinæ sulphatis..... gr. xxx.
Tinct. aurant. cort. recentis..... 3 ij.
Ext. glycyrrhizæ fl..... 3 vj.
Syr. simplicis..... 3 j.

Or it may be given with the aromatic syrup of licorice. Simply chewing a piece of licorice root before and after taking the quinine will very effectually hide its bitter taste. The same methods for administration apply equally well to most other bitter medicines. In the *American Journal of Medical Science*, Dr. Samuel Ashhurst of Philadelphia describes an agreeable method for the exhibition of cinchonia. He uses the alkaloid rather than the more usual sulphate; for, while being equally soluble in the stomach, it is less so in the saliva, and consequently its bitterness is less marked than that of the sulphate. His prescription is:

℞. Cinchoninæ..... gr. j.
Sac lactis..... gr. iv.
Sodæ bicarbonatis..... gr. v.

The soda renders the alkaloid less soluble in the mouth, while the sugar of the milk gives it an agreeable, sweet taste. Children take this powder without the least aversion.

The thick, viscid elixir of taraxacum is also a valuable vehicle for the administration of medicines. And finally it may be said of these, as of all medicines, that if taken very cold, or if a piece of ice is taken into the mouth immediately before the medicine, the objectionable taste will be less marked.

2. *Salty and metallic drugs*.—A large class of unpalatable drugs is included under this head. The best prescription containing iodide of potassium is the following:

℞. Potassii iodidi..... 3 iij.
Tinct. aurant. cort. recentis..... 3 j.
Ext. glycyrrhiz. rad. fl..... 3 j.
Syr. simplicis..... q. s. ad 3 iij.

Of this each teaspoonful contains five grains, and the iodide is so perfectly disguised that persons who have been accustomed to its use fail to recognize its presence. For this combination I am indebted to Mr. Julius H. Eichberg, the skillful and efficient druggist of the Cincinnati Hospital. The vehicle is eligible also for the administration of the bromide of potassium. A syrup of coffee is highly recommended to hide the taste of the iodide—fifteen grains to the ounce. The same vehicle can be used for the bromide, except in cases where the stimulant effect of coffee is to be avoided.

A simple and somewhat effective way for administering the iodide and bromide, as well as salicylic acid, is in milk—ten grains to the ounce. Another mode for giving these drugs is to use as the vehicle slightly alkaline carbonated water, either natural or artificial.

The syrup of the iodide of iron is a useful medicine, which is best given simply with the fluid extract of licorice root: this is preferable to the ordinary succus glycyrrhizæ. A medicine peculiarly disagreeable to many persons from its bitter salty taste is magnesium sulphate. The following prescription offers an elegant means for its administration:

℞. Magnesii sulphatis..... 3 ij.
Acidi sulphurici..... gtt. v.
Glycerinæ..... gtt. v.
Aque..... q. s. ad 3 j.

Half of this, in a glass of water constitutes an agreeable dose of an ordinarily repulsive substance. By the addition of a drop or two of mint the mixture becomes not only palatable but attractive.

3. *Astringent drugs*.—Tannin is the representative of a class of remedies repulsive by reason of an astringent, acid taste. This may be materially improved by the addition of sugar of milk and aromatic powder. I have also ordered it with powdered licorice, which materially improves the taste. Salicylic acid may be given