

I knew that Apiol, the active principle of *Apium petroselinum*, Linne (Parsley), was a substance that had been long known to possess marked emmenagogue properties, but that had not been used extensively in this country on account of certain after-effects connected with its administration. On investigation, I found that Apiol was first isolated by Joret and Homolle in 1855, and was at first recommended for malaria, as a substitute for that specific of specifics—quinine. Later its emmenagogue virtues became known, but it found far less favor in this country than in France, the American physicians being especially prone to reject any remedy that has disagreeable after-effects. Apiol seemed to me the ideal emmenagogue, and I was even tempted to try it, although I had some fears about the effects of its irritant action, when I came across a statement in an article on the subject, to the effect that the Apiol of the market, no matter where purchased, was full of a series of impurities, and that the bad after-effects of this drug were due to these impure elements.

The ordinary Apiol of commerce, it seemed, was simply a mixture of impure principles obtained from parsley by extraction. The question was, therefore, to obtain a preparation of Apiol without the impurities that do the harmful work of the ordinary preparation. A number of chemists in various countries have tried to purify Apiol with varying success, but finally, within the last few years, a pure product was obtained. It seems that the preparation which contains the purest product obtainable, which was prepared by the new process mentioned, is a pharmaceutical compound known as *Ergo-Apiol* (Smith). Seeking, as I said, a preparation of Apiol which would give satisfactory results in amenorrhea, dysmenorrhea, and suppressed menstruation, especially in the insane, and that would not produce any undesirable after-effects, I determined to try *Ergo-Apiol* (Smith), a liquid substance dispensed in gelatin capsules, which contains the pure Apiol described above, and in addition a combination of emmenagogues that immediately appealed to me as calculated to enhance the efficiency of the whole remedy, namely, ergot of rye, oil of savin and aloin.

I selected a series of cases in the hospital, each of which was characterized by a more or less pronounced menstrual disorder of some standing, and administered no other medication for the treatment of the disordered menstruation than *Ergo-Apiol*. I cite, in illustration, three cases in which the remedy in question was employed. They are only examples of the experience I had with it.

CASE I.—Miss V. F. Aged twenty-one years. Was admitted June, 1901. She said that she had not menstruated for a year.