

# CANADA LANCET.

WILLIAM EDWARD BOWMAN, M.D., EDITOR.

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## PERMANGANATE OF POTASH IN GONORRHOEA.

BY JOHN G. RICH, M.D., BEAUVILLE, CANADA WEST.

For the last two years I have frequently employed the permanganate of potash as an injection in the treatment of gonorrhoea, and the constant success derived from its use has been extremely satisfactory.

My usual method had previously been to administer, first, a hydragogue cathartic, then to give a mixture of cubeba, copaiva, nitre, &c., with injections of sulphate of zinc, tannic acid, &c. But since employing the permanganate my treatment has been much more circumscribed, for with this remedy alone, I have frequently cured very bad cases in forty-eight hours, and this too without being followed by any evil effect from the sudden arrest of the discharge.

My usual mode of treatment, however, is as follows:—

R Potassæ Bistart. ℥j.  
Podophyllin; gr. j

In chartulas quatuor dividendus  
S. One every two hours until free catharsis is produced  
After which :

R Potassæ Permangan. gr. vj  
Aque Fontan. ℥j.

S. To be used as an injection three times a day.  
I direct, at the same time the free employment of mucilaginous drinks, as althoea, ulmus, acacia, &c. and put the patient upon a non-stimulating regimen.

Out of sixty-four registered cases this course of treatment has failed in but two instances. And I find that recent attacks usually become arrested by after from three to six injections. I have found it advisable to continue the demulcents for at least a week after the cessation of the discharge. In none of all these cases was the injection continued after the fourth day.

When accompanied by chordee, I usually employ the following:—

R Lupulin ℥jss.  
Oly Camphoræ ℥j.  
Miccæ Panis, q. s.

ft. mass in pilulis, xvi. dividenda.  
Two, three, or four on going to bed

I think that the permanganate of potash is a remedy deserving of more notice than physicians hitherto given it, and hoping that my experience may produce for it a more extended trial in cases of gonorrhoea. I remain, &c. J. G. R.

## THE CALABAR BEAN.

HYOSOTIGMA VENEROSUM.

The want of a remedy has long been felt which would more thoroughly act as an antagonistic to atropine and other mydriatics than opium or ergotine, in producing contraction of the pupil; This agent has been found in the Calabar bean. The drug was first mentioned by Christison in 1827; but only its action when taken internally had then been examined. Professor R. Fraser, also of Edinburgh, drew attention eight years afterwards to the myotic qualities of the remedy. And we copy the following from his remarks:

The plant from which the beans obtained is a runner growing wild in West Africa and is gathered by the negroes, who employ it as a ordeal for criminals. The population of Calabar is estimated at one hundred thousand, and of these upwards of 12,000 are reckoned annually to be sacrificed by this poison.

These so called beans average rather more than an inch in length, and are irregularly reniform, having the appearance of a somewhat flattened fusiform body bent on one of its edges.

As obtained from Calabar, the beans have a grey colour, and are encrusted with earthy matter; this is readily removed by washing, and a somewhat shining integument is exposed of various shades of brown, ranging from a light coffee to an almost perfect black.

While the other parts of the plant are indifferent, as it seems, to the animal organism, the beans have strongly poisonous qualities. According to the missionaries, those who have eaten them, first feel a violent thirst; afterwards, the poisoned individual cannot swallow; mucus flows from the mouth; convulsions; and also cramps in the muscles of the back, come on, &c. During all this, the patient is conscious of everything, and even the language remains up to shortly before death, which may ensue within half an hour. Sometimes vomiting occurs, after which the heat diminishes; and, except headache, all other symptoms disappear.

Small doses, (up to 12 grains) with which Christison made his experiments, soon caused an increasing pain in the epigastrium, with retching, a sentiment of dyspnoea, cramps in the muscles of the breast, vertigo and weakness in the limbs, great secretion of saliva, and irregular, slow motion of the heart, so that in one case the pulse made only 20 beats.

Applied locally to a rabbit, the alcoholic extract produced loss of contractility. And when the intestines were painted over with a solution, they ceased to move.

In order to examine the local action of the remedy on the eye, Robertson prepared an extract from the pulverized bean, which he dissolved in alcohol in three different concentrations. The

Amongst other statistical information concerning newspapers, collected with much care by the editor of the Athenæum, we notice the statement that the number of the medical and chemical journals from the City of London alone, now amounts to an aggregate of fifteen thousand per week