

NOTE ON SOME OF THE THERAPEUTIC VIRTUES OF EUCALYPTUS GLOBULUS.

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Rather more than a year ago my attention was first drawn to this remedy by an interesting reference to it in Sir John Rose Cormack's *Clinical Studies*. In a postscript to a case of cauliflower excrescence of the uterus, he mentions that latterly he has used, as an injection, an infusion of the leaves of the *eucalyptus*, or a mixture of from one to four drachms of a tincture in eight ounces of tepid water. Besides being refreshing and comforting to patients so affected, these applications have, in his experience, a remarkable power of destroying the fetid odour of morbid discharges, without the substitution of another unpleasant smell. He extends the remark, after much experience, to the offensive discharges attendant upon cases of ozæna, cancer of the tongue and throat, cancer of the uterus, gangrene, and other affections accompanied by fœtor. In the same postscript he mentions that in simple uterine catarrh he knows of no remedy equal in value to the *eucalyptus globulus*. In these cases he has met with the most satisfactory results, when it was simultaneously administered by the stomach and in the form of injection. He adds: "As Gubler has shown, the anti-catarrhal virtues of *eucalyptus* are most remarkable. With increasing experience of its power, I more and more use it in bronchial, vesical, and uterine catarrh, in gonorrhœa and in gleet." These representations of Sir John Rose Cormack, and the circumstance, which he also mentions, that a preparation of the essential oil in capsules is a favourite prescription with many leading physicians in Paris, led me to make trial of the remedy in a variety of cases during the past year. The only preparation which I have used has been the tincture prepared by several of our most eminent chemists in Edinburgh, and I have seldom prescribed more than a teaspoonful, mixed with a wine-glassful of water, twice a day. In several cases of bronchitis with profuse expectoration, I have witnessed remarkable benefits after a very brief use of the remedy, evinced by a

rapid diminution of the discharge, and also by a corresponding improvement in the general condition of the patient. But my object in writing this note is to recommend the internal use of *eucalyptus* in a class of cases to which, as far as I know, it has not hitherto been considered applicable. . . . It occurred to me that owing to its valuable properties as a disinfectant, deodorant, and astringent, it might prove useful in certain forms of disease in the stomach and bowels. . . . A gentleman of seventy-five had suffered from formidable disease of the stomach for eight or ten years, and on several occasions, had seemed very near his end, with every symptom of malignant ulceration. Great quantities of blood had been vomited from time to time, and at short intervals, seldom exceeding a fortnight, the stomach after becoming painfully distended with a sour barmy fluid, was relieved by repeated vomiting, while life itself seemed possible only with extreme lightness of diet and most vigorous self-denial.

. . . . He has taken the tincture of *eucalyptus* twice daily for many months, and during all that time has scarcely had even a threatening of those painful and exhausting attacks which had latterly occurred almost every week.

Another old gentleman, a retired medical man of eminence, who for some years has laboured under symptoms which indicate disease of the stomach and possibly the colon, is so sensible of benefit from the use of the medicine, that he can seldom abandon it for even a few days without being reminded of its importance and eagerly resuming it.

Another case in which ulceration, or some other organic disease of the stomach, seemed the only reasonable diagnosis, the patient made an unexpected recovery from extreme attenuation and weakness under similar treatment.

I have tried it repeatedly in a class of cases which are usually regarded as ulcers of the stomach threatening perforation, and with complete success. . . . Of course, no one will think of using the medicine as a *specific* in any case where it may seem to be indicated. All the details as to diet and general regimen, which would be deemed necessary without it, must be carefully attended to. In conclusion, I may say, that it seemed to me of manifest use lately in a case of diphtheria commencing in the gullet and ascending to the fauces; and my belief is that it might be prescribed with advantage in some cases of typhoid fever.—*Edinburgh Medical Journal*.