

to the Dominion Government to issue licenses for the sale of Patent Medicines, and grant them only to chemists and druggists, as the proper persons to deal in such articles, the exception to this would be only in the rural districts where there are no drug stores. In that case the license should be given to some competent and responsible party, such as the postmaster, but under no consideration, should the sale of patent medicines be entrusted to unlicensed shopkeepers or pedlars.

ECHO.

THE POISON IVY AND ITS REMEDIES.—Poison ivy, *rhus toxicodendron*; poison vine or climbing ivy, *rhus radicans*; poison sumach or swamp sumach, *rhus vernix*; and poison elder, poison dogwood, *rhus venenata*; are all plants of the same family. Their juice when applied to the skin, has the effect of producing inflammation and vesication; and the same poisonous property is possessed by a volatile principle which escapes from the plant itself, and produces, in certain persons, when they come into its vicinity, an exceedingly troublesome erysipelatosus affection, particularly of the face. There is frequently itching and redness, a sense of burning, with tumefaction, vesication, and ultimate desquamation. These effects begin immediately after exposure and usually decline within a week.

The principle of treatment should be based upon the fact that the milky juices of these shrubs are neutralized and made harmless by alkaline washes, and these washes may be used as preventives as well as remedies. Our forefathers in the profession depended upon a light cooling regimen, with saline purgatives, and the local use of cold lead-water. Experience has proven alkaline washes to be the most reliable remedies, such as a solution of pure carbonate of potassa, or salt of tartar. Carbonate of potash procured from cream of tartar is preferable to that obtained from pearl-ash in these cases. It should be used of the strength of two ounces to eight ounces of water, and applied to the affected parts several times daily. Strong suds, made from soft or lye soap, white lye, ammonia water—two to three desert-spoonfuls to a pint of water—or a little saleratus dissolved in water, are excellent washes. White lye is made by throwing two quarts of hardwood ashes into a pail of water, stirring and then allowing it to settle—the clear supernatant liquid is white lye.

When a person is exposed to the influence of these plants, which, when bruised or cut, have the power of affecting some skins when several feet distant, although most persons require to touch the plant before it affects them, he should wet every part of the skin that is likely to be exposed or uncovered, with one or another of

these washes, allowing the wash to dry upon the skin, by no means wiping it off. This plan is said to protect the skin from the poisonous influence of these plants. In the same manner, if one has been exposed, or fears he has, let him follow the same plan and allow the wash to dry upon the skin.

Where the skin has already become red and swollen, and there is itching and stinging, these lotions should be freely applied by means of cloths wet with them, allowing them to dry upon the skin. Keep the patient cool and quiet, let the diet be spare and cooling, and keep the bowels gently open. Where the skin is very extensively inflamed, and the applications are made too perseveringly, it may happen that metastasis to the bronchial mucous membrane may take place, and great oppression of breathing with urgent sense of suffocation be felt. In such cases the application of mustard over the lungs affords relief. As prevention is always better than cure, persons should shun the immediate neighborhood of these poisonous plants when practicable to do so.—*Canada Lancet*.

A REMEDY FOR THE ERUPTION OF POISON OAK, IVY, AND SUMACH.—Dr. S. A. Brown, U. S. N., Mare Island, California, believes that he has found a specific for the eruption caused by contact with poison oak, sumach, ivy, huahoo, cashew nut, etc. He writes:—"This specific is bromine. I have used it with the same unvarying success in at least forty cases. The eruption never extends after the first thorough application, and it promptly begins to diminish. Within twenty-four hours, if the application be persisted in, the patient is entirely cured. There is no pain attending its use, as from that of astringents. Of course the epidermis peels off as after other treatment.

"I use the bromine dissolved in olive oil, in cosmoline, or in glycerine. The application with glycerine is painful, and, I think, possesses no advantage to compensate for the irritation. The strength of the solution is from ten to twenty drops of bromine to the ounce of oil, used by rubbing gently on the affected part three or four times a day, and especially on going to bed at night. You wash off the oil twice a day with castile soap.

"The bromine is so volatile that the solution should be renewed within twenty-four hours of its preparation, as it will get out of a bottle, however well corked. It is best to stand the bottle on its cork end, in the intervals of application.

"I have seen no publication of this treatment, and I, therefore, send you my experience with it, hoping to attract to it some little attention, and do the good which must result from its adoption." (The Medical Brief.)