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Original and Selected Papers.

ON THE EFFECT OF GLYCERIN IN MODIFYING THE
ACTION OF ASTRINGENTS.

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There have been few additions to the materia medica, which, in so short a time, have attained a more universal popularity, have been applied to as manifold uses, or been more generally extolled than glycerin. Its powers as a solvent, equalling, if not exceeding, those of alcohol, have opened up a wide field of usefulness which has generally been entered upon with great advantage. It may be, however, quite possible, and even probable, that a property of such ready adaptability, and of so wide a range, has been too generally made use of; sometimes under circumstances in which its effects may have proved the reverse of beneficial. Of such a character is the indiscriminate employment of glycerin in the preparation of tinctures or fluid extracts of vegetable substances of complex composition; when, though a presentable and permanent compound