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THE FARMER'S

MATERIA MEDICA;

CONTAINING

A LIST OF THE MOST USEFUL MEDICINAL VEGETABLES
INDIGENOUS TO THE UNITED STATES, WITH
THEIR QUALITIES.

WITH AN APPENDIX,

*Containing some Observations on Fevers, and Symptoms
of various Diseases, together with many other Remarks
and Observations.*

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BY JOHN C. MERWIN.
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1825.

Northern District of New-York, to wit:



BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the twenty-ninth day of August, in the fiftieth year of the Independence of the United States of America, A. D. 1825, JOHN C. MERWIN, of the said District, hath deposited in this office, the title of a book, the right whereof he claims as author, in the words following, to wit: *The Farmer's Materia Medica*; containing a list of the most useful Medicinal Vegetables Indigenious to the U. States with their qualities. With an appendix, containing some observations on fevers, and symptoms of various diseases, together with many other remarks and observations. By JOHN C. MERWIN.

In conformity to the act of the Congress of the United States, entitled "An act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned;" and also, to the act entitled "An act, supplementary to an act, entitled "an act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the author and proprietors of such copies during the times therein mentioned," and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, Engraving and etching historical and other prints."

R. R. LANSING,
Clerk of the Northern District of New-York.

INTRODUCTION.

The first column will contain the most familiar names, in English. The latin, or scientific names will succeed in rotation, so that those wishing to become acquainted with both, will be enabled to acquire that knowledge. The qualities of each article, manner of exhibition and preparation, will follow in succession as far as practicable and deemed necessary, but as the latin of some, and English of others, are sometimes doubtful, an omission may be expected.

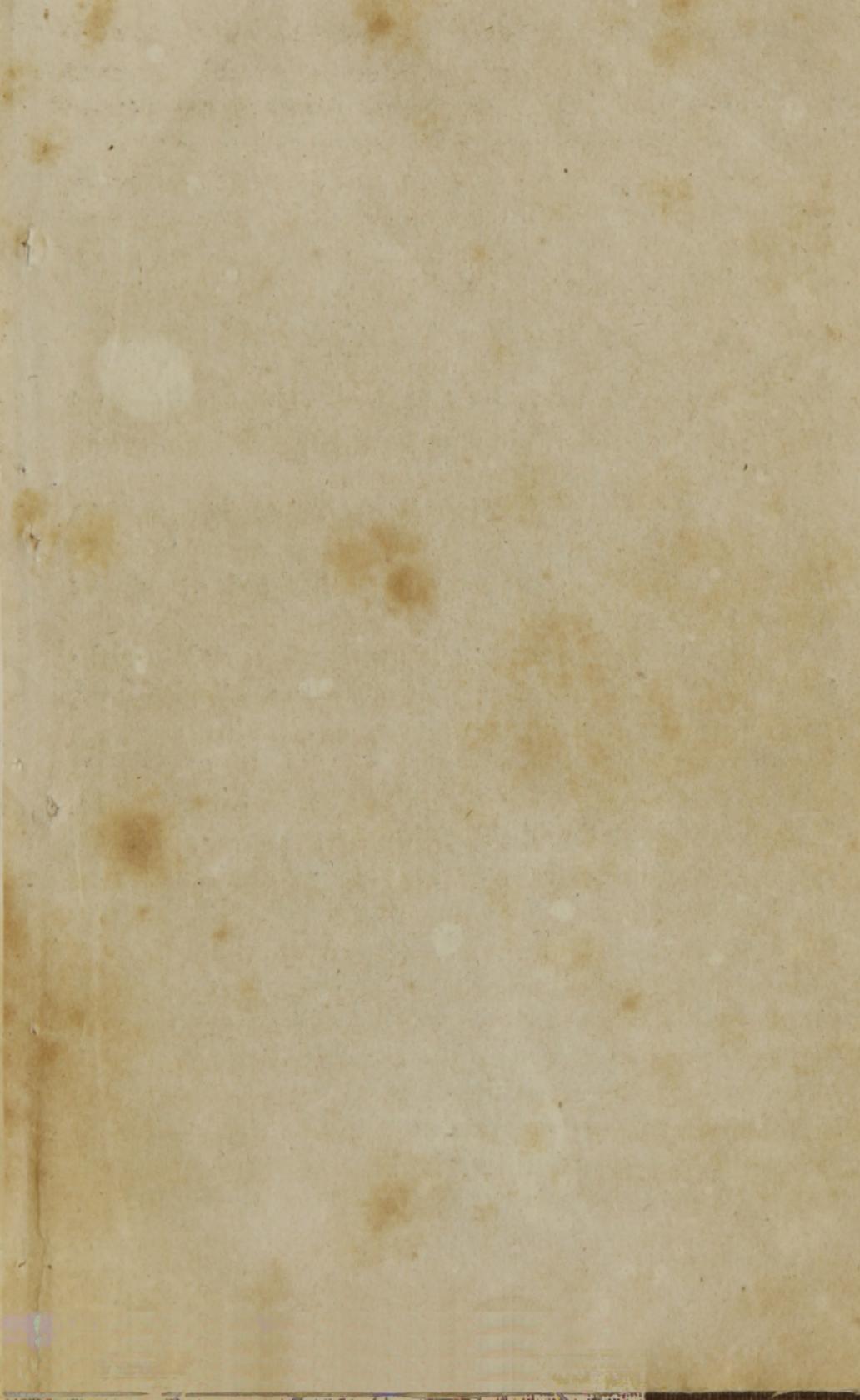
The utility of such a volume as this is too obvious to need elucidation, as it will enable almost every man to discover the medicinal herbs and roots growing in the country where he resides, and reap the blessings of that God, who has made the wise and salutary arrangement. It will also enable every attentive enquirer to administer the necessary draught to his own family, without the expense of those exorbitant physicians, who deal so profusely in poisonous minerals and exotics, which are better calculated to drain the purse and ruin the constitution, than extirpate the threatening malady.

It has long been believed and generally admitted, that the United States afforded medicinal plants sufficient to cure the diseases incident to the inhabitants, (if they could be cured by medicines of the vegetable kingdom.) There might have been an exception, as no doubt minerals are sometimes beneficial. It has also been much lamented by many,

as some persons can bear ten times as much as others, and what may agree with some would be most detestable to others. As habit renders medicines inert, the quantities must be increased or others of the same class given. Herbs and flowers should be gathered when in full bloom, dried as soon as possible, and kept so. As good a place, perhaps, for drying herbs, is in an upper loft, under the roof of a house next to the shingles, where they should be spread thin. As soon as sufficiently dry, they should be pressed together in a compact body. This may be done in a press made for that use or even a common cheese press.

Roots should be dug early in the spring, before they begin to shoot, or late in the fall when the stalks and leaves are decayed. They should not be washed, but dried near a stove, and kept from moulding. If the inside consists of a woody substance, the outside should be stripped off and preserved entire.

Roots that loose by drying, should be preserved in dry sand; such as smellage, blue flag, angelica, calamus or sweet flag, &c. &c.



NAMES AND QUALITIES OF ROOTS.

Allum Root.—*Heuchera Vicida.* An astringent, may be used in dysentery, diarrhœa or looseness of the bowels, sore mouth; an infusion may be used.

Alder, Black.—*Prinos Verticilatus.* Said to be a tonic, a substitute for the Peruvian Bark; good for worms—may be given in decoction.

Angelica Tree.—*Aralia Spinosa.* Stimulating and tonic; good in chronic rheumatism, venereal, colic, &c. best in an infusion.

Aven's Root.—*Geum Rivale.* Astringent; good to check bleeding at the stomach or lungs, strengthening to the nerves; may be used instead of tea or coffee in the morning.

Arrow Root.—*Maranta Arundinacea.* Nourishing; good in dysentery; may first be wet with cold water and made into porridge, similar to gruel; a large spoonful makes a quart.

Balm of Gillead (tree).—*Populus Balsamifera.*—The bark makes a good bitter; six buds beaten to a pulp, with an ounce of loaf sugar and as much spermaceti, and in doses of a teaspoonful, is good for a cough and spitting of blood.

Balm, (garden).—*Monarda Didyma.* A cordial diaphoretic, or an article which will sweat a little, but rather heating where the pulse is high.

Balsam of Fir.—*Abies Canadensis.* Good for fresh cuts; may be applied on a little lint. If taken inwardly to the amount of 15 or 20 drops 3 times a day, loosens the bowels and operates in the urine.

'Tis good in some kinds of cough and weakness of the breast, kidneys, &c.

Barberry—*Barberis Canadensis*. The bark of the root makes a healthy bitter in case of weakness, jaundice, &c.

Bayberry—*Myrica*. The bark pulverized makes a snuff that will cause violent sneezing; small doses promote perspiration, large ones puke. Much used by the patent doctors, (so said.)

Beech Drops—*Oribanche Virginiana*. Good to apply to cancerous affections, ulcers, sore mouth, inflamed eys; good in dysentery—may be used in an infusion or decoction.

Beaver Tree, Swamp Sassafras, Elk Bark—*Glauca*. A species of *Magnolia*. Stimulating, tonic, laxative or loosening to the bowels when used extensively; good in chronic rheumatism, debility, &c. a decoction is best. Made into an ointment with hard or fresh butter, cures the salt-rheum, ('tis said.)

Benjamin Tree, Hard Hack, Downy Merdow, Sweet Spirea—*Tomentosa*. Astringent; good in diarrhœa, bleeding at the stomach, spitting blood, flooding, &c. given in a tea, cold for discharges of blood, warm for fluxes or laxative bowels.

Blazing Star, Starwort, Devil's Bit, Colic Root.—*Helonias Dioica*. The root given in an infusion or powder, is excellent for sickness at stomach, especially for pregnant women. It is said to sweeten the breath by cleansing the stomach.

Blood Root—*Sanguinaria Canadensis*. A large dose pukes, small ones nauseate or sicken, and promote the natural evacuations, carry off bilious matter, cure jaundice, loosen phlegm; good for

coughs, croup or hives (call'd the rattles by many.) It lessens the frequency of the pulse, and may be used for liver complaints.

Blue Flag—*Iris Virginica*. An active purge when recently dug, given in small doses; good in chronic rheumatism, piles, dropsy, venereal, &c.&c. A poultice will often cure a felon or whitlow; it will sometimes blister.

Blue Stalk—*Ceruleum Pedestris*. The root infused in brandy and drunken almost to intoxication, cures that kind of rheumatism which is attended with little or no inflammation, but be cautious in using it where there is much inflammation; 'tis good in colic, canker-rash and sore mouth.

Bone-set, Thorough-wort-*Eupatorium Perfoliatum*. Small quantities made into a decoction, produces a moisture on the skin, invigorates the system, carries off bilious matter, regulates the bowels and cleanses the stomach; but large doses sicken, puke & purge.

Roman's Root. *Gillenia Trifoliata*. Pulverize the bark of the root, and give a tea spoon full: it will puke equal to Ipecac. Small doses bring a moisture upon the skin.

Box Wood—*Dog Wood*. *Cornus Florida*. The bark is a moderate tonic; strengthens the system. May be used instead of Peruvian bark.

Burdock Roots. *Arctium Lappa Bardana*. Produces moisture upon the skin; operates in the urine; cleanses the blood; good in dropsy and liver complaint. The seeds are very sweating, and may be used in fevers, resulting from obstructed perspiration. They will cure rheumatism. Give a tea spoon full morning and night, or oftener, pulverized in a little molasses.

Buttercups—Crowfoot. Ranunculus Acris. If you wish a lasting blister, bruise the leaves and apply; the design will be answered.

Butternut. Juglans Cinerea. Boil down to an extract, and make into pills of a common size, and take five or six for a dose. They are a very safe and sure purge.

Bittersweet. Solanum Dulcamara. Good in ointment for swellings, piles, stiff joints; especially when united with poke root and hellebore, with lard, stewed down strong.

Barley. Hordeum Distichon. Nutritious—good in diarrhœa, boiled in milk and water.

Buck Thorn. Rhamnus Catharticus. Loosening to the bowels, in small quantities; in large ones they are said to be very active. Said to be good in rheumatism, dropsy, &c. The berries are only used. They may be taken in substance, or in decoction.

Caroline Pink. Spigelia Marylandica. A good antidote for worms; may be given in decoction. Milk and sweetening should be added. An ounce made into a quart is enough for a child two years old, and should always be given on an empty stomach.

Catgut—Goat-tree. Tephrosia, Virginiana.—Given in decoction; kills worms.

Catnip. Nepeta Cataria. Moderately warming and sweating; good in poultices.

Celandine. Cheledonium Majus. The juice cures warts, foul ulcers, &c.

Cherry, wild or black. Cerasus Virginiana. The bark, in decoction, cures foul ulcers; good in jaundice and bitters.

Cinque Foil—Five Finger. *Potentilla simplex.* A decoction is good for stoppage of water, diseases of the kidneys.

Corchum Poke. Garget *Phytolacca Decandra.* An ointment made of the roots, good for rheumatic joints and limbs. The berries, infused in brandy, often cure the most inveterate rheumatism.

Cohosh, white, blue and red. All good for the rheumatism, where no fever.

Cockup Hat. *Stilingia Sylvatica.* A good purgative; excellent for dropsy, yaws, venereal, rheumatism, &c. &c. May be given in decoction.

Cohosh, black. *Cimicifuga Serpentaria.* Good in chronic rheumatism, cough and hysterics; best fresh dug; may be given in an infusion.

Coltsfoot. *Asarum Canadense.* A warm, stimulating medicine. If pulverized and taken in snuff, it purges the head and causes sneezing.

Cattail—Coltstail—Fireweed. Powdered fine and taken in the last stage of dysentery, will frequently cure in a short time. A decoction good in gravel and dropsy.

Continental Tea. *Ceanothus Americanus.* The bark of the root is a powerful astringent. Powdered and taken in the last stage of dysentery, will frequently check it instantly; good in diarrhœa and sore mouth, if made into a decoction.

Cotton (the wool.) *Gossipeum Herbaceum.*—Good applied to burns, when the skin is not broken.

Crane's Bill. *Geraneum Maculatum.* An intense astringent. The root, reduced to a powder, is highly esteemed for fluxes, discharges of blood, flooding, &c. Dose, half a tea spoon full. It may also be given in decoction.

Cucumber Tree. Magnolia Acuminata. Stimulating tonic ; good in chronic weakness, rheumatism, ague and fever ; may be given in an infusion.

Daffy Daffodil. Narcissus Pseudo. The roots are excellent for pukes ; good in whooping cough, and rising of the lungs.

Daisy. Chrysanthemum Leucanthemum. A decoction good in night sweats, where a person is consumptive.

Dandelion. Leontodon Taraxacum. Good in obstructions of the liver, costiveness, &c.

Devil's Bit—Stargrass—Unicorn. Aletris Alba. An excellent tonic. Good for a sick stomach, especially for pregnant women.

Devil's Guts. Green Briar. An infusion or decoction purges. Good in eruptive complaints, chronic rheumatism, &c.

Dewberry. Rubus Trivialis. Good in fluxes and gravel. May be given in decoction.

Dill, seed. Anethum semen. A carminative ; expels wind.

Dock, broad leaved. Rumex Obtusifolium. The dried root, purges ; a dose is two tea spoon fulls ; powdered fine and mixed with lard, is said to cure the salt rheum.

Dock, narrow. The root, boiled and applied to cancerous complaints and foul ulcers, often cures, after many things fail. The root, pulverized and taken to the quantity of half a tea spoon full two or three times a day, stops spitting of blood.

Dock, water, cures the king's evil, taken a long time in decoction.

Dock, red stripe. The roots, used in decoction,

are good in consumptive diseases, and is called (by some) consumption root.

Doeg's Bane, Ipicac, Indian Hemp. Apocynum Androsomifolium. May be used for a puke; a spoon full of the powder generally operates sufficiently. A decoction will answer the same purpose. Best to begin with small doses.

Dogwood. Cornus Florida. The bark, especially of the root, is a mild tonic; good in cases of weakness; may be used in decoction or spirits; a substitute for the Jesuits or Peruvian bark, called of late cinchona.

Dragon Root, Wild Turnip. Aurum Triphillium. Very pungent when recently dug, loses by drying. Good in cough, for wind in the bowels and stomach; may be dried and pulverized, or given in decoction.

Elder, common. Sambucus Canadensis. A decoction of the bark will puke and purge; flowers are good for infants to regulate the bowels and keep them loose. The bark, made into an ointment with lard, is good for burns, &c.

Elder, mountain or dwarf. Sambucus Pubens. This will also puke and purge, but is most useful in gravel and dropsy. It must be given in decoction.

Elecampane. Inulia Helenium. Good for coughs, rheumatism and colic.

Everlasting. Gnaphalum Americanum. Warming and sweating. A syrup made of this herb, sweetened with loaf sugar, and the addition of a little good French brandy, has cured one, said to be in a deep consumption.

Featherfew. Pyrethrum Parthemum. An infu-

sion good in hysterical affections, sickness at stomach, and some female complaints.

Fever-wort, Wild Gentian Bastard Ipicac. Triosteum Perfolitum. The bark of the root pukes in the same quantities as jalap; purges in small doses. It regulates the bowels, removes obstructions, and good for coughs, rheumatism, king's evil, &c. &c.

Fir, Balsam. See balsam of fir.

Flower Deluce. Iris Versicolor. The root, made into a decoction, promotes urine, and sometimes cures the dropsy.

Fringe Tree. Chioanthus Virginica. Strengthening; good in intermittent fevers; may be used in an infusion.

Fox Glove. Digitalis. This is a powerful article, and must be given with the utmost caution; for although it often proves a powerful diuretic, and relieves dropsy, yet it debilitates, sinks the pulse, &c. It may be given in tincture or substance.—Consult Thatcher's works.

Flax-seed—Lini Semini. A decoction good in coughs, good in poultices where designed to bring to a head or ripen.

Florentine Orris—Oris Florentina. Good in female obstructions, gravel, stoppage of urine, &c.

Fever Root—Friosteum Perfoliatum. A decoction is said to abate inflammation almost instantly.—Good for sore mouth.

Gentian. Gentiana Catesbœ G. Ochroleucha.—The bark of the root makes a good bitter, will sometimes cure the rheumatism, hip complaints, good in habitual colics.

Ginsen Panax—Quinquefolium. A weak but

pleasant bitter, expels wind, good in colics and weak stomachs.

Golden Rod. Solidago Odora. A pleasant aromatic.

Golden Thread. Coptis Trifolias. A pure bitter, good for bilous complaints, jaundice, sore lips, canker, sore mouth, &c.

Groundsel. Senecio Vulgaris. A strong infusion makes a good puke, the leaves bruised and applied to boils are very good to ease the pain, given in substance kills worms.

Garlick. Allium Sativum. Strung on a string and worn round a child's neck, prevents worms from rising in the throat; an ointment made by bruising and mixing them in lard, and rubbed from the back of the neck to the extremity of the backbone, bathed in by moderate heat and friction, relieves the whooping cough very quick.

Hemlock, (the herb.) Conium Maculatum. A narcotic poison, however the best article in poultice ever discovered to rot or discuss a tumor; the extract is good in king's evil, must be given a long time; the dose should be sufficient to produce giddiness.

Hemlock, (the tree.) Abies Canadensis. This is an evergreen tree; the bark is an astringent, good in the last stage of dysentary, diarrhæ; the gum or extract makes a good plaster for the rheumatism, lame back, pain in the breast or side.

Hellebore. Veratrum Viride. A poisonous vegetable, made into a strong decoction, cures the itch; the root pulverized fine, makes a snuff that occasions violent sneezing.

Henbane. Hyecyamus Niger. Is poison, but the extract may be used instead of opium to ease pain and procure sleep, and has this advantage, that it does not constipate the bowels or make costive.

Horehound. Marubium Vulgare. A very bitter tonic, possessing some anodyne qualities, promotes perspiration, good for coughs, may be made into tea or syrup.

Hops. Humulus Lupulus. Made into a decoction, strengthen the stomach, abate pain; good in poultice to an inflamed part, quinsey & catarrh, &c.

Horse-radish. Cochliaria Armoracia. Stimulating, good in scurvy, dropsy, &c.

Jerusalem Oak, (seeds.) Chenopodium Authel-minticum. The seeds bruised and given for worms exceeds almost any other remedy.

Juniper, (common.) Juniperus Communis. Given in an infusion, promotes perspiration and urine; the oil reduced to essence by the addition of alcohols, is good in female obstructions.

Ladies Delight. Radix Nervina. This is as valuable as any other root perhaps yet discovered; it makes a delightful, salutary and useful bitter, it expels wind, gives an appetite, operates in the urine, exhilarates, and often cures the dropsy; it may be given in an infusion, or in gin, whiskey, &c.

Lilly of the valley. Convallaria Majus. Purges like jalap; may be given in doses of a teaspoonful.

Lion's Foot, Snake Root. Prenantes Serpentaria. The root steeped in water is highly extolled in the cure of snake bites, especially the rattlesnake; it has also been recommended in asthma and phthisic.

Low Centaury. Hypericum Parviflorum. An intense bitter, good for a weak stomach and loss of appetite.

Mallozs, (low.) Malva Rotundifolia. Good in dysentary and diseases of the kidneys, also good for poultices to allay inflammation.

Mandrake, May-apple. Podophyllum Peltatum. The roots dug in October at the full of the moon, are a mild but sure cathartic or purge, and may be given in doses of a teaspoonful; sprinkled on sores cleanses them and destroys the fungus or proud flesh.

Marsh Rosemary. Staice Limonium. The roots are a powerful astringent, good for sore mouth, sore throat where there is a laxity of parts; the best preparation is a decoction, useful in diarrhœa and last stage of dropsy.

Masterwort seeds. Imperiatoria Ostruthium.— Warming, expels wind from the stomach and bowels; may be used in an infusion, but cover tight the vessel.

May-weed. Anthemis Cotula. May be used in decoction for colds, it is moderately sweating and strengthening, a good substitute for camomile.

Mercury Vine, Poison Oak. Rhus Toxicodendron. Very poisonous, good in palsey, venereal, &c. may be given in decoction.

Mint, Spear. Mentha Sativa M. Virides. The herb is less, the oil more stimulating than the pepper-mint; it some times relieves sick stomach, expels wind.

Mint, Pepper. Mentha Piperata. Stimulating, expels wind, good in hysterics.

Moon seed. Datura Tatula, D. Stramonium. A great antispasmodic, may be given by a skilful person in epileptic fits; smoked with tobacco relieves the asthma and phtthisic.

Motherwort. Leonurus Cardiaca. Good in nervous affections, hystericks, procures sleep, eases pain and promotes perspiration.

Mustard seed. Sinipis Niger and Alba. Stimulating, good in dropsy and scurvey.

Marjoram. Origanum Aromatica. Stimulating and penetrating, good in Opodeldock, &c.

Nightshade. See Henbane.

Orche Jaegged. The juice purges, a spoonful is a dose.

Oak, White. Quercus Albus. A powerful astringent and tonic, good in the last stage of dysentery and diarrhœa.

Oak, Black. Much like the white in quality.

Ox Balm. Bova Melissa. Sweating, good in colds, rheumatism, gravel and dropsy; may be given in decoction.

Parsley Roots. Apium Pekoselinum. Operates in the urine, good in dropsy and gravel.

Penneroyal. Hedeona Pulegioides. Stimulating and sweating, good in female obstructions.

Persimon. Diopiros Virginiana. Bark of the root some astringent and strengthening or tonic, taken for a length of time it moves the bowels; the ripe fruit is laxative and said to destroy worms, the root or bark must be used in decoction.

Pipsisseway, Princes Pine. Pyrola Umbettata. Good in chronic rheumatism and gravel, much extol'd in cancerous affections; taken in decoction

promotes perspiration and warms the habit, corrects bad humors, and may be given in typhus.

Pride of India. The bark of the root is a very sure remedy for worms, but must be given with caution; give it in decoction, sweeten and add milk.

Prickley Ash. *Zanthoxylum Ramniflorum.*— Good for chronic rheumatism, it is best prepared in brandy.

Poppy. *Papaver Somniferum.* Opium may be made from the heads of the white and red, by incision; a poultice of the leaves or flowers eases pain and abates irritation.

Potatoe Fly. *Cantharis Vittala.* Equal to the Spanish fly for blisters, but said to possess a peculiar quality for curing gleet & fluor albus or whites, given in tincture.

Pine Rosin. *Pinus Palustris.* Detergent but rather heating; taken into the stomach operates as physic in large doses, and more or less in the urine.

Polypods. *Polypodium.* This root when used in decoction, loosens the bowels; its astringency renders it good in bowel complaints; it may be given in decoction.

Poplar. *Populus Alba.* The white poplar bark of the root is excellent for worms, may be given in decoction.

Queen of the Meadow. *Euplarium Perpurium.* Good in gravel and dropsy; may be given in decoction or infusion.

Rayweed, Roman Wormwood. *Ambrosia Elatior.* Good in weakness of the nerves, hysterics, dysentery, flooding, discharges of blood of all kinds, both externally and internally.

Rattlesnake's Master. *Liatris Squarvosa.* A strong decoction, taken into the stomach and applied externally, cure the bite of the rattlesnake, sore throat, thrush, &c.

Roses, red. *Rosa Bubia.* Astringent; loosens the bowels when given to infants in form of decoction, or tea. A very strong infusion sometimes checks flooding, very suddenly.

Sanicle, or Black Snake Root. *Sanicula Marylandica.* Stimulating and sweating; good in female obstructions, where the pulse is low.

Saffron, (the flowers or petals) *Crocus Sativus.* An elegant aromatit, possessing a sweating anodyne quality, de obstruens. Good to drive out humors, measles, &c. Said to be exhilarating.

Sassafras. *Lauras Sassafras.* Moderately stimulating, sweating, purifying to the blood. The oil, applied to a hollow tooth, stops its aching, often instantly. A few drops, taken on sugar at bed time, often cure a stitch, or pain in the back and side; good for rheumatism, applied externally or taken internally.

Scull Cap. *Scutellaria Integrifolia.* Good in nervous affections and chronic rheumatism. May be used in an infusion or spirits.

Staves Acre, Lark Spur. *Delphinium Staphisagria.* Loosens the bowels, cures eruptions; said to be good in chronic rheumatism and venereal complaints. May be given in decoction.

Senna, American. *Folium Sennæ.* Purges equal to the imported; may be given in decoction.

Seneca Rattlesnake Root. *Polygala Senega.* Sudorific, or sweating; large quantities purge and

puke. Good in croup (called by some the rattles.) It may be given in substance, or in decoction.

Shot Bush, Hercules Club, Angelica Tree. *Aralia Spinosa.* This is a beautiful shrub, good for chronic rheumatism and veneral diseases. It will cure the tooth ache instantly. A decoction may be used for the two first mentioned diseases, and the berries for the toothache.

Sipsissewa, spotted wintergreen. Similar to the princes pine.

Skunk Cabbage. *Simplocarpus Fœtidus.* The root is very acrid and antispasmodic; good in asthma, or phthisic. The little balls, pulverized and given for worms, are a very sure remedy.

Slippery Elm. *Ulmus Fulva.* Mucilaginous; Good in coughs, given in decoction. A poultice made by bruising and beating up in water till it appears to become a uniform jelly, makes an excellent poultice for burns or inflamed sores.

Sneeze Weed. The petals or flowers, pulverized and taken as snuff, occasion violent sneezing. Good to clear the head.

Solomon's Seal Root. Mucilaginous, strengthening. Good in fluor albus, or whites. May be used in a syrup. Good in rickets; so is the kind that bears a speckled berry.

Sorrel Wood. *Rumex Acetosa.* The expressed juice, dried down to a salve and applied to a cancer or foul ulcer, often makes a radical cure.

Spice Wood, Spice Bush, Benjamin Tree. *Laurus Benzoin.* A decoction of this shrub makes a good drink, in what is called fevers; it sweats moderately.

Spikenard. *Aralia Rocemosa.* Cleansing or de-

tergent; if bruised and boiled in milk and water, it makes a good wash for foul ulcers, and may be used in poultice; good for sore mouth, bitters, &c.

Staves Acre, Bee Larkspur, Beaver Tree, Elk Bark. *Glauca.* A species of Magnolia; a tonic and bitter, loosens the bowels when used largely; cures the ague; may be given in decoction.

Sweet Fern. *Comptonia Asplenifolia.* Stimulating tonic, good in rheumatism, anodyne, promotes perspiration and other evacuations.

Succory. *Cichorium Intibus.* The juice of the roots promote the secretions in general; taken in large doses loosens the belly, cures eruptions; may be given in decoction.

Swamp Sassafras, Beaver Tree, Elk Bark. A species of Magnolice, a tonic, loosens the bowels when used freely, cures the ague; may be used in decoction.

Spurred Rye, Ergot. *Secale Cornutum.* Said to promote delivery and cause abortion, but very dangerous and ought rarely to be vented on; a few grains make a dose.

Tansey. *Tanacetum Vulgare.* Tonic anodyne; relieves hysterics and nervous affections.

Thistle Canada. The root good in dysentery; may be used in decoction.

Thistle Ball or large wild thistle. The root bruised and wet with sharp vinegar, is said to cure a weeping sinew if worn on the part a few days and repeated.

Thistle Blessed. *Carduus Benedictus.* Sweating, removes obstructions occasioned by cold.

Tulep Tree. *Liriodendron Tulipifera.* Bark of

the root a stimulating tonic, makes a good bitter, cures the ague, good in old rheumatic complaints; given in powder to children for worms to the quantity of half a teaspoonful, destroys worms; may be mixed in molasses.

Vervain, (blue.) *Verbena Hastata*. A decoction of the roots puke and purge taken largely, small ones keep the skin moist and remove many obstructions.

White Snake Root. Sweating, good in rheumatism, ague and fever, or where sweating is necessary.

Wild Fennel. *Cicuta Bulbiferu*. The seeds made into a decoction cure the gravel; begin with small doses.

Wild Indigo. *Podalyria Tinctoria*. One of the best articles for indolent ulcers and cancerous sores ever discovered; the root pulverized and sprinkled on, cleanses, eats out and removes the affected parts or fungus flesh; a decoction may be used for a wash.

Wild Hysop, Mountain Mint. A good aromatic, expels wind, removes pains in the stomach and warms the habit.

Water Seabicus. *Seabiosa Aquatica*. A powerful astringent, good to check bleeding, good in dysentery, diarrhœa, &c.

Wormwood. *Artemisia Absinthium*. A strong bitter, strengthening to the stomach, good for dropsy, hysterics and worms; may be used in decoction or spirits.

Yarrow Root, (and tops.) *Achillea Millefolium*. Pungent, warming, stimulating; chewed and confined to a hallow tooth, prevents its aching general-

ly; good in dysentery, flooding and checking of blood; may be used in decoction, for dysentery warm, stopping blood cold; women might worship this root.

Yellow Root. Hydrastis Canadensis. Good for bitters, gives a good appetite, promotes digestion, good in dyspepsia.

AN APPENDIX.

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON FEVERS AND THEIR CURES.

The term Fever appears familiar to almost every person of common understanding, and is applied indiscriminately to almost every species of disease. For instance, if a person is taken ill with a common cold, it is often reported that he has a fever; interrogate even the attending physician, and he will say, (perhaps) I am apprehensive he is going to have a settled fever. Ask the same purgative character what he means by the term *fever*, and he will afford you as many evasive answers as his ingenuity can invent; he will tell you, perhaps, that it proceeds from obstructed perspiration, or a bad cold, or he is bilious. In fact, to trace all the meanderings of a set of men, who act more by imitation than sound reason and philosophy, would be a task beyond the limits of this little volume, and would probably rouse the ambition of a host of beings, who are always actuated too much by preju-

dice, self interest and imagination, to listen to the voice of truth and reason; but as I am not disposed to interrupt such characters, I shall forbear extending the subject to any great length, but barely give a few hints, in hopes some may fall into a proper train of thinking on the subject. As I am not riveted to any one system, as I am loth to touch the feelings of hide-bound devotees, I shall impartially proceed to make a few remarks, which I conceive absolutely necessary, to elucidate the subject offered to the consideration of those who may wish to become acquainted with the nature of diseases and their proper names, instead of an ambiguous term used to designate every thing and nothing, (like the word fever.) That the word *fever* may be used to express some identity, is admitted, and that I shall use it to signify heat only; I could wish to be understood, that as long as a person exists, he is endowed with animal heat, is also acknowledged, which it would be improper to call fever. What I shall call fever, is a preternatural degree of heat lurking in the organized body. Instead of calling a fever disease, shall call it symptom or product only. I shall also urge that an augmented velocity of the blood, or an increased action of the arteries, (as some state) is not fever, any more than wood is fire; but that the former may produce fever by friction or compression, as well as wood will produce fire by proper management. Fever then being only the symptom, or product of some disease existing in the system, it follows of course, that we search for the disease indicated by the symptom or product; as heat is the result of friction, it follows

that where a person is attended with fever, thirst and heat, above the common standard, that there must be some irritating power or stimuli, forcing the blood through the heart and arteries with greater velocity than usual, consequently producing more heat by the friction operating on the sensorial power or excitability.

That diseases generally, if not always, proceed from, or consist of, some irritating power, is too evident to admit of controversy; that the irritating power may proceed from, or consist of, contagion, poison, contusions, pressure, or the retention of some natural evacuation, is my opinion, let others think as they please. However, so long as a set of men can persuade the people at large, that the nature of diseases and their cures, consist of some great mystery; so long will they continue to impose on them, and their impositions will pass currently as long as terms are ambiguous, or enveloped in a language little understood; it is also certain, that so long as people neglect, or refuse to become acquainted with the truth, they will be imposed upon by falsehood and error. It is also my opinion, that so long as they prefer foreign articles to those of their own country, they will part with their money like fools and neglect their privileges like men destitute of reason.

If diseases proceed from the causes above enumerated, it will be easy to detect them, and the cures will be equally so. For instance, if an obstructed perspiration constitutes the complaint, give sudorifics, or diaphoretics,* named in the preced-

* Sweating remedies.

ing pages. If costive, use laxatives, also named in this work. If a redundance of bile or bilious, give medicines recommended for the jaundice; at any rate attend to the natural evacuations, and you may bid defiance to those sons of Esculapius, who deal so profusely in poisonous minerals and exotics, which are eventually better calculated to drain the purse and ruin the constitution, than to liberate you from the direful malady.

As this treatise or selection, is intended for the benefit of the common class of people, it is thought needless to theorise on the subject of diseases, especially on intricate or controverted points. Therefore I shall not make the attempt, but proceed to state those facts which are best calculated to afford necessary information to the ordinary capacity, without embarrassing the mind with a long train of philosophical remarks beyond the reach of their comprehension, for although I may incur the censure of the critic, I shall merit the applause of the honest enquirer.

It has long been a maxim, that caution is the parent of security, and if any thing requires the application of this proverb, it is in the treatment of diseases and choice of a physician. It is shocking to human nature to think of death, although it is inseparably connected with our physical natures, but it is more alarming to behold our fellow mortals and dearest friends, swept from the society of the living by an ignorant or learned quack. Under a solemn impression, and from long observation, I am led to believe that thousands, in the prime of life, have been launched into eternity by both classes of spe-

culators, and probably thousands have, and will fall victims to the rigor of their indiscriminate practices. Why? Because the invalid or sick person, has no criterion whereby he can select the one best calculated to afford him relief.

Every man has his partizans, his favorite friends and advocates, who often, regardless of truth and honesty, or blind with prepossession and prejudice, will recommend a practitioner better calculated for a butcher than for an angel of salubrity. Some suppose, that if a man belongs to the Medical Society and has a diploma, he possesses all the qualifications necessary; others having beheld the direful effects of mercury and the unlimited use of the bloody lancet, are ready to conclude it less dangerous to fall into the hands of an illiterate Indian or white man, who does not hesitate to pour in his vegetable compositions, regardless of assimilation, decomposition, chemical process and analogy, or any philosophical principles relative to the case. State these facts to the aspiring object of distress, and what is his reply? Why, says he, I know if I send for an apothecary doctor, he will first reduce me with his lancet and drastic purges, so that I shall be hardly able to draw my breath, and in the next place he will pour in his calomel till my teeth drop out, or my constitution is ruined; but the root doctor will do me no harm if he does no good, so I believe I will try him. The root doctor (so called) advances, pours down his promiscuous draught and the patient recovers. Encomiums issue from the lips of his favorite friends at a distance, almost incalculable, and the root doctor is soon sent for with

speed, at the distance of 50 or perhaps 100 miles, to another patient torn down by the unlimited practice of blood letting and the profusion of mercury, and with his simples, (so called) soon rears the poor languishing sufferer from a chronic disease, perhaps of several years standing. What is the consequence? Why, applause and consolation on the one side, and malice, falsehood and detraction on the other.

The learned quacks and their associates, display their venom and wield their hostility, not only with an air of pomp and splendor, but with equal energy to a British fleet armed to conquer the freeborn sons of America, to confine their privileges within the scanty boundaries of a tyrannical government, and cause them to yield their prolific soil to a band of public robbers. The learned quack is unwilling that any one should be cured by those simple means discovered by the honest competitors. Honest competitors, did I say? Yes! But do not mistake, I did not say that honesty qualified a man for the practice of physic, any more than vice teaches wisdom; but the honest man will be careful in doing harm, and will search for better information; but the learned quack will refuse instruction, abuse, back-bite, censure, and strive to injure every practitioner, who does not exactly coincide with himself, and pursue his own limited, contracted, and conceited plans, built on poison and bloodshed; though a man has been through a regular study, obtained his credentials and become a legal member of the Medical Society, yet if he is willing to improve, or uses the indigenous plants of America, he

is stigmatised, called a quack, an imposter, an ignoramus and every thing that can be thought of repugnant to truth and honesty; although he may do wonders, and cure thousands, that cannot be relieved by the common practice. Those monsters in human shape, continually wielding shafts of infamy, are worse than the high-way robber, for they not only injure the man of science and experience, but deter the poor sufferer from applying to one who might afford relief. To call a man a quack who has been through a regular study and become a member of the Medical Society, because he has made some improvements unknown to themselves, is repugnant to truth, reason and honesty. This, some (who are absolutely guilty of) will perhaps deny, but I know by sad experience, as it has long been the case with myself, for while I howled with the same wolves they deemed me eminent, as will be seen by a copy of my license issued by order of a Medical Society of this state, a copy of which is the following:

These are to certify that John C. Merwin, is authorised to practice physic and surgery according to (L. S.) the laws of the state of New-York, and in high standing as a member of the Medical Society of the county of Onondaga. By order of said society. Given under my hand and seal of the society, A. D. 1806, the 10th of October.

WALTER COTTON, *Sec'y.*

A few remarks more before I dismiss the subject: It may seem by the preceeding observations that I have imputed all this abusive clamor to the cause of not imitating the peculiar plans of those quacks,

who make the lancet and mercurials their hobbies' perhaps I ought to have said that they made that the excuse for crying out quack, imposter, ignorance, &c. but on little reflection I am ready to conclude, that self interest has a greater influence on their sordid dispositions, for many have condemned my practice and pronounced me a quack, ignorant, &c. who never exchanged a word with me on medical subjects in their lives; this shows their mean, illiberal and rascally principles. In justice, however, to Dr. Johnson of Champion, I would observe, that he is not of that sordid club, but has ever acted the candid gentleman; some few others might be excused, but I presume none but the guilty will be offended. Now my dear reader, caution is the word to be observed; fear most the dishonest man, the knave that is conceited and condemns without evidence, censuring without cause, one who ascribes all merit to a bloody lancet and poisonous minerals. Nor do you be enamored with the pelucid rays of a burning torch, nor by those who tell you that life is heat and death is cold, and so sweat, heat and stimulate, and increase the morbid or inflammatory action, till they burst every artery, crisp your veins, destroy excitability, and leave you torpid as a stone. No, beware of this rigid plan, for it would kill as soon as to cast you into a hot furnace, or as to plunge into a mountain of ice.— Let reason be your guide, and experience your testimony. To say that fever is a friend and must be encouraged, and that stimulating and sweating is always necessary, in some degree is as inconsistent as to assert, that where two clocks were so derang-

ed that one gained an hour in twelve, and the other lost in the same ratio, they would be equally regulated by accelerating the motion of both. But I am willing to give Dr. Thompson credit for his ingenuity and native genius, and do believe that altho' attempting to escape one extreme, he has fallen into another, but his system supersedes the common practice. The reason on which I found my opinion, is much living testimony, and a conscious belief that his plan has a tendency to promote the natural evacuations, especially that by the skin, which being obstructed, is the cause of more diseases than any other one cause whatever, (except intemperence) I mean every kind of intemperence, as drinking, eating, sleeping, amusements, self-abuses, gratifications, beyond the power of nature to support. Attend to these observations and those hinted at in a preceeding page, and you will enjoy health, and escape the ravages of many diseases, and those quacks who are aspiring to gain your applause and pick your pockets. If you wish to be happy and healthy, pursue the path of virtue, be prudent, exercise reason, study nature and the use of those harmless vegetables that God has placed in your reach.

On the selection of a physician. If the simple means you become acquainted with, should fail to afford relief when sick, (if possible) send for a man who has been regularly graduated in his profession, yet willing to improve by the strictest investigation of every system, and a competent knowledge of all the indigenous plants; otherwise let me advise you my reader, to employ a man who has made nature his study, uses simples, fears God, and lives soberly.

REMARKS.

Although diseases do result (in my opinion) from the causes already enumerated, their symptoms are various, and perhaps require some discriminating characteristics. For altho' Brown and some other philosophical gentlemen have judiciously varied in opinion, the current of opposition has been too strong to overpower that influence resulting from self-interest, tradition, and prepossession; therefore I shall indulge my readers with the ordinary train of symptoms, appellations and modes of treatment in some degree, since I have little hopes of introducing a new system at once, or engaging the noisy multitude wafted by those noxious breezes alluded to. Although this treatise or these remarks, were not promised to my subscribers, nor contemplated when I first commenced writing; I have since concluded it might be gratifying to some of my readers, and hope to evade censure upon the grounds of its not corresponding with other circumstances, since it costs nothing to the purchaser, but a perusal. I do acknowledge that it has long been my opinion, that a revolution in our profession was absolutely necessary, but on viewing the established system and attachment to ancient usages, I despaired of that millenium, as I do of the era when the lion and the lamb will embrace each other in harmless repose, to echo the praises of an immaculate Being, whose efficient power brought them into existence. Oh! Superstition. Oh! Prepossession

and Prejudice. Alas! Self-interest, regardless of public good; thou monster, a bane to human felicity, an enemy to reason, and degrading to a noble creature. Thou hast bound in adamantine chains, the intellectual powers of thousands. Thou hast tyrannized over the blessings of reason. Thou hast confined in the narrow limits of a contracted circle, the (otherwise) prolific minds of beings born but little inferior to angels. May God shake the ground work of your sordid opinions, and awaken you to the beauties and voice of reason.

Intermittent, or Ague and Fever.

Symptoms.—Is that disease which has periodical intermissions or paroxisms. From the distance of time between the symptoms, the disease receives its name. Thus if the fit (so call'd) returns every day, it is called a quotidiean, if every other or third day, a tertian, if every fourth a quartan. This disease commences with a general debility, stretching, yawnings, succeeded by a sense of cold in the back and extremities, which increase till the whole system can hardly avoid shaking and trembling, while he seems to crave the fire-side or covering to screen him from the frigid visitor; this continues some time, at length they begin to abate, a pain in the head, a violent thirst, flushes of heat and fever ensues, and the patient craves something to cool his parched tongue. These are the general symptoms, but sometimes other symptoms also accompany the disease, a sweat generally terminates the paroxism. This proves that where there is a uniform action in the system, and all the secretions and evacuations

are regular, there will be neither chill nor fever.—The cure then depends on liberating the organized body from those irritating powers which constitute the disease. This may be effected by first cleansing the stomach and bowels with a dose or two of mandrake roots, or a dose or two of American Ipecac. As soon as the stomach and bowels are cleansed, an infusion of equal quantities of boneset and vervain. As soon as the chills have subsided, use strong bitters or a decoction of black cherry tree and poplar, or whitewood bark of the roots, but avoid fatigue and the causes which first produced the disease.

Remittent or Bilious Fever, (so called.)—The symptoms are very similar to those in the preceding complaint, only that the latter has no conspicuous intermissions, but some abatement of the symptoms, the eyes appear more yellow, the skin more constant dry, a discharge of bilious matter from the stomach or bowels, giddiness of the head; but even in what is called the bilious fever, is frequently accompanied by a partial moisture on the skin, i.e. about the breast, face, &c. but the hands and feet generally remain dry.

Cure.—In this disease as well as all others, attend to the natural evacuations, if the pulse is full in the first stage, bleed largely, give a puke or two, and purges, as directed in the ague. Keep up a moisture (if possible) on the skin, small doses of lobelia and mandrake root pulverised fine, may be given once in two hours—say one grain of the former with six of the latter. By attention to this, the bilious matter will be carried off, the fever will subside,

and the patient recovers, if, however, the disease should leave him weak, some of the bitters may be proper.

Nervous Fever, (so called.) Symptoms.—This disease has been described by different authors under various names. The nervous fever, the slow fever, the gaol fever, the malignant fever, &c. It would be needless to shew cause why it has born so many appellations; let it suffice to say, that when the nerves are affected more than any other part, it may be called a nervous disease. This as well as other diseases (called fevers) is generally attended with a sense of cold and heat alternately, but with less violence, but a dejection of spirits, lassitude, tremor of the hands, sighing, sometimes picking at the bed clothes, and quick small pulse; deafness sometimes accompanies this disease.

Cure.—In this disease also, particular attention must be paid to keeping the bowels regular and skin moist, a puke or two and a gentle purge may be proper, but large evacuations are rarely admissible, nor is bleeding necessary, unless a violent pain in the head, side, or some other part, appears to indicate a local affection, then bleed largely, but not until you have tried the pukes and purges. The purges and sweating medicines recommended in the bilious and ague, will be proper, while the patient should use a tea made of fever root or ladie's delight, and after the system has become well regulated, and nothing remains but debility, the bitters may be used with some of the ladie's delight.

Inflammation of the brain. Symptoms.—A violent head ache, inflamed eyes, a throbbing of the arte-

ries of the temples and neck, incapability of bearing the light or noise, a delirium and picking the bed clothes; the pulse is sometimes languid, and other times hard and contracted; the mind chiefly runs on subjects that has occupied the attention prior to that period, and some times from a sullen silence, the patient becomes suddenly delirious and outrageous.

Cure.—Bleeding largely is the main prospect, however, as in all other cases, attend to the natural evacuations; keep the bowels loose and skin moist, by the use of those articles already specified. A poultice of red beets, however, has often done wonders in this case; sometimes blistering will be necessary after bleeding; if nothing else will do, shave off the hair close, and cover the whole head with a blistering plaster.

Cold, (or obstructed perspiration.) Symptoms.—Its first symptoms are a stoppage of the nose, some times head ache, pains in the bones, (as they call it) coughs, hoarseness, increased quantities of mucus from the nose, the tears gush from the eyes, the pulse either high or suppressed, sometimes a sore throat, ear ache, &c.

Cure.—Live sparingly, bathe the feet in luke warm water, (not too hot) but continue the bathing until a moisture appears on the skin, while using a weak decoction of some sweating herb; ox balm roots, is perhaps one of the best articles ever discovered; a small handful of the root cut fine, will make a gallon of the decoction; half a gill will be a common dose, which must be repeated often; if the pulse be very full and patient thirsty, with a

white coat upon the tongue, bleed largely; attend to the bowels, keep them loose.

Quinsey, or inflammatory sore throat. Symptoms.—This disease is distinguished by a sense of pain, heat, and tightness about the throat, swelling of the glands, difficulty of swallowing, particularly fluids.

Cure.—The remedy is included in the receipt for the quinsey, but in addition, bleed largely in the first stage, sweat and take physic; bathe the feet often in luke warm water.

Mumps. Symptoms.—A slight fever which subsides after the appearance of a tumor, or swelling near the joint that connects the lower jaw to the upper one, sometimes only on one side, at other times on both; the swelling increases for four or five days, and then subsides.

Cure.—Little more is necessary than to keep the bowels regular, and live on a spare diet; however, the afflicted ought to take the utmost care not to get cold, for should it so happen, the consequence would be of a most horrid nature, leaving the effects during life, if the diseased should happen to survive the present time.

Sore Eyes. This disease may proceed from different causes, and in some instances, require variations in the treatment, but this treatment is calculated for those attended with violent inflammation, and as the symptoms are always known, being a located disease, it is needless to enumerate them.

Cure.—It will be necessary to avoid every thing of a heating nature, especially spirits of all kinds, cider, &c.; keep the bowels a little loose, apply the eye water made according to the recipe, if that

fails, use 'Thompson's ; his eye water is, (in my opinion,) the best ever invented.

Pleurisy. Symptoms.—An acute pain in one side, while the back, throat and shoulders, sometimes sympathize ; a difficulty of breathing and cough, generally are concomitant circumstances, but the symptoms of this, as well as in all other diseases, may vary ; sometimes there is an expectoration of blood.

Cure.—As soon as it can be ascertained that a person has a pleurisy, they ought to be bled largely and repeatedly, or as much as the constitution can bear : if the pain continues, apply a large blister ; if possible, give a decoction of white root, called also butterfly root, harvest broot, irth root, pleurisy root ; the latin of it is *Aselepias Tuberosa* ; if this cannot be had, use a tea of ox balm root, or seneca rattle-snake root ; if neither can be obtained, use some other sweating medicines ; bathe the feet frequent in warm water, not very hot.

Diet.—The diet should be light and easy of digestion, such as gruel, panada, fresh soups, barley water, &c.

Drink.—In addition to the sweating teas, and while the cough is troublesome ; flax-seed tea with a little nitre in it, say 20 grains of salt petre and two of emetic tartar, called tartarized antimony, to a quart ; half a gill may be drank once an hour.

Pleuroperipneumony, or inflamation of the breast and lungs. Symptoms.—Cough and obtuse pain in the breast bone between the shoulders, difficulty of breathing, tightness across the chest, loss of appetite and sleep, sometimes a hard but seldom a full pulse,

the tongue covered with a white or yellowish mucus; the urine high colored and rather thick, a dark red color about the cheeks and eyes; the pain in the breast is generally increased by lying on the side most affected, and often he is compelled to lie on the back.

Cure.—Bleed largely, blister and keep up all the natural evacuations, and use the same remedies as in the pleurisy.

Inflamation of the liver. Symptoms.—This disease may be acute or chronic; in both cases there is a pain in the right side, rising to the top of the shoulder, or extending to the shoulder blade, attended with some fever, dry cough, difficulty of breathing, and sometimes vomiting bilious matter. In the acute kind, nearly the same mode of treatment as in the pleurisy will answer.

Inflamation of the stomach.—An acute or sharp pain in the stomach, always aggravated upon swallowing any kind of food or drink; inexpressible anxiety, great heat similar to heart-burn, constant inclination to vomit, generally a small but quick pulse and intermitting.

Cure.—In the first stage, bleed largely, give rice water and cooling drinks; and in all cases attend to the natural evacuations; if an appearance of mortification, apply to the stomach smart weed boiled strong, or cloths dipped in the decoction.

Inflamation of the bowels. Symptoms.—Tightness of the belly like a drum head, obstinate costiveness, soreness about the navel, great debility, a hard small quick pulse.

Cure.—Procure a passage by a dose of gentle

physic and clysters, as soon as possible, castor oil is good; as soon as the bowels are sufficiently drenched, apply a large blister, but do not forget to bleed largely before giving physic or any thing else; use a light diet for some days after the disease has abated.

Inflamation of the Kidneys. Symptoms, an acute pain and heat in the small of the back; numbness along the thigh; inclination to vomit; discharges of urine in small quantities; sometimes pale, at others high colored.

Cure.—Bleed largely and often, if the pulse and strength will admit of it, keep the bowels loose, foment the part with bitter herbs, such as mayweed, camomile, &c. &c. Give a tea of flax seed, mallows, dulcified spirits of nitre, a teaspoon full four or five times a day. After the inflammation has abated, a little laudanum may be given.

Acute Rheumatism.—Symptoms, wandering pains, shifting from place to place; sometimes, however, fixed on the larger joints, and along the muscles connected with them; worse towards night, and in damp or cold weather, &c.

Cure.—Bleed, sweat and bathe in warm water. If, after bleeding a few times, the joints continue to swell, and are much inflamed, use the cold bath.

Rheumatism, Chronic.—Symptoms. This disease is generally of long standing, is attended with little fever, the joints become stiff; wandering, dull, but disagreeable pains, sometimes shifting from one place to another.

Cure.—Use Dr. Merwin's rheumatic powders and ointment.

St. Anthony's Fire.—Symptoms, an inflammation on the surface of the body, which affects sometimes one part, at other times other parts, with pain, heat, and an intolerable itching, scaling of the skin like bran, sleepiness, and other symptoms.

Cure.—Keep the bowels loose by small doses of cream of tartar and sulphur, a teaspoon full three or four times a day; sprinkle fine flour over the body; bleed if the pulse will admit. Use the specifics prepared by John C. Merwin.

Spitting of Blood.—Use a tea of bugle weed, or half a teaspoon full of yellow dock root, in powder, three or four times a day; Roman wormwood, called in latin *Melissa Etatior*; cat's tongue, (the herb) crane's bill, called *Geraneum Maculatum*. If the pulse is full, bleed. Use a light diet, keep the bowels loose, avoid straining.

Consumption.—Symptoms. This disease, when fairly seated, admits of no radical cure. A confirmed consumption is attended with a pain in the breast, one or both sides, a cough, difficulty of breathing, or shortness of breath, more or less expectoration of matter, sometimes mixed with blood, night sweats, heats in the palms of the hands, chills, flushes of heat, debility, &c. &c. The only chance is a long voyage to sea, a change of climate, or the skill of what is called a root doctor, though it may be mitigated by prudence, diet, &c.

Diabetis.—Apply to Dr. Merwin, as he is sworn to the secret, which is not by the use of vegetables.

Symptoms.—This disease is marked by making too much water, and a weakness across the small of the back.

Suppression, or difficulty of making water.—The symptoms are known.

Cure.—If the pulse be high and full, bleed plentifully and repeatedly; open the bowels with castor oil, salts, butternut physic, or any mild purgative; give a tea of parsley roots, asparagus, flaxseed, low mallows, gum arabic, or peach cherry tree gum or the like. Warm bathing is sometimes necessary.

Piles.—Symptoms, painful tumours about the fundament, or lower gut; sometimes bleeding.—Nothing so sure a cure as Merwin's pile ointment, and keeping the body regular by the use of diet and proper laxatives. A decoction of dandelion is of great use.

Dysentery, or Bloody Flux.—Symptoms, a discharge of mucus by stool, sometimes bloody; violent gripings, pain in the bowels and back, a constant inclination to go to stool without being able to void much.

Cure.—Give half a teaspoon full of rhubarb, and a quarter of the quantity of sal soda in half a gill of vinegar and as much water, and repeat the dose till the bowels and stomach are well cleansed; then give a tea of equal parts of blue vervian, thoroughwort, colewort, and yarrow roots. A dose of laudanum may also be given, when painful. Eat as many black berries as you please; avoid fresh meat; use salt pork. Arrow root, boiled in milk and water, ought always to be used. A tea of water scabious is excellent. In the last stage give a strong tea of imported hyson tea.

Dyspepsia, or Indigestion. *Symptoms.*—Want of appetite; sickness at stomach; sometimes nausea,

or vomiting; heartburn, distention of the stomach, particularly after eating, eructations of wind, and sometimes acidity at the stomach.

Cure.—Lee's dyspeptic remedies are the best and most certain, to be used according to the printed directions; but when they cannot be had, a vomit of American Ipicac; afterwards good strong bitters made of asclepias, incarnata root, American columbo or unicorn, with a small portion of aloes in the same, taken in quantity sufficient to keep the bowels loose, and a teaspoon full of prepared charcoal four or five times a day will mitigate the disease, and sometimes almost cure.

Asthma. Symptoms.—The symptoms are generally too well known to need description.

Treatment.—A cure is seldom effected. If the pulse is full, bleed and give an emetic of ipecac or lobelia inflata or Indian tobacco; afterwards use Anderson's cough drops, prepared according to the recipe in this book. Should they fail, add plentifully of camphor, and take a teaspoon full in a glass of gin, whenever the wheezing is troublesome.

Cholera Morbus. Symptoms.—A violent discharge of billious and acid matter, both by stool and vomiting.

Cure.—Give large and repeated doses of chicken soup, water gruel or rice water, beef tea, barley water, &c. &c. After the stomach and bowels are cleansed, give a teaspoon full of ether or laudanum, in a cup of mint tea, and repeat the dose every hour or oftener if the evacuations should not cease, or pain should continue.

Diarrhœa, or looseness of the bowels. Symptoms.

—A purging without sickness, succeeded by loss of appetite. Give medicines for worms. Oak of Jerusalem seeds bruised and given in molasses, are good. Essence of cinnamon, with a little laudanum, often repeated, is excellent, while they drink a tea, made of thoroughwort, (very weak.)

Dropsy.—The symptoms are too well known to need elucidation, as it always consists of water, collected or lodged in some part, or over the whole body.

Cure.—The greatest skill is in keeping up all the natural evacuations. If the pulse is very full, bleeding is necessary. If a stoppage of water, give the articles recommended for that purpose, called diuretics; if obstructed perspiration, give diaphoretics, &c. &c. or see the recipe.

Eruptions, or breaking out.—There is such an intimate relation between the internal and external parts of the human body, that few diseases affect the inside but they show themselves upon the surface. Diseases of the skin are consequently numerous. The cure, therefore, depends on general remedies, or something to cleanse the blood. Local applications, composed of mineral poisons, are therefore to be avoided as dangerous, as by driving the disease from the surface it might easily light upon the vitals, or some organ essential to life.

Cure.—Use gentle laxatives and alteratives. The first may consist of a tea made of white ash bark that bears the key, dandelion roots, cream of tartar and sulphur. The latter consists of a tea made of scabious, or upland scabious, continental tea and small doses of poison hemlock, called Comium Mac-

ulatum. This requires more skill than a farmer of ordinary talents can possess, therefore ought to be referred to a skilful practitioner, who understands botany well.

Scrophula, or King's Evil. Symptoms.—This disease is known by hard tumours of the lymphatic glands, especially about the neck and under jaw, behind the ears and under the chin.

Cure.—Those tumours may sometimes be dispersed by constantly washing them in a strong solution of salt and water. It should be applied five or six times a day. But the only certain cure is the use of the rattlesnake's violet. A tea must be used a long time, while the bruised root and herb is bound on the parts affected. This has never failed me in one instance for twenty years.

Jaundice. Symptoms.—A yellowness of the skin, especially the white of the eyes, high colored urine, anxiety and uneasiness at the pit of the stomach.

Cure.—If the pulse is full, bleed, give pukes and nauseating doses. After the stomach is cleansed, give bitters composed of black cherry tree bark of the root, barberry, and a little blood root.

Some few more diseases might be described, but some are considered too intricate for the ordinary character, and others too trifling to notice, such as curing warts, chilblains, &c. &c.

A few more observations for the benefit of my readers.

There is certainly as much wisdom in avoiding evil as in extricating ourselves when overtaken, therefore we ought to shun the causes if possible. As I have stated in a preceeding page, that diseases resulted from some irritating power lurking in the organized system, and that this irritating power resulted from an obstruction of some natural evacuation, poison, contagion, dissipation, &c. Without some farther explication, my readers, perhaps, might not comprehend the extent of my meaning; therefore, I have thought best to render the facts more plain if possible. The learned Doctor Brown, has judiciously observed, that life was a forced state; that food, drink, &c. consisted of exciting powers, acting upon excitability, producing excitement that constituted life, health, &c. This is certainly too obvious to admit a doubt, much more a refutation; this position being admitted, in order to continue our existence, a constant stimuli is requisite, and unless the first repletion should continue to act with equal force, a repetition is necessary, (which we find by daily experience) for one meal of victuals and drink, serves for a short time, only while it becomes not only inert, but produces uneasiness, unless it can make its escape by some of the natural evacuations; a retention also beyond the limits affixed by the author of our existence, produces irritation constituting some disease. Another intolerable evil would accompany our cases, provided we continued to take in stimuli without evacuation; we should increase in bulk beyond calculation, therefore it is of the utmost importance to keep up all the evacuations, a proper choice of diet is also necessary; in this last article, nothing but experience and strict observation will

teach the necessary lesson. As we are not nourished according to the quantity or quality of food taken into the stomach, it follows of course, that a person eats such diet as his stomach can digest, for what he eats more interrupts the digestive powers, impairs the stomach and vitiates the nutrition, and instead of obtaining health and vigor, he becomes a victim to disease and his own folly.

Exercise.—Nothing perhaps has a greater tendency to promote the natural evacuations, than exercise;—hence it is the most conducive to health; every person ought to take as much exercise in the open air, as his strength will bear without fatiguing, or overdoing, (as some call it.) Early rising is generally very beneficial to health. After being thrown into perspiration by exercise, or exposure any way whatever, a person ought to be exceedingly careful in taking cold, nor should they expose themselves to a cooler situation until perspiration subsides. A person should never drink cold water while sweating or very warm; how many thousands, by this imprudent act, have either lost their lives, or become victims to disease during the remainder of their days.

One thing I would suggest to my readers, i.e. that they form Botanic Societies in their respective neighborhoods, be united and meet as often as other avocations will admit, endeavor to promote the interest of the establishment and each other, by an accurate statement of their discoveries; by this means they will soon become acquainted with the prolific garden of nature, and the use of those vegetables more choice than gold; as they will be calculated to preserve them from the jaws of death, and those sons of Esculapias, who have so long made a harvest of their ignorance, sport of their lives, and a slaughter of thousands. Be no longer im-

posed on by that tyrannical club, who boast so much in their bloodshed, strew their poisons and wield their infamy, to crush the aspiring botanist, who is honestly searching for the cordial balm of gillead, strewed in luxurious effusions, unsullied by art or decomposition, calculated to soothe your pains, relieve your distress and eradicate your diseases.

A Recipe for Anderson's Cough Drops.—Take one gallon of acohol, add two drachms of nkeevlghrvey trnkilw lkiso, one ounce of nbokrgff hays, two ounces of eychilrkobusqdiel tsoowr, bruised fine, half an ounce of the dried sheovkaeyl of ailyekbsoel, one ounce of ekvnoclmglxwohf, infused in a moderate heat ten days; strain, squeeze all the liquid from the articles, return the acohol into the bottle again; add two ounces of the mkaystlnalb uelboyt, digest ten days, shaking the bottle 5 or 6 times in a day; decant, add cwimrkoqgleorsolp rkisxkiolye, one pound or pint; it is then fit for use, and will answer the purposes of the best ever made, being much improved from the original, yet containing every ingredient as the former composition.

A Recipe to cure the Quinsey in fifteen minutes!!!—Trim two goose quills leaving a little of the feather ends about an inch long; first dip one into a little luigo of lxolirxtwisv, and touch the tumor on the inside of the throat, immediately after dip the other into tyeeawks lxibo3†, and apply as the first; this removes the tumor instantly, and may be repeated. It is always necessary to keep the bowels loose, to sweat, bathe the feet, and bleed as largely as the constitution will bear.

A Recipe to cure the Itch, as easy as to wash with cold water, at a small expense.—Dissolve 18 grains of Exvjwysyoerrwolc Eotea3mlirl4b3ujs in a gill of Swtxior-kirpus Ernxiuxtneepjrkuyt; rub a little on the parts broken out at bed time and morning, until the itch is cured; the person however should take a tea-spoonful

of the flour sulphur, night and morning, after using the wash six times, and not before ; he should continue the sulphur a day or two after using the wash ; clean the clothes well, and keep as clean as possible.

A Recipe for the Dropsy.—Take six quarts of good wrought cider, add 4 ounces of mgauxnykirl æstnixv, one gill of dxrwaptrskufm dweeys, ground fine, four ounces kjcyoldxrumb dweeys, two of the roots, four ounces of wild tsoyrrwabc dreegs, and 4 ounces of the sreylvawcys from a srhwtyiomxsykmcalyb pworhys ; infuse 2 days as warm as may be without boiling ; strain, add an ounce of the salts of owccraxbtoyt ; begin with a spoonful three times a day, increasing the dose as the stomach will bear ; if costive, throw in a few mandrake roots ; if the water should not be free enough, use a tea made of milkweed roots, dwarf elder, parsley roots. or queen of the meadow ; use fresh diet.

Eye-water.—Make a weak infusion of lobela inflata, and wash the eyes five or six times a day.

Another.—Take white vitriol and sugar of lead, each a tea-spoonful ; the same quantity of gun-powder, to a quart of boiling water ; shake five or six times a day for three days ; let it stand half a day, strain without shaking, add a tea-spoonful of laudanum ; wash the eyes six times a day.

Opodeldoc.—Take two quarts of alcohol, one pound of Windsor soap, four ounces of gum camphor, digest in a moderate heat in a jug, well stopped until all be dissolved, then add oil of rosemary and origanum, of each half an ounce ; shake and mix well together ; bottle and cork tight.

Anderson's Pills.—Take gum scammony, two ounces ; aloes, four ; colocyath, two ; reduce to a fine powder ; mix with a saturated solution of gum arabic, and form into pills of a common size ; take from one to three for a dose.

Hopper's Female Pills.—To a mass of Anderson's pills, add a third as much in weight of salts of steel, and form into pills ; these are for female weakness, where there is an obstruction ; they look pale, have a palpitation of the heart, but no fever, but the pulse low ; they are good in a costive habit ; two at night and two in the morning, if the first do not move the bowels.

Red Salve.—The best salve ever made, except Ledran's ; take flax-seed oil, one pint ; sweet oil, half a pint ; red lead, one pound ; bees-wax, two ounces ; rosin, half an ounce ; warm gently until they are all mixed ; this salve cures almost any sore. If it should not be thick enough, add more bees-wax.

Piles.—This is said to be infallible. Make an ointment of may-weed, parsley, sage, and burdock ; simmer them in fresh butter or sweet oil ; oint the parts affected night and morning, and drink half a gill of tar-water, three times a day, and as much essence of fir as the stomach will bear ; if the body should be costive, use a tea of blue-flag root, enough to keep the bowels regular.

Whites.—Make a tea of knot-grass, yarrow, plantain, roots and tops, hemp tops also ; boil in 6 quarts of water to three ; strain, add a pint of good rum, two pounds of loaf sugar ; take a small glass three times a day.

Sore Nipples.—When the child stops sucking, apply balsam of firr ; it will generally cure in three or four days.

Salt Rheum.—Make a strong decoction of the bark of swamp sassafras ; wash the part affected ; make an ointment by adding lard to some of the decoction, and boiling down ; oint the parts with the same ; it is said to be infallible.

Rheumatic Medicine.—Put 4 ounces of flour of sulphur into a quart of gin ; drink a spoonful night and morning, for one, omit it the next, and drink a strong

tea of sweet fern ; the next week take of the gin and sulphur, and so on interchangeably till well ; wear flannel next to the skin.

For the Canker and Canker Rash.—Make a strong decoction of the roots and tops of blue stalk and gargle, drink, &c. This cures all kinds of sore mouth. Put the roots into good French brandy, and drink freely, cures the chronic rheumatism.

Rheumatic Ointment.—Take an ounce of lwiko of rkeobjmha, red raeodjekc, one and an half spirits turpentine, one of aycrnoejs lyioko, one of rxayt, and one of Lyiko of Sbayrefhaxssjays. Put all into a quart of alcohol, shake frequently for four or five days, add a quart of skunk's grease, cork tight, shake when you use it. This will cure the most obstinate rheumatism, of a long standing, stiff joints and contracted limbs.

Strengthening Pills.—Good for weakness of the lungs, breast, back &c. They are also good in rheumatism, (chronic). Take an ounce of tamerack gum, black spruce, hemlock, one of white pine turpentine, half an ounce of balm of gilead buds, four ounces of loaf sugar, beat well together in a mortar, make pills of a common size. If too hard add honey ; if too soft, add pulverized gentian. Two or three may be taken at a time, three times a day. They stop spitting blood, coughs, &c. &c.

For the Dropsy.—Take half a pound blue flag roots, as much milkweed, half the quantity of oxbalm, one pound of elecampane, half a pound of smallage roots, one pound of Scotch cap, one pound of burdock of the roots, beat, cut or scrape till they become fine. Put all into a vessel that can be covered tight, pour on a gallon of boiling water, steep twenty-four hours, strain and squeeze out the liquid, add a quart of good gin and a pint and half of West India molasses, put into a jug.

Take half a gill or more three times a day. This is also good for the gravel.

The best salve for women's breasts ever discovered.—Take tobacco, one pound, spikenard one, comphrey half a pound, boil in three quarts of chamber lye till almost dry, squeeze out the juice, add pitch and bees-wax of each half a pound. Simmer to the consistency of salve. Apply to the part affected, and it will soon effect a cure.

Corns.—Infallable—keep a poultice of fresh dug blood root to the corns, and repeat until they are cured.

To cure a Fellon.—Take two ounces of tobacco, cut fine, a spoonful of fine trlwaji and one of soft prawols, simmer well together, and apply; one application generally cures, otherwise repeat the same.

Another.—If the fellon has proceeded too far to be scattered, apply the following, which will make it break soon; Take ekaxrlob gkaxlyf swtyoojr, a handful, as much wild sypsejnorkuxt, stew in half a pint of lard and a pint of water, until the water evaporates; strain, add a spoonful of rwaxt; as soon as it breaks apply some of Le Dran's ointment if possible, it is the best thing to heal any sore ever discovered; if you cannot obtain it, use any healing salve, the red salve is very good.

Sore Legs.—Said to be infallible; make a strong decoction of nxrkexvyajc woods, wash the parts twice a day, and drink a tea of the same; boil down some to a salve and apply constantly.

Dropsy.—Take sassafras, spikenard, prickley ash, horse radish, burdock, dwarf elder, mandrake, of each four ounces, bruised or scraped fine; infuse in a gallon of pure water 24 hours, as hot as may be without boiling, covered tight, strain, add a quart of good gin and three half pints of molasses, keep tight in a jug, dose half a gill three times a day.

Jaundice Bitters.—Take two drachms of blood root, four of black ash bark of the roots, as much smoothe white ash bark of the roots (that bears the key,) two ounces of mandrake roots, two of black cherry bark, four of butternut bark of the roots, cut or bruise fine, put into two gallons of water, boil down to three quarts, strin, add a quart of good whiskey and a pound of loaf sugar or three half pints of molasses. Take a large spoon full three times a day, on an empty stomach, and more if the stomach will bear it. This keeps off the colic, and even cures the piles many times.

Bots, (in horses.)—Dissolve an ounce of indigo in a quart of milk, sweetened well with molasses. It never fails, if given seasonably.

Founder—a certain cure.—First bleed your horse largely, then drench with glauber salts, say half a pound dissolved in a quart of water; if necessary, repeat the dose; then give a pint of sunflower seeds three times a day. It is good to let the horse stand in mud or cold water up to his knees. This mode of treatment will cure any founder, if any thing whatever will.

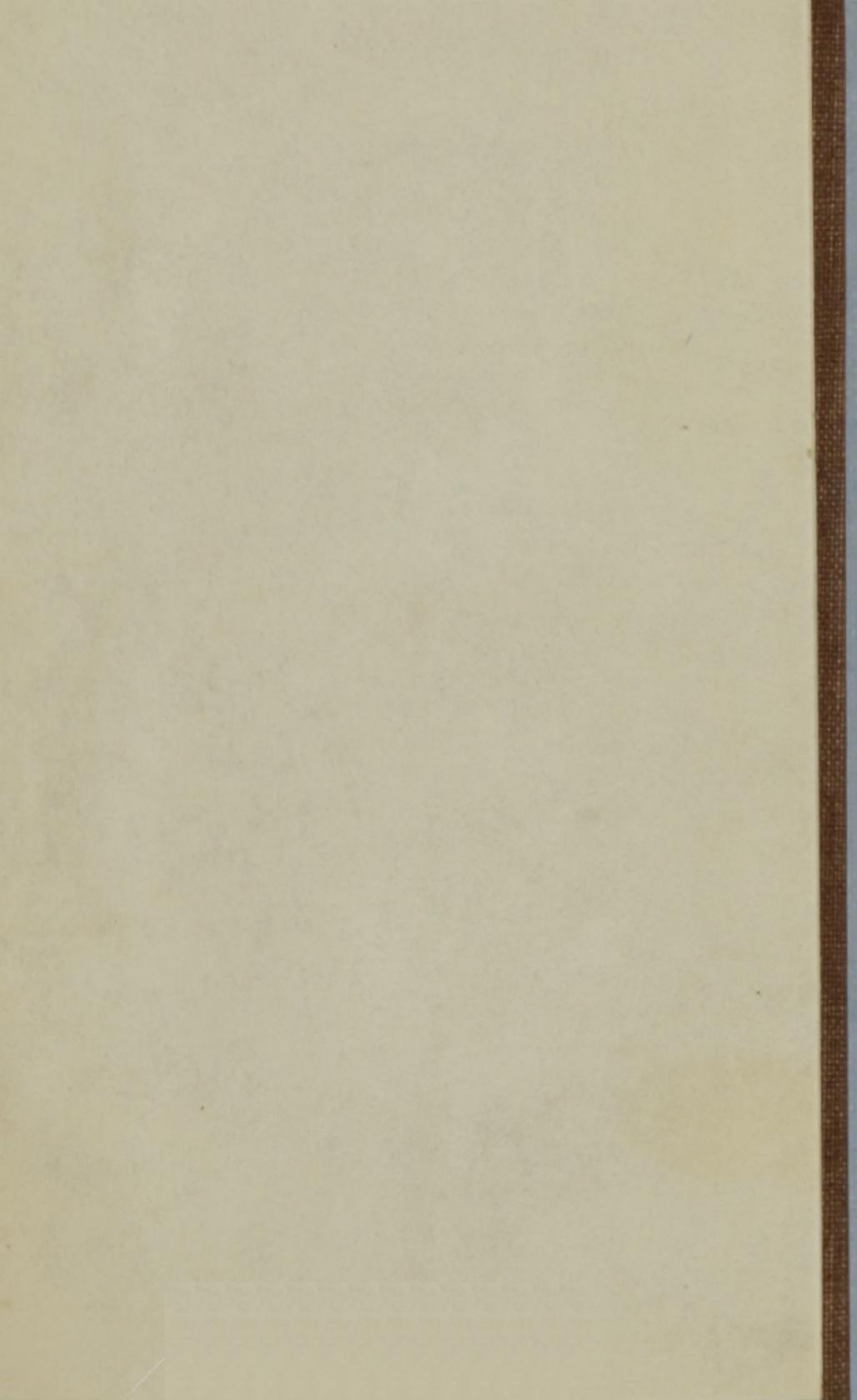
Heaves, (almost infallible.)—Give your horse in his feed, a gill of Ryextwskaxlup, ground as fine as possible, three times a day, till well.

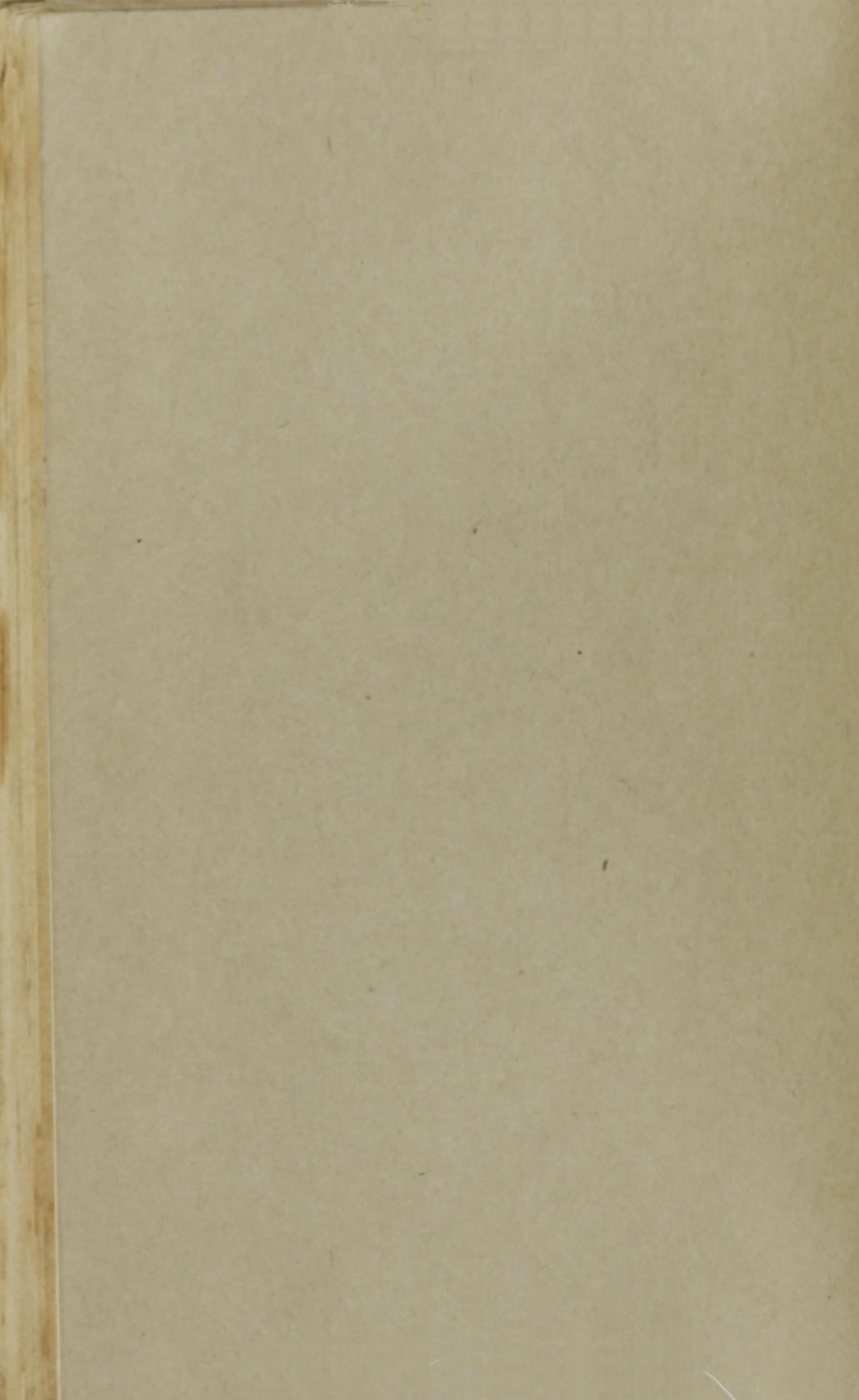
Pole Evil and Fistula (a certain cure.—Dissolve two drachms of Ekvxiiyskogrrxolc Ertxasmriolxbxues in a quart of water, wherein half a ounce of the muriate of ammonia has been dissolved. Inject with a syringe once or twice in 24 hours, till the pipe is eaten out, and it will heal of itself

ERRATA.

Page 3, 1st line, for *vicida*, read *viscida*; page 11, 1st line, for *rananculus* read *ranunculus*; pa. 12, 4th line from top, for *corchum*, read *coakum*; pa. 14, 3d line, for *deogs*, read *dogs*; pa. 14, 8th line from bottom, for *inulia*, read *inula*; pa. 14, 6th from bottom, for *gnaphalum*, read *gnaphalium*; pa. 15, 4th line from top, for *perfolitum*, read *perfoliatum*; pa. 15, 8th line from bottom, for *erostrium*, read *triostrum*; pa. 16, 5th line from top, for *trifolias*, read *trifolia*; pa. 17, 1st line, for *hycegamus*, read *hyosciamus*; pa. 17, 14th line from bottom, for *alcohols*, read *alcohol*; pa. 18, 2d line from bottom, for *piperata*, read *piperita*; pa. 19, 12th from bottom, for *pokoselinum*, read *petroselinum*; do. 8th from bottom, for *diopirus*, read *diospyrus*; do. 3d from bottom, for *umbettata*, read *umbellata*; pa. 26, 20th from bottom, for *vittala*, read *vittatæ*; pa. 20, 6th from bottom, for *euplarium*, read *eupatorium*; do. 4th from bottom, for *rayweed*, read *ragweed*; pa. 40, 15th from top, for *irth*, read *birth*; pa. 21, 1st line, for *squarvo-sa*, read *squarrosa*; do. 14th, for *deobstruens*, read *deobstruent*; do. 14th from bottom, for *aromatit*, read *aromatic*; do. 16th from top, for *lauras*, read *laurus*; pa. 22, last line, for *rocemosa*, read *racemosa*.

☞ The price of this book is one dollar, not to be lent without a forfeiture of ten dollars, and the violation of a solemn promise.





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