AN INAUGURAL DISSERTATION
ON
The medical properties of the Asclepias Syriaca
SUBMITTED TO THE
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES,
AND MEDICAL FACULTY
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF NASHVILLE,
FOR THE DEGREE OF
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by
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The medical properties of the Aesclepias Syriaca.

In submitting this imperfect dissertation upon the medical properties of the wild weed I shall speak of it as a valuable remedy in the treatment of these forms of disease only. First as a remedy in the treatment of debility or itch, secondly as an anti-periodic, third, and lastly as an emmenagogue and it is chiefly on these that I wish to speak its claim. In presenting what I have to say no reference to the medical properties of this weed I shall give. And what it has done in my own hands without testing to give what it has done for others. By reference to the last edition of the U.S. Dispensatory, you have about all records that has been claimed for it as a medicinal agent in the treatment of disease so far as my reading has extended. My attention was first directed to it as an
anti-scorbutic a medicine described in the
March no. of the Rockville Journal for 1867 written
by Dr. B. J. Bostick of Pa., and it is since
that time that I have employed the medicine
in any effort, yet it was used extensively in
the section of Country where I was raised
as a domestic remedy in the treatment of it.
and to it as such I first call attention.
It is not necessary for me to spend time
in this connection. Consequently, I shall be as
brief as possible.

First I consider it the most pleasant, safe,
and speedy remedy that I have ever
used in this affliction, indeed I have never
known it fail, and perhaps I have treated
data cases with it under almost all
circumstances, from its earliest appearance
up to four years flashing, and that to with
only two afflictions of the remedy, for I
Now known to require a third application. So the whole surface of the body will, with a strong direction of the root twice in forty-eight hours. Try at least twice if the skin is damaged at any place it may inflame but an application of sweet cream will relieve it.

At the expiration of four or five days this
and work will with warm soap lye
Try and find your best, and how clean
sheets my word for it your itch will
be cared.

Secondly as an antiseptic
Not having been regularly in the practice
my experience is limited yet a sufficient as
of cases has been treated to warrant me in
claiming for the remedy a very high
reputation.

I have healed some half dozen cases
and will only give them of this in detail, noting however that it has failed in no case where I have used it.

Soon after the application of the article above referred to, I dug a quantity of the root

poured off the back and carefully dried in the shade, this I think is ever in April or May

of 1887.

At two o'clock, June 20th. I was called to see a baby boy who had the symptoms

of the Indian pox. I pulverized a quantity of the bark and with the addition

of flour and simple sugar made twentyfour pills, 6/4 oz. each, directed him to take

two of them every four hours until bedtime

at night. Then take four or as the chill

was affected early next morning June 21

the pills were taken as directed and had

no return of chills.
I should have stated above that Mr. 
Mr. had taken a mix of domestic remedies 
also the or four doses of quinine.
The quinine had the effect to stop the 
chills for a time, but they had invisibly 
returned.

Now I do not claim that the silk 
weed is superior to quinine by no means 
but it aids in this case where quinine 
had failed to do as it aids in the
following case.

Case. Second
A man about fifteen years old came to 
The office of my preceptor in August 1837 
while I was reading. There laboring under 
intermittent fever called for fifteen go 
quinine which I told him.
On the fourth day he came back called 
for the same amount and so on until I
I was told him forty five or sixty go he had not asked for advice but at his last callitation that the chill was about to wear him out and indeed it looked so for he was very much red and with the yellowish green cast of the skin I had about half dozen of the roots of the Akelehe Spinae in the office potagerly I made it length with a common linen to put them in a quart of good whisky let it remain twenty four hours then take a common dose  agin drink of it three times for in the day he did as directed had no return of chill.

Case 8 - Aug 15 at seven o'clock I was called to see Mr. A. Melvin of Hay who was attacked with Remittent fever generalized delirium. It is unnecessary to detail the symptoms as all are familiar with them
I directed him to take twenty-four grs. blue
sulphate followed by one granules daily. Next
morning also two of the anti-parasite pills.
Same night and began next morning to take
two of the pills every two hours until
two in the evening then take four of them.
The chill was affected at 9½, dim, but he
had no chill and gradually got up without
any other treatment.
This is all that I have to say in relation
to the anti-parasite properties of this area
and thinks it holds a further trial.
I have seen no bad effect from it if the
dose is very large it may vomit or purge or
so both.
I now proceed to think of the asclepias
tuberosa as an immunogens for such I
consider it to be and one of the most
valuable that we possess.
Here again I confess that my experience is limited. Perhaps too much to for me to set up the claims for it that I do. Notwithstanding I have only treated three cases with it. I consider them good testimony as far as they go and believe the remedy worthy of further and more scientific investigation than I have been able to give it.

If further investigation should prove what I claim for it to be true, viz., that it is possessed of immemorial properties I claim nothing to myself.

The discovery was made (if indeed it is one) in treating the first case of intermittent fever above recorded in this article, and was incidental.

Some time in December of 1877 I was consulted by Mr. J.- in regard to her.
daughter aged fourteen years. It has been an effort on the part of the system to bring on menstruation for two or three months without effect, and the young lady's health was somewhat improved.

In this conversation, she stated that I

In the lady above refers to how been the subject of irregular and painful menstruation from their first appearance (somewhat or seven years) at the time that I have given her the anti-fascia pills but since that time, she has been perfectly regular in her menstrual periods and without pain.

I directed her to give her daughter the pills as follows: one pill three times per day up to the effective period or the first symptoms of a returning period.

Then give her four of them and then
discontinue until the usual time has elapsed (three or four days) and then resume them of the menes. Were not produced but the menes were produced and in proper quantity.

Same time after this from exposure in a shower of rain during a monthly period both of the young ladies above referred to had suspension of the menes with its usual effects.

Having the pills at hand they were administered as before directed, with the same good effect.

This and last case that I shall report is one of considerable interest and the testimony given by this witness I consider conclusive, clearly proving the immunogenic properties of this asclepias.

*Lyraea*.
Mr. John Doe, age 65, ten years had suffering of the nose of four years standing casual by an over heat together with inflammation of the eyes, elevation of the corns it.

The came to Denver in January of last year 1865, in search of an eye doctor.

Now I do not claim to be an eye doctor, but thought it clear that the disease of the eye was a secondary affection and by reproducing the irritation the eye would be improved if not cured and accordingly set to work in that direction.

After using several of the best remedies that I was in possession of (or rather recommendations in the Book), and particularly one case by my perception for a few of years and with the best effect increas
I have given it myself with entire
despairing but they all failed in this
instance. I then commenced with the
anti-pyretic pills giving one pill three
times a day to be continued until symptoms of
the monthly period were felt then take four
of them together with warm foot and siphon
bath. The pills were taken at a nostril foot and
siphon bath. The pills were taken at a nostril foot and
siphon bath. Left and menorrhea came on second day
in normal quantity. The pills were continued as
before for the next month at which time profuse
menorrhea came on and consequently no direction of the
menorrhea. Pills continued as before but discontinued
on the first symptoms of menstruation the day as
direction here a fine flow of the menstrual fluid
The left for Ahy her health fine eyes much improved
was I learn by a letter from her a short time since
that her health is fine menstruation regular
and eyes very much improved.