AN INAUGURAL DISSERTATION
ON
GOSYPIUM

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BY

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of

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W. T. BERRY & CO.,
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To John W. Watson M. D.
This essay is respectfully inscribed, as a mark of esteem and regard, by his friend and pupil
The Author.
Cotyledon Herbaceous Cotton Plant

In this essay I shall not attempt to give a detailed description of this plant. Every medical man must be well acquainted with its general appearance. And in consequence of the commonness of this plant I will be saved from the trouble of going over what others have already described. The Cotyledon Herbaceous is a native of most tropical regions, growing in Asia and Africa; and also in the United States where it is cultivated very extensively in most of the Southern and Western States, and gives the cotton of commerce, which is of very great value.
to the farmer. And is much used for the construction of cloth.
The cotton lint has been used for a considerable length of time
by the surgeon for the purpose of protecting the surface in burns
and scales from the air and for destroying blisters. It also forms an ingredient in
Collection. The part of the plant, to which I wish to call attention is the inner
bark of the root. But little has been said or written on. Consequently what
I shall have to say will be based from experience. And as my experience has
been somewhat limited, I hope as much accuracy will be shown as will be possible.
And that this will be considered as coming from one who has hardly commenced in medicine.
Properties have both been ascribed to this plant. I shall in this dissertation attempt to describe its effects on the uterine organs, not confining myself, however, to its parturient effects. I shall first give its effects as an emmenagogue, then as a parturient. After which I shall have something to say of its use in preference to that of the ergot of rye. In Amenemrehen, this plant appears to act as a good emmenagogue. In cases produced by an anemic condition of the blood it is an invaluable remedy, given in combination with tonics, such as the preparations of root, guar and e.

Withstanding, however, the prejudices of the profession are against
The use of enemagogues, I have used it in many cases with much success. Not wishing to lose its use to bring on the discharge before the system is able to part with it. But by the use of the Gephyrium through the month previous to the regular period, its conjunction, as I have already said, with tonics, the uterus appears to be better prepared to execute its office. For a patient of this kind I generally prescribe Carb. of Sord. with Luid, given alternately with wine of the Gephyrium. And unless the patient should be very constant the discharge will, almost invariably, come on at the end of the first month. And if the uterus should fail to act, after the use of the above named remedies,
Which it sometimes fails to do from inability. This medicine acts well in such cases given in the form of injection at the commencement of the period. And in cases of suppression from opposite causes and from cold exposure etc. Where the discharge has been stopped immediately. The attendant will never find a better remedy than this. Often in such cases the patient is harassed with stimulants, baths and various kinds of treatment until the uterus becomes so much engorged that an internal condition of the organ is not unfrequently set up which often results in convulsions. When it would only advise him. Self of the means which are placed in his reach he would frequently.
Save his Patient of all this unnecessary suffering. The Gypsum will undoubtedly produce the flow of the Menses in such cases as this.

The mode of administering it is in the form of decoction, in doses of a wineglassfull every half hour or hour according to the effects desired. If we wish to produce the discharge immediately, it must be given in large doses repeated as often as every thirty or forty minutes. Until the discharge is reproduced, I shall not fail to mention, as I proceed, its good effects in that painful disease, denominated Dysmenorrhea. In this Malady, when the failure in the discharge, is attributable to a debilitated condition of the System and
Uterine organs also, this remedy
again claims our special attention.
In this case, as in suppression from
Anemia, the wine, given in Copious
with
Tonic Tonics, appears to exert a ben-
eficial effect upon the organs, and
prepares them for the performance
of their proper functions.
I have sometimes been induced to
describe to this Medicine, tonic effects.
It appears to have a special tenden-
cy to act on the uterine organs.
And when given in small quan-
tities and continued for a consider-
able length of time it appears to str
engthen the uterine. Acting, probably,
on that organ alone, or on the organ
and its appendages. Experience will,
I hope, prove this Medicine to.
be a tonic to the peculiar tendency of which will be to act on the uterine organs. Such has been my experience with the cephalium as an immunogenic substance as it has been. I trust that I have been enabled to discover, in its effects, a medicine which cannot be regarded as an immunogenic. I hope the profession will be kind enough to give it a fair trial before they discard it. For in it they undoubtedly will find a property not possessed by any other medicine of this class which I have been able to get hold of.
It will now give a few ideas as to its parturient effect. The attention of the profession has been called to its effects as a parturient by Dr. Bouchill of Mississippi. For several years past, many of our Southern farmers have ascribed abortive properties to this plant, from the fact that many of their negro women abort in the latter part of the summer and fall; and their conclusions were that they use this plant as an abortive and also as a preservative of pregnancy. And the experience of the profession accords with their opinions, for it has been ascertained, by appearance, that a elevation of the innocence of the
root of this plant is as effectual in producing uterine contractions, as any other medicine known to the profession as a parturient.

In cases of labour, where the womb fails to act, from weakness, or when it has been overcome by violent contractions, after the mouth of the well dilated, this remedy will bring on the pains most commonly in from twenty to forty minutes, causing the womb to throw off its contents in a very mild and gentle manner.

In any and all cases, when the need of a remedy for the expulsion of the contents of the womb is demanded, will answer.
Producing imperceptible
contractions of those thickened
walls & bringing the Organs down
to its natural dimensions.

The common mode of welling the Egyptian is in the
form of decocation. Made by
boiling four or six of the inner
bark of the root, in a quare
wine glass, until a pint. Give a
wine glass full, every fifteen or
twenty minutes or at longer
intervals, just in proportion to
the effects you wish to produce & ought the dose to be.
When we wish to continue the
use of the medicine for some
time, the last form is the wine.
To make the wine of Ephippium:
Take of the inner bark of the root, bruise, four ounces. Wine
(Sherry) A pint. Macerate for four
two days and filter. Dose one to
one and a half fluid ounces.
The mixture as sometimes use;
And is made by taking of the
bruised bark, six ounces, diluted
 Alcohol two pints. And proceed
as usual for making tinctures.
Dose from one to two fluid ounces.
The effects on the uterus, as I
have said before, are mild-
and very nearly in accordance
with nature. Unlike the ergot
of rye, it produces peristaltic con-
tractions the pains coming on at
regular intervals.

I have also
found this to be the best remedy for
producing expulsion of the plac-
centa in cases of abortion, when
the organ fails to come away from
the womb. In all such cases, where
the use of the ergot is needed, this
plant will act as well. Never in
my knowledge, having produced
any bad effects whatever, by its
action on the uterus.
Again, in suppression of the Lochia, we sometimes have occasion to use some remedy for the purpose of producing gentle contractions of the walls of the womb. And I feel safe in recommending this as the very remedy that can be given in such cases. I know we do not often need a remedy of this kind in Lochia suppression. Sometimes, however, the feet to relieving itself of the vast amount of blood which has accumulated in its walls, during the stage of uterine retention. And the tonic effect, which this medicine appears to have on this organ, one fully brought to play in this case.
I will now proceed to offer a few remarks in favour of this remedy, as a parturient, in preference to that of the Ergot of Rye (or Sparce Rye).

In doing so, however, I must confess that I feel some delay. The Ergot is a medicine, which has been used for many years, by the profession, as the best parturient known. Yet, when we bring into consideration the vast amount of injury which has been done by the use of Ergot, we are constrained to raise our voices against it. We are convinced too to know that many of the most eminent physicians of our land, are opposing it.
Mr. Tso, who have never used the Tofyopium. Now, we are not disposed to be harsch or egalitarian, but we are per-}

suaed to believe, that as soon as their portion of the prof-

ession, who are so much in favor of the use of ergot, as
certains the virtue of the Tof

yopium, that they will forever exclude it from their list of

parturition, and use the Tofy-

opium alone. And why should we use the latter medicine in

preference to the former? The

reason is very obvious, when we have learned, that this Tofyopium

is not only as efficacious in its ac-

tion, but, that it has never
been known to produce any
bad effects, whatever, on nei-
ther Mother nor Child. While,
on the other hand, we have a list
of evidences which go to prove
that hundreds of Children
have been born dead, whose deaths
were produced solely from the
violent effects of Ergot. And
the list is clear dwelling from
two causes. First, because many
men who are at present engaged in the practice do not know
anything about Pathology, ther-
apaies or Obstetrics, as a science.
Such men only know that ergot
will produce contractions of the
womb. And, whenever they have
a tedious case of labour.
They appear to be impressed with the notion that it will not do to wait; and they commence wrenching their patient with infusion of ergot: the uterus contracts violently on its contents long before its mouth is dilated, and the result is that they will have a still-born child. And sometimes great injury is done to the mother also.

Secondly, that labour is performed with much more difficulty now than it was many years ago, from the fact that our females are raised in idleness without being permitted to take but little exercise; the consequence of which is a lack of development of the
Pelvis and Uterine Organs.

Now, if these things be true, would it not be best to use the Saltpeter all the time we prescribe? Reason will say yes. I hope our profession will give this medicine a slight trial, at least. The objections to it are not great. In bulk it is not a

peccis ergo but little. And, moreover, the plant is very accessible.

All can be supplied with any amount of the best article during the latter part of the summer.