AN INAUGURAL DISSERTATION
ON
Perdura bromide as a Therapeutic agent
SUBMITTED TO THE
President, Board of Trustees, and Medical Faculty
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This medicine is of comparatively recent discovery and introduction into the profession. While the Veratrum Album, a hundred species, was known and used among the Ancients in dropsy, epilepsy, leprosy, elephantiasis, and other obstinate disorders with occasional advantage, the Veratrum Rhus, which is infinitely more valuable and doubtless far less dangerous, was wholly unknown. It is an indigenous plant, hence it is American hellebore. This indigenous species of Veratrum is found from Canada to the Carolinas inhabiting swamps, wet meadows, and the banks of Mountain Streams.
The root is the official portion of the plant; it should be collected in the fall of the year and should not be kept longer than one year, as it deteriorates by time. Centaurea rara is affirmed by Dr. Chas. Osgood to be wholly destitute of cathartic properties, while it possesses emetic properties, violent and sometimes long continued. It is said to increase almost all the secretions. When freshly taken it sometimes exercises a powerful influence over the nervous system, indicated by faintness, drowsiness; or, when long continued, headache, dimness of vision and dilated pupils. And owing to some of these powerful
Symptoms, produced by the use of the medicine too freely, that it has its enemies. Like every other drug whose properties are powerful, and sometimes produce alarming symptoms, though they may exert a salutary influence over many powerful diseases, have their enemies, and some who swear eternal hatred against the drug. Opium, one of the best medicines has its enemies. Mercury among the most effectual of all the remedies, has its avowed opponents, and iron not much less inferior to the most potent remedies, has its enemies. Then this being true, could we expect otherwise than that.
Veratrum Viride should have many
potent enemies. But from
the above causes we do not hesi-
itate to assert what we believe
to be true and what scientific
investigation and experience
have proven to be true of
the drug. Veratrum Viride is an acknowledged arterial
dedative, it also exerts some
dedative effects upon the nerve
center. Thorpits chief and grand
property is an arterial sedative.
There are various preparations
of this drug recommended.
But the best we think
is Dr. Norwood's tincture,
made by using 8 oz of the dried
teeth to the pint of Alcohol,
amoebic for fourteen days and filter.
Of this tincture, the dose is five or eight drops for the adult, up to
and every three or four hours
until some of its effects
are produced. It is the free
rise of some to rely entirely
upon remaining diseases, and in
many instances it has ac-
complished that end. But
as a general rule we believe
other remedies should be used
at the same time. In
Pneumonia one of the dis-
aeases to which it is peculiar
by adapted, the Peratun
bireide may be introduced, and
the pulse brought down, per-
haps from one hundred and
forty, to thirty beats or less
in the minute.
And at the same time increasing the
sensations. It appears very obvious
that the disease may be cut short
by the antiphlogistic treatment
properly carried out, with this
suspension of so great arterial
excitation and other proper
treatment, convalescence will
certainly immediately ensue.
Pulitation of the heart is
another disease to which scratum
vivide seems to be adapted.
When this most distressing form
of disease has been treated with
every other known remedy,
with a view to the cure of the
sufferer, but has failed, and
the Physician is almost
ready to abandon him to his
fate, he thinks of making.
One more effort for his relief, he gives a dose of beratrmum bivide. The patient appears easier indeed than an hour, in three hours he gives another dose increased one or two drops. Report still better. The medicine is continued for twelve hours or until its effects are produced. The patient is entirely relieved, no other medicine having been used after commencing with the beratrmum bivide.

Dr. Mr. Henning, Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum near Dayton reports that he has used the beratrmum bivide in many cases of acute mania, particularly in that form, where there was much arterial action, indeed he says, he has used...
It is almost all forms, and is much pleased with its action. Several patients to be kept under its influence for two weeks, seldom pushing it to the extent of vomiting, most of whom improved regularly, never having another paroxysm, though formerly having been raving and boisterous, he considers it an admirable sedative, controlling the circulation, and allaying the irritability of the nervous system without leaving any of the ill effects of opium.

The above was reported in the Nashville journal, another interesting case is reported in the same journal of acute inflammation of the testicles treated with strychnine.
Successfully by W. H. Davidson.

We find in the first article of the 4th no. of American Journal for 1858, a long contribution from the members of Middlesex sick medical society, Mass., which contains a great number of cases treated with berberine bine, also a great variety of diseases, some with great arterial excitement, others with but little. All were treated (it seems) with marked success.

"It is a fact (and to be lamented) that practitioners of the south (most of the older ones), seldom resort to general blood letting, even in the most acute forms of inflammation, the lancet is seldom used except locally."
Doctors of long experience in that far region say that bloodletting is attended with more dangerous results, and the constitutions will not bear it as in the more northern regions. This being their plea, they depend upon the internal use of antiphlogistic and sedative remedies, and as a sedative there seems to be no article that answers so well as a substitute for the lancet, and as a sedative as chloroform. Indeed, we may regard it in many cases as of equal importance to the practitioner, as chloroform to the surgeon, who can by its use stay the persons sensibility until he may operate.
Upon the most sensitive parts without even the knowledge of the patient, so by a proper use of the bertram, the practitioner may reduce the pulse and keep it so, until he is enabled to combat successfully the most formidable diseases. Then we would recommend to all careful practitioners, who have not satisfactorily tried it, a thorough trial of the bertram besides. Especially as a substitute for the lancet, where it cannot be used with safety to the patient. But we would not recommend its use in cases where its effects cannot be watched, nor where its administration is left to unintelligent nurses.