

water or covered with wet compresses day and night. No case resisted the treatment more than seven days, and the disease *did not recur*. The water is a remarkably soft, bland water, with a slightly amber tint evident when as much as a quart of it was held up to the light in a clear glass bottle. Probably any pure, soft water would serve, but the patients did not think so. Dr. Montgomery's article recalls those interesting cases, which were then considered remarkable.

It is another instance of losing sight of a valuable, though simple, treatment while we run after "vain things."

### Modified Milk in Infant Feeding

The October issue of *Pediatrics* contains a paper giving a practical resume of existing knowledge upon the modification of cow's milk as a substitute infant food. The author has made a comprehensive study of the subject from all points of view, and dwells especially upon the value of cereal decoctions in the modification of cow's milk. The practical nature of the paper will appeal to the general practitioner, and copies can doubtless be had of the author.

We regret that lack of space prevents us from giving abstracts from this valuable paper.

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## THERAPEUTICS

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### OLEUM SABINAE.

Oil of Savine has long been used by the laity as an abortifacient. It is a yellowish oil, tasting of camphor and turpentine.

Externally it causes irritation, vesication or pustulation, according to the method and duration of its application.

Internally small doses cause a sense of heat in the stomach and sometimes nausea. Large doses cause violent inflammation of the stomach and intestines. Small doses, 5 drops (0.3 cc), repeated every four hours, cause irritation of the uterus and ovaries, with contractions of the former in the gravid state. Abortion is not caused by this drug unless the dose be a poisonous one.

In doses of two drops three or four times a day it is an efficient remedy for amenorrhoea. Care should be exercised in using it, as violent symptoms may suddenly appear. Dose, 1 to 5 drops (0.06—0.30 cc). It should be made into pill mass and encapsulated.

### TANCETUM.

Tansy is an efficient remedy in certain forms of amenorrhoea. In rural districts it is used in the form of a tea infusion for this pur-

pose, being administered during the week of the expected flow. Overdoses cause vomiting and purging, and excessive amounts, taken with intent to produce criminal abortion, have resulted in convulsions and death. The whole plant is used. Dose, from 15 to 60 grains (1.0—4.0 cc) of the dried herb, in infusion.

### PETROSELIMUM.

Parsely root is carminative, laxative, diuretic and emmenagogue. It contains a volatile oil, and a camphoraceous substance called apiol, which seems to be the active principle. Full doses cause a rise of blood pressure, not by contracting the capillaries but by stimulating the heart's action. Apiol is useful in scanty menstruation, amenorrhoea, dysmenorrhoea, etc., given about the time the discharge is due. It acts as a direct, stimulating emmenagogue. Dose, 10 to 15 grains (0.97—1.0 cc). It should be given in capsules.

### GUIAC.

Guaiacum is a gum secreted by the *lignum vitae* tree of South America. It comes in irregular, brittle, greenish-gray masses, with balsamic odor and acrid taste. The *Tinctura Guaiacae* and *Tinctura Guaiacae Ammoniata*,

or Ammoniated Tincture of Guaiacum are official. The powdered resin is also sometimes prescribed. The doses of the tinctures are from 30 to 60 drops (2.0—4.0 cc.). That of the powdered resin 5 to 30 grains (0.3—2.0 Gm.).

Tincture of Guaiacum is almost a specific for that form of tonsillitis called quinsy. It should be given in doses of 30 drops (2.0 cc.) in an emulsion of acacia, every four hours. This, with local applications, will soon relieve the patient. In similar doses the ammoniated tincture is useful in atonic amenorrhoea. The disagreeable taste of the drug prevents its frequent use. Sweet milk may be used as a vehicle.

#### HYDRASTIS (GOLDENSEAL).

Hydrastis is classed among the emmenagogues by most authorities, though others are doubtful of its utility. The weight of clinical evidence is in its favor. The official preparations of the rhizome of Hydrastis are: Fluid extractum Hydrastis, dose, 10 to 30 drops (0.6—2.0 cc.). Glyceritum Hydrastis, used externally. Tinctura Hydrastis, dose 30 to 60 drops (2.0—4.0 cc.). Hydrastina Hydrastine, an alhaloid, dose 1-32 to 1-2 grain (0.002—0.03 Gm.). It is soluble in ether, chloroform and water. Hydrastininae, Hydrochloride of Hydrastinine, dose 1-32 to 1-2 grain (0.005—0.03 Gm.).

Hydrastis, its preparations and derivatives, have a wide range of usefulness. By some the drug is classed as second only to quinine as an antimalarial, though, of course, with far less powder. In very full doses it resembles strychnine in its effects, causing, if pushed too far, first clonic then tonic and tetanic convulsions.

Its effect upon the vessels is to contract

them, thus raising blood pressure. It is credited with hemostatic powers, and is prescribed in menorrhagia, the hydrastinine being given hypodermatically. Hydrastine is the form used for malaria.

In amenorrhoea the fluid extract is preferred, as it contains the tonic element of the plant. From 15 to 20 drops of the fluid extract (1.0—1.29 cc.) to 4 ounces (118.0 cc.) of water is used as an injection in gonorrhoea.

#### CAULOPHYLLUM.

Caulophyllum, known as blue cohosh, or squaw root, is considered by some an efficient remedy for amenorrhoea and dysmenorrhoea. It was bequeathed to our profession, it is said, by the red Indian medicine man, who called it squaw root because of its usefulness in female disorders. The dose is from 15 to 20 grains, (1.0—1.29 Gm.).

Sometimes a combination of synergistic drugs is more effectual than either would be alone. The following is suggested by Goodell:

R. Extracti Aloes .....	5 I, (4.0 Gm.).
Ferri Sulphatis Exsiccati.....	5 II, (8.0 Gm.).
Assafoetidae .....	5 IV,
Misce. Fiat pilulae No. 100.	

Sigma: One pill after each meal, gradually increased to three.

Another, credited by Wood to Dewees, is as follows:

Tinctura Ferri Chloridi.....	5 III, (12.0 cc.).
Tincturae Cantharidis .....	5 I, (4.0).
Tinctura Guaiaci Ammoniaci.....	5 iss (45.0).
Tincturae Aloes .....	5 ss. (15.0).
Syrupi Simplicis ....q. s. ad.	5 vi (180.0 cc.).

Fiat Mistura. Signe: A tablespoonful thrice daily, in simple atonic amenorrhoea. It would seem that the nauseousness of this dose would by itself cause a profound constitutional revulsion.