

Dr. Peschier,) only to demonstrate that cotton is applicable, indiscriminately, to all kinds of wounds and ulcers, and that far from being, as it is unjustly regarded, *poisonous*, that is to say, *irritating*, it furnishes, on the contrary, a material for dressing wounds, of the softest and most pleasant kind. But, I repeat, it is indispensable to success, that the dressings be rare, and that the threads be never pulled or torn from the wound,—a practice which cannot fail to increase either its extent or aggravation. The scissors, lightly handled, must be used to separate from the adhering fibres, the mass, which may be safely detached.

“I would be the first to admit that there is very little scientific merit in substituting cotton for lint; but I deem it to be rendering an important service to the wounded, to their connections, and especially to the attendants at civil and military hospitals, to convince them that they need not be uneasy at the difficulty of procuring lint, a substance not always easy to preserve,—which becomes easily infected with miasmata, and which cannot be kept in large masses without some danger. Carded cotton is found everywhere; it is of trifling value, so that the rich will at no time refuse to buy it for the poor, and hospitals can be at all times well provided with it.

“The same remarks apply to cotton cloth. It is of trifling cost, even when of the finest kind; it has precisely the degree of suppleness which fits it for bandages and compresses; it occupies vastly less space in travelling chests than linen or hemp, and it may be anywhere abundantly obtained.”

Bibliothèque Universelle.

III.

OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING THE BARK OF THE ROOT OF THE POMEGRANATE TREE, AS A REMEDY AGAINST THE TAPEWORM.

By RICHARD PEARSON, M. D.

IN consequence of the strong testimonies recorded by various medical practitioners attached to the East India service in favor of the bark of the pomegranate tree (*Punica Granatum*) in cases of tapeworm, I was induced about two years ago to prescribe it to several patients who had voided portions of that worm, and who had previously taken the oil of turpentine and other anthelmintics, with little benefit. I prescribed the powder of the dried bark of the root, (as recommended by Mr. Breton in the London Medico-Chirurgical Transactions, vol. xi.) in doses of from 3ss. to ℥ii., to be repeated every hour until it should produce some powerful effect; but to my disappointment, in one case it produced no sensible effect whatever, and in two other cases small portions only of the worm came away after its exhibition. The remedy has proved equally unsuccessful in the hands of my friend and colleague, Dr. Eccles, senior physician to a Birmingham General Dispensary. The bark prescribed by both of us was obtained from London by the principal druggist in this town. To account for these failures, I am led to suspect, either that the bark which we used was from the root of a pomegranate tree of British growth, or that it was some other bark in lieu of the pomegranate bark. If it were the bark of a pomegranate tree cultivated in this country, it is easy to account for its want of efficacy; for, to possess

its medicinal properties in full perfection, the pomegranate tree must grow in a hot and dry climate.

When cultivated in the gardens of our cold and humid climate, it degenerates—it becomes inert. But perhaps the bark prescribed by Dr. Eccles and myself was not the genuine drug; for Professor Richard of Paris states, that the bark of the barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*) is sometimes fraudulently substituted in commerce for the pomegranate bark. Under these circumstances, I would suggest that no pomegranate bark except that which shall be imported from the East Indies, be offered for sale by the druggists. Mr. Breton has shown that this bark loses none of its virtues by drying; hence it may be easily sent from India reduced to powder, and put into bottles well corked and sealed. It is much to be wished that some able chemist would undertake an accurate analysis of this bark. At present, we only know that it contains tannin and gallic acid, with some wax; and two sorts of saccharine matter,—one partaking of the nature of sugar, and the other of the nature of mannite, (Mitouart, Journ. Pharm. 1824); but none of these principles—not even tannin and gallic acid—will account for its anthelmintic action, nor for its effect on the cerebral system, when administered in full doses, giving rise to vertigo, fainting, &c. I strongly suspect that the pomegranate bark contains a proximate principle—probably a peculiar alkaloid—in which its vermifuge power resides.

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IV.

CASES OF PUERPERAL DISEASE.

By JOHN HOMANS, M.D.

Read before the Boston Society for Medical Improvement, October, 1831, and published in this Journal by order of the Publishing Committee.

I OFFER the Society the following cases of lying-in women from my minute book, which I hope may not be without practical benefit.

Mrs. T. had been affected with nausea and occasional vomiting since December last, when she became pregnant for the first time, and for the last month these symptoms became more urgent to the present time, July 30, in the ninth month. Anodyne and other medicines had been administered without benefit; and now, according to her calculation within a fortnight of the fulfilment of her time, she is able to retain nothing on the stomach, has not slept for the last two nights, but has thrown herself from one side of the bed to the other, complaining of great distress in the region of the stomach, in the intervals between frequent fits of retching and vomiting. Yesterday, she slept an hour or two and felt better; but as soon as she attempted to take nutriment, it was instantly rejected, sometimes accompanied with bile. Injections containing laudanum were given with no better effect, for the vomiting seemed to be increased by them, and the laudanum itself, with a liquor resembling coffee, appeared to be thrown up.

July 31. 5 o'clock, A. M., labor pains commenced, recurring at intervals of 20 to 30 minutes, attended with general uneasiness, vomiting still continuing unabated; pulse 115, feeble, and the countenance pale and anxious. Injections