

*May 18th.* The health of the patient is excellent; he walks about without difficulty, yet the upper ligature is as fast as ever, and cannot be forced away. I determined to draw it pretty firmly, and cut it short.

*24th.* The wound has healed over, and the patient is well.

The history of this case points out the great advantage of animal ligatures over thread or silk. Could I have obtained these, or such as I thought sufficiently firm, they would certainly have been used, though in one or two cases of amputation and one of scirrhus breast, when I could not obtain the animal ligatures in time, I have cut the silk quite short, and found not the slightest inconvenience to ensue, nor have the persons, who are yet living, suffered in any way from them. Yet as a general rule it will not do, as they might become sources of irritation, and ultimately danger might ensue.

*May 30th, 1832.*

ART. XI. *Stimulating Antispasmodic Liniment.* By WILLIAM M. FAHNESTOCK, M. D.

WE have had in contemplation for some time past, to make public through this journal the prescription of a liniment which we have used in a variety of painful affections, and intended to introduce it in a continuation of our paper on *external medications*, published in the seventh volume of this journal; but which we have been prevented from extending in consequence of continued indisposition during the last sixteen months, which has disabled us entirely from pursuing our profession, and favourite science. And, indeed, we now feel a necessity for anticipating a notice of it in that place, from the great popularity the mixture has gained in the immediate circle of our friends, and the community in which we move—so much so as to have obtained the title of FAHNESTOCK'S LINIMENT—a distinction of which we are by no means ambitious.—R. Spts. cornu cervi fort., Ol. olivar., Tr. opii, (Sydenham,) Ol. origanum, ʒi. ʒj. M. A tablespoonful, warmed in a pan or dish, *previously* heated, as it is very volatile and evaporates immediately, to be applied to the affected part, and covered with baked flannels—repeat every fifteen or thirty minutes pro re nata.

The origanum is an old and almost obsolete remedy, but it is one of the most pungent and penetrating stimulants. We were first led

to use it from *necessity*, as a substitute for horse-mint, and found relief so prompt and decided, that we have continued to employ it with the most happy effects for upwards of ten years. A brief notice of a few cases may suffice to illustrate its efficacy.

1822. S. M. æt. 24, of vigorous constitution and sedentary habits, being a journeyman taylor, had suffered frequently from a rheumatic affection of the maxillary articulation; which extended along the jaw bone, and into the throat; so much so at times, as to prevent mastication and deglutition. He had been treated at several different periods by our much lamented preceptor, Dr. MARTIN LUTHER, upon the *common* antiphlogistic plan—venesection, cathartics, nauseants, diaphoretics, &c. &c. and externally with fumigations, sinapisms, and epispasties, successively applied to the back of the neck, the throat and face—with scarcely any mitigation of the symptoms and suffering. After all this we recommended the above liniment, which produced almost immediate relief from the most excruciating agony under which he had been labouring for the six or eight preceding days. The patient has kept a bottle of the mixture by him ever since, and whenever threatened with an attack, checks it by an immediate application.

1823. A gentleman while at a cotillion party, six miles from his home, sustained an accident by treading on the side of his foot while in the act of dancing, which gave the ankle joint a severe wrench. A stream of cold water from a fountain was directed upon it for fifteen or twenty minutes, by which time the whole foot had swollen immensely; and when he arrived at his residence, the pain was almost insupportable. The above liniment was applied, and relief followed immediately. The application was repeated two or three times, he sunk to repose and passed comparatively a comfortable night.

It is in this species of accident that the mixture displays its signal efficacy. A few years since, a medical friend was treating a case of this kind, which proved very obstinate, having resisted blood-letting, leeches, and a variety of anodyne and refrigerant applications, when we were casually invited to see the patient. We recommended our favourite mixture, and the relief astonished both the patient and the medical attendant.

We then extended the remedy to various rheumatic affections with much advantage, but found it especially beneficial in that species called myostosis, or rheumatism of the muscles; and particularly of the intercostal spaces; a disease often mistaken for chronic pleuritis, which mistake frequently subjects the patient to the unnecessary torture of blisters, emetic plasters, &c.

Dr. PURSIEK, in the surgical remarks which he occasionally intro-

duced into his anatomical lectures, was in the habit of remarking on a peculiar state of the deltoid muscle, arising from slight injuries, which resembles and has frequently been mistaken for luxation of the shoulder joint, and for which he recommends rest alone. We have met with several cases of this kind attended by distressing symptoms, which have uniformly yielded to the liniment recommended. An affection similar to this is very common among wool and cotton spinners, who work at very large mules; which requires exertion principally of the deltoid muscle and humeral articulation. Such cases we have always found to be subdued by the application of this remedy.

Recently we have prescribed it with much success in the premonitory stages of the much dreaded cholera, and from its very prompt and distinguished antispasmodic virtues, have much reason to prefer it to every other application in that and similar affections.

We have the mixture sometimes prepared with but half the quantity of the origanum, as it may be too irritating to a very delicate surface. We have seen it vesicate in some instances where the flannel becomes soaked in the liniment while applying it. In cases where we desire a prompt and immediate impression, the mixture according to the prescription, applied frequently, will be found remarkably active and efficacious.

ART. XII. *Case in which a very large dose of Arsenic was taken by mistake, without fatal consequences.* By H. PERRINE, M. D.

THE following is a brief sketch from memory of an accident which occurred to myself in Bond County in the State of Illinois. While convalescing from dysentery, on the dawn of the 20th of September, 1821, I mixed some powdered Peruvian bark in a glass where sixty-four grains of arsenic had been accidentally left by my eldest student, and drank all that it contained except what remained adhering to its internal surface, and then rode six or seven miles to visit a patient. On the route I experienced sickness and uneasiness in the stomach, which increased on my arrival, after unavailing efforts to sleep, so greatly as to induce me to promote vomiting by irritating my throat with my finger, but am not conscious of having discharged either bark or arsenic. I then had some partial slumber, which was interrupted by frightful dreams, accompanied with increasing uneasiness of the stomach, severe pain in the head, and violent agitation of the heart, and arteries, and general tremor of the muscles. Four hours had thus