typhoid fever, chronic diarrhœa or profuse suppuration. This extract is readily taken by children in the form of powder, or prepared in lozenges. Its action is always slow. The dose is one drachm, or less, daily.

CASE OF VOMITING OF FORTY YEARS' DURATION.

BY JACOB BIGELOW, M.D.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

A LADY, now 79 years of age, has been at times under my care for the last 20 years. She reports that at the age of 39 or 40, she had a severe fever, on recovering from which she found herself unable to retain either food or liquid upon the stomach in any considerable quantity. She is confident that during the whole period of forty years, she has never retained a meal, but has vomited regularly at least three times a day. If she eats or drinks in irregular or intermediate hours, the material received is always thrown off, even if it be only a cup of tea or of water. The vomiting is easy, and without pain or great effort. The matter thrown up consists of the ingesta, having usually an acid taste. There is no bile, except during the presence of some temporary indisposition. She takes her food with relish, and in most instances throws it off quickly, "being often obliged to leave the table abruptly for that purpose. If the vomiting is not complete, she occasionally drinks warm water to promote the evacuation and relieve uneasiness, especially at going to bed. She is confident that she ejects as much as she receives, but her daughter, who resides with her, thinks it may be three quarters as much. This last supposition is undoubtedly nearest the truth, and would leave for her support one quarter of each meal taken.

She is now in her eightieth year, having led an active life, in the enjoyment of a competent degree of health, except an occasional attack of acute disease. She has four times had severe erysipelas, attended in two instances with considerable sloughing. She has had dysentery more than once. Last spring she broke the os humeri and had an abscess in the shoulder. She is now in the enjoyment of fair health, the functions duly performed, and has made a journey of a hundred miles within a few months. She is confident that for the period which has been stated, including one half of her life, she has never retained a single meal.

I have never found any tumor, effusion or tenderness on pressure in or about the epigastric region, except the occasional effects of acute disease as above mentioned. Her habit has been generally spare, but otherwise her appearance, spirits and bearing are those of a person who has been benefited, rather than injured, by the smallness of the nutriment left for her support.

Boston, October, 1856.

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