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RHEUMATISM TREATED WITH COMMON ARTICHOKE.

BY EDWARD COPEMAN.

THE following are some cases of rheumatism treated with the common artichoke (*Cynara Scolymus*) ; a remedy which, to the best of my knowledge, has not before been employed for the relief of that very troublesome and obstinate complaint, but which, I think, promises fairly to be of essential service in many cases where the usual remedies fail. Under this impression I have sent you the present communication ; and if you consider it worthy the notice of the profession, you will much oblige me by giving it a place in your pages.

I was led to make a trial of the cynara from having accidentally witnessed its effects in the case of a lady, who had suffered severely from chronic rheumatism for several years, and had received but little relief from the usual modes of treatment. In this instance, some artichoke leaves were bruised, and the juice mixed with sherry ; and a wineglassful of this mixture was taken twice a day *for a fortnight*, in which time it almost entirely removed large ganglions from the wrist, of three or four years' standing, and completely relieved the pains in the joints. Several months afterwards, the swellings of the wrists began to re-appear, but the patient has never since suffered so much pain as she did before this medicine was taken.

Considering this a sufficient inducement for trying its effects more extensively, I obtained leave of the physicians of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital to employ it in some of the cases of rheumatism there admitted, and made two preparations of it—a tincture and an extract. I made the tincture by macerating about two pounds of fresh artichoke leaves and stalks in two pints of proof spirit for fourteen days. This was too weak a preparation, and objectionable in several cases, on account of the large quantity of spirit which is contained in a sufficiently large dose. The extract was made by evaporating the expressed juice of the leaves and stalks to a proper consistence for making pills. With respect to the effects which the artichoke produces upon the constitution, I have very little to say ; as I have hitherto been quite at a loss to ascertain how it

acts. It exerts no appreciable influence over the functions of the skin ; sometimes it clears the urine and increases its quantity, but not always ; it produces apparently no stimulating nor narcotic effects ; but when given in large doses it acts more or less violently upon the bowels, causing griping pains and purging, and as soon as this takes place it ceases to produce any beneficial influence upon the disease for which it is employed. This, *ceteris paribus*, gives it a decided superiority over colchicum, as the latter seldom does good till it begins to cause disturbance of the stomach and bowels.

CASE I.—Rheumatism of three months' duration—Cured.

Henry Page, ætat. 17 years, admitted December 11, 1831. Says he caught cold three months ago, from lying in a damp bed ; since which time he has never been free from rheumatic pains in his joints. The pain is now chiefly referred to the right knee and ankle, and the instep of the same side is swelled, and so painful that he cannot bear his weight upon it. Health in other respects pretty good. Bowels regular ; appetite good. Sumat. haust. purg. statim, et Tr. Cynaræ, 3j. ter die.

20th.—Has experienced great relief since taking the medicine. Augmentor dosis Tr. Cynaræ ad 3ij. t. d.

Jan. 3, 1832.—He is now quite free from pain, and the swelling of the instep has entirely subsided. Discharged cured.

CASE II.—Rheumatism of five months' standing—Failure of ordinary remedies—Successfully treated with Artichoke.

Robert Bussey, 27 years of age, a post-boy, was admitted on the 8th of October, 1831, with chronic rheumatism of five months' standing, chiefly affecting the knees and wrists, which are red and much swelled. Was in the hospital twelve months ago, with the same complaint. Sumat. Pulv. Ipecac. comp. gr. x. o. nocte ; Utatur Lin. Ammoniacæ frequenter ; Baln. tepid. ter hebdomed. Extr. Cynaræ, gr. iij. bis die.

18th.—Much freer from pain. Cont. remed.

26th.—Improving. As the small quantity of extr. cynaræ which I had made was all used, he was ordered to take Vin. Colch. gtt. xxx. ter die. Cont. Balneum.

November 1st.—Since last report he has been losing ground daily, and has now nearly as much pain as when he came into the hospital. Sum. Vin. Colch. gtt. xl. ter die.

9th.—Not better ; ankles very painful and swelled ; skin cold ; pulse languid. Sumat. Pulv. Ipecac. c. gr. x. ter die, c. Tr. Guaiac. Am. gtt. xxx. ; Pil. Aloes, c. gr. v. o. nocte.

13th.—Slightly relieved. Cont. Med.

27th.—Complains of a great deal of pain in the right shoulder ; wrists and knees still swollen and painful, especially at night, so as to prevent his getting any rest. I had now prepared some uncture of artichoke, and directed him to take 3j. 3tiis horis ; the other remedies being omitted, except the warm bath.

29th.—Improving. Cont. Tr. Cynaræ.

December 1st.—Almost free from pain ; knees and ankles quite recovered. Cont. Med.

13th.—Quite well, with the exception of a slight swelling of the left wrist. Discharged.

From the nature of his occupation, this patient afterwards unavoidably exposed himself to cold and wet weather, and suffered a relapse, from which he was again relieved by the same means.

CASE III.—Chronic Rheumatism—Failure of Guaiac., Quina and Colchicum—Cure from Artichoke.

William Bloom, 22 years of age, a footman, of a scrofulous habit, admitted January 28, 1832, with chronic rheumatism, affecting the shoulders and knees. Sum. Tr. Guaiac. Am. 3j. ter die. Baln. tepid. ter hebdomed.

Feb. 7th.—Complains of weakness and loss of appetite; perspires very copiously of a night, and upon very slight exertion. Pulse slow and languid. R. Inf. Rosæ, 3 iss.; Quinæ Sulph. gr. ij. Acid. Sulph. dilut. gtts. xv. M. ter die. Omit. Alia.

18th.—Health much improved. Omit. Mist. Tonic. sumat Vin. Colchici, gtts. xl. ter die.

24th.—Had an attack of fever last night, followed by profuse perspiration. Bowels confined; pulse 96. Omit. Colch. et sumat Magnes. Sulph. 3v.; Magnes. Carb. gr. xv. statim, et Mist. Quin. Rosæ, ut antea.

26th.—General health again pretty good. Rheumatic pains as severe as when he came into the hospital. Omit. Mist. Quinæ. Resumat. Vin. Colchici, gtts. xl. ter die; Cal. gr. iij. Opii, gr. ij. omni nocte.

29th.—Has experienced no relief from the colchicum. Pain of the knees severe and constant. Urine very high colored and scanty. Omit. Med. et sumat. Tr. Cynaræ, 3ij. ter die.

March 2d.—Less pain; urine quite clear, and passed freely. Cont.

7th.—Very much better. No pain, except in the right knee. Ap-
plic. Lin. Ammon. c. Tr. Lyttæ ad genu dextrum.

12th.—Improving. Sumat 3iv. Tr. Cynaræ ter die.

16th.—Discharged cured.

CASE IV.—Acute Rheumatism cured by Artichoke.

John Gall, 28 years of age, admitted June 16, 1832, hostler, of good constitution, and rather a free liver. Never had a day's illness till seized with the present attack. A fortnight ago he got wet on two following days, and did not change his clothes for several hours afterwards. On the third day he was attacked very suddenly with pains in the knees and feet, which soon extended over his body generally, so as to 'set him fast.' Pains always increased by warmth; gets no sleep of a night, and has not been able to stand since the first two days. He is now incapable of turning himself in bed, of feeding himself, or of bending his body and limbs in any direction. Joints hot, but not swelled; pulse 80, and small; bowels open daily; passes urine freely; skin rather moist and hot; tongue furred; appetite good; feels most pain of a night, and is best when cool. No pain in the chest, nor difficulty of breathing. Says he is never an hour without pain in his limbs. Sumat Tr. Cynaræ, 3j. ter die. R. Extr. Cynaræ; Extr. Hyosciam. a. gr. ij. omni nocte sum.

18th.—Can move his right arm a little; got some sleep during the night. Cont. Med.

19th.—Slept six hours last night, and says he has much less pain than when he was admitted.

22d.—Gets a great deal of comfortable sleep, and, when still, is quite free from pain. Can move his legs and thighs freely, without pain, but when he attempts to raise his arms he feels pain in his shoulders. Tongue clean; skin warm and perspiring; has been able to feed himself since the 20th. Cont. Med.

July 1st.—Quite free from pain, but complains of stiffness. Descend. in Baln. tepid. semel.

19th.—Cured.

CASE V.—Acute Rheumatism of Elbow and Wrist, cured by Artichoke—Improvement impeded by purging.

William Stamp, 66 years of age, admitted October 13, 1832. Seven weeks before admission he was attacked with pain in the left arm, and is now never free from it. Elbow and wrist swelled and reddish; is obliged to carry his left arm in a sling, as the weight of it causes a good deal of pain in the shoulder. Applic. Hirud. xij. ad Humerum.

18th.—No relief. Rep. Hirudines ad Humerum.

19th.—As before. Rep. Hirudines.

20th.—Shoulder slightly relieved. Rep. Hirud. Sumat Pulv. Colchici, gr. viij. 8vis horis.

23d.—Has received no permanent relief from the treatment. Elbow very painful. Empl. Lyttæ ad ulnam.

29th.—Stomach out of order, and complains of weakness. Ordered a pint of porter daily. Omit. Pulv. Colchici, et sumat Extr. Cynaræ, gr. iij. 4ter quotidie.

31st.—Elbow still painful, but the pain is not constant. *Swelling of the wrist nearly gone.* Is not able to move his fingers without great difficulty. Cont. Cynar. 2dis horis.

Nov. 3d.—Bowels much relaxed by the pills. Sumat j. 3tis horis.

4th.—Still purged by the pills. Sumat. j. 4tis horis. Has received no relief from pain since the purging commenced.

6th.—No pain nor swelling in the arm. No purging. Cont. Pil.

8th.—Has no pain in the shoulder or arm, but experiences great difficulty in moving it. Discharged.

CASE VI.—Severe Rheumatism cured by Artichoke, after the failure of Cinchona, Colchicum, &c.

James Loveday, 24 years of age, admitted October 6, 1832. About a fortnight ago, he was attacked with very severe pains in his wrists and knees; soon afterwards, his loins became affected, which obliged him to leave off work. The larger joints are swelled, stiff, and painful, especially when he is warm in bed, at which time he suffers so severely that he is unable to sleep. Cannot walk at all without a stick, and is not able to rise from his seat or sit down without assistance. Bowels open; appetite good; pulse 90, and full; skin warm, with occasional perspiration. Vin. Colch. 3ss. 4ter die. Cal. gr. ij.; Opii, gr. iss. o. n.

9th.—No relief at present. Urine very high colored. Balneum tepid. ter hebdomed.

16th.—Knees and wrists very painful. Gets no rest of a night. Omit. Med. sumat Pulv. Cinchon. 3j. ter die.

23d.—No better than when he came into the hospital. Wrists very much swollen. Omit. Med. et Baln. Cap. Extr. Cynaræ, gr. iij. ter die.

26th.—Rather less pain. Urine of a good color, and clear. Has 'slept better the last two nights than at any time since he was first taken ill.' Capt. Extr. Cynaræ, gr. iij. 3tiis horis.

27th.—Can walk without a stick, and says he is much better. Cont.

29th.—Very little swelling of the wrists ; knees still very stiff and painful. Cont. Pil. Cynaræ.

30th.—Swelling of left wrist quite gone. Cont. Med.

Nov. 4th.—More pain ; bowels much relaxed. Sumat Pil. 4tiis horis.

9th.—Much better ; no purging. Cont. Med.

13th.—Complaints of pain in the left side ; action of the heart very irregular. Fetus ad Latus. Haust. Purgans Sumat Pil. j. bis die.

14th.—No pain in the region of the heart. Cont. Pil. j. ter die ; applic. Lin. Sapon. ad Lumbos.

27th.—Very little pain in the joints ; walks about pretty well ; but feels weak. Cont. Cynaræ, et sumat Quinæ S. gr. ij. Acid Sulph. dil. gtts. xx. ex. Infus. Rosæ, 3 iss. ter die.

Dec. 5th.—No pain, but remains weak, and does not digest his food very well. Omit. Cynara. Cont. Mist. Quinæ.

6th.—Slight return of pain in the knees. Rep. Cynara.

10th.—Convalescent. Shoulders rather stiff. Baln. tepid. bis hebdomed.

22d.—Made an out-patient.

I have employed the cynara in many cases, and in all with something of success ; but I shall not notice them more particularly here, for fear of encroaching too much upon your valuable pages. I shall be glad, however, if, from the cases I have sent you, practitioners may be induced to judge of the merits of the medicine by putting it to the test of their own experience.—*London Medical Gazette.*

DR. THOMPSON'S TREATMENT OF CHOLERA.*

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—I cannot agree with your correspondent *Senex*, in your last number, in the view which he has taken of Dr. Thompson's treatment of the collapse of cholera. He imagines, or rather asserts, that 'if he and Dr. Stokes had known the importance of capsicum as an adjuvant to opium, or had enforced its employment in the obstinate cases, in the present state of our knowledge, it would seem that there is not much to be added to improve their respective modes of practice.'

Now it appears to me that Dr. Thompson ascribes comparatively little to the effect of opium ; but that he depends chiefly on the operation of means which are nearly mechanical—overlooking the great vital laws of the animal system. 'Two great objects,' he says, 'I keep always in view, viz. that there is a deficiency of serum and animal heat,

* See page 221 of the present volume of this Journal. The Dr. Thompson here referred to is not the person known by that name in this vicinity, but a respectable surgeon in Belfast, Ireland ;—a gentleman who has had 20 years experience as naval surgeon, and not a little in the epidemic which forms the subject of Dr. P.'s paper.—*Ed*