

Opium does not produce its specific effect upon the horse. It operates merely as an astringent. It has no anodyne effect, as it has upon man. It will not mitigate pain. It is unfortunate that most writers on the veterinary art have copied from each other, and have recommended medicines for the horse which are known to be useful to men. Thus calomel, rhubarb and colocynth, have been recommended as purgatives for horses, whereas they are now known to have no such effect on that animal.

Bark produces no sensible effect upon the horse.

There are no medicines that operate on the horse as ipecacuanha and tartar emetic do upon the human subject.

Tartar emetic in doses of four ounces will sometimes occasion a little nausea and purging, but in smaller doses it has no sensible effect. No preparation of mercury will produce salivation in the horse. His gums may be made sore by mercury, but ptyalism cannot be produced by it.

Sugar of lead which is known to be a most deadly poison to man, the horse can take without injury.

Tobacco has no deleterious effect upon the horse.

Hellebore in doses of half a drachm produces a tendency to nausea in the horse. Hemlock is good food for goats, but a deadly poison to man; and wheat, the natural food for man, is poison to the horse. Spirit of turpentine, which an infant may handle without injury, operates as caustic when applied to the skin of a horse, although it may be applied to sores and fungous flesh on that animal without producing pain.

[To the Editors of the New-England Journal of Medicine and Surgery.]

SHOULD you deem the inclosed communication of any practical utility, you would confer a favour on the subscriber by giving it a page in your Medical Journal.

A Case of Worms. By Doctor EDMUND PORTER, Licentiate of the Connecticut Medical Society, &c.

FEBRUARY 15th, 1822—I was requested to visit Miss M. Britton, owing to the inclemency of the weather I neglected calling on her immediately, but forwarded an active dose of calomel and jalap which was taken, but did not produce the effect intended. In the evening of the above day a second messenger arrived and informed me that 'she was strangling to death,' and requested my immediate attendance. I visited her—her symptoms considerably resembled hysteria—she com-

plained of a ball rising in the throat, which continued to move—at intervals suffocation returned—the pulse was full and strong, attended with considerable fever, furred tongue, slight rigors, cough, nausea, and vomiting. Having obtained a satisfactory history of her indisposition, I did not hesitate to treat it as a case of worms, attended with highly inflammatory diathesis.

Treatment.—I took from the arm one pound of blood, and then exhibited an emetic of tart. antimonii and ipecacuanha combined, in order to dislodge the offending mucus and worms if possible which infested the œsophagus. The attempt was in a measure fruitless, the worms were not discharged, it however disgorged a considerable quantity of slime and biliary matter—she felt slightly relieved. Tobacco as recommended by Dr. Barton was then applied to the throat and chest—and a strong decoction of spigelia and senna (say one quart) was drank during the remainder of the night—the following morning a worm of the *lumbricius* species was evacuated—strangulation, and suffocation partially abated—cannot sleep in a recumbent posture—fever continues—the pulse more natural—still feels the worms in the throat.

Having on a former occasion witnessed the utility of the *Carbonas Potassæ*, as prescribed by my friend, Dr. James Lakey, in a similar case, in lieu of lime water, for destroying the mucus, and loosening the adhesion of vermes, I lost no time in exhibiting it, to the amount of six grains in solution with sal sodæ every two hours—and continued the decoction of spigelia.

Feb'ry 17—This day I found my patient much as I had left her yesterday, with this exception, she had discharged eleven uncommonly large round worms—the alkaline solution continued, and calomel and jalap repeated.

Feb'ry 18—Pulse less frequent, fever, slight flushes of heat, and rigors continue, appetite very indifferent, the sensation of worms creeping in the throat considerably aggravated.—The cathartic discharged a large quantity of mucus.—Not being in possession of the *stizolobium*, or any other mechanical remedy, on which I could rely with confidence, I resorted to the *spirits of turpentine* which I prescribed to the amount of one drachm every other hour—and increased to eight grains the alkaline, in solution with the least possible quantity of water.

Feb'ry 19th—Symptoms more favourable, can rest in a recumbent posture, the pulse natural, fever abated, her spirits improved, and the sensation of 'choaking and crawling of worms in the throat' scarcely perceivable.—This day she voided twenty *teres* or *lumbrici*, and a live worm judged to be *twenty-seven inches* in length, resembling a fine linen thread, probably one of the species described by Goeze, called '*trichuris*.' The re-