

eleven at night, thirteen hours after the second dose, and thirty-seven after the first, it died, having neither passed feces nor urine during the whole period.

"On opening the body some hours after death, the stomach was found nearly empty and much enlarged, with increased vascularity towards the pylorus; the orifice was contracted, and the whole mucous membrane was softer and more vascular than natural. The lungs were much inflamed, and in some spots transparent and pulpy. The rest of the viscera did not seem at all affected.

"The next rabbit to which Mr. M. gave elaterine had no evacuation for three days; at the end of which period he gave it a fifth of a grain, which proved fatal in two days. In the course of the second day it passed a considerable quantity of milky urine and some feculent matter.

"The only morbid appearances were increased vascularity and thickening of the coats of the stomach, with softening of the mucous coat. The lungs were not so much altered as in the first rabbit, but were obviously inflamed to a considerable extent.

"The effects on man are similar to those of elaterium itself, viz. increased secretion of urine, nausea, vomiting, and fluid stools.

"To a person in perfect health a twentieth of a grain was given, which at the end of two hours produced vomiting and copious dejections. In the Royal Infirmary it was tried by Dr. Christison in four cases, in doses of a tenth of a grain. In two of them vomiting and purging were produced, in a third griping, and in a fourth no effect. In these cases Mr. M. attributes the uncertainty of its effect to its having been made up in the form of pill, as, from trials since made by Dr. Duncan in the clinical wards of that institution, with an acidulated solution, a twelfth or even sixteenth of a grain has been found a sufficient dose for an adult.

"The formula which has been found to succeed most completely is the following:—*R. Elaterina, gr. i. Alcohol ℥j. Acidi Nitrici, gtt. iv. Solve. Sumat. x. ℥ss. ad gtt. xl. in aquæ Cinnamomi ℥ss.*

"In a case of anasarca, Mr. M. had an opportunity of trying its effects, and found it at least a very useful purgative, the patient always expressing himself much relieved after its operation."

21. *Improved Formula for preparing Red Precipitate Ointment.*—When red precipitate is finely powdered, it becomes of an orange colour. Many apothecaries are deterred by this change of colour from powdering the precipitate sufficiently fine, whilst it induces others to add to their ointment, vermilion, to give it what is supposed to be the proper colour. The more finely powdered, however, the red precipitate is, the more active will it be, and the more fit for application, especially when required for so delicate an organ as the eye. The following directions, therefore, given by Mr. THOMAS CLARK, in the *Glasgow Medical Journal*, for November, 1830, for preparing the red precipitate ointment, seem worthy of adoption. "To attain," says Mr. C., "a proper consistence in the ointment; to keep it from spoiling; to fix upon a strength more easy for computation, and to exalt and render more uniform the powers of the red precipitate, I venture to propose the following simple practical formula: "Take of red precipitate, prepared by nitric acid; good yellow wax, of each a drachm; prepared lard, an ounce. *Rub the red precipitate till it becomes orange.* Then mix it with a little of the lard. Mix also the remainder of the lard with the wax, and melt them together. When the latter mixture is removed from the fire, and has begun to harden, add to it the former mixture. Stir the whole together till it cool."

In this process, Mr. C. says, that the part most likely to be negligently performed, is the rubbing, and that not more than one or two drachms should be put into the mortar at a time.