

to make water, accompanied by great pain in the region of the prostate gland, and along the urethra, while at other times severe twinges of pain are felt in the same part. The urine may contain a small amount of pus.

Women, especially middle-aged women, often suffer from frequent desire to pass water, or inability to hold it long, sometimes only in the day on moving about. Micturition causes no pain, neither is there any straining, and the urine is natural. Other women cannot help passing a little urine on straining, or sneezing, or coughing; sometimes women are troubled with both sets of symptoms, which appear due to weakness of the sphincter of the bladder. One or two drops of tincture of cantharides three or four times a day, will in many cases afford great relief and sometimes cure with astonishing rapidity, even where the symptoms have lasted months or years.

Tincture of cantharides is useful in the incontinence of urine of the aged, even when due to paralysis, and sometimes in that of children. With children, however, it is inferior to belladonna. Unfortunately, each remedy fails in a not inconsiderable number of cases.

A drop of the tincture, three times a day, will remove chor-dee in the majority of cases.

Cantharides affects the generative organs. Large quantities of the drug congest and inflame these parts, and often produce erection of the penis, effects generally attributed to the sympathy existing between the genitary and urinary tracts. It certainly excites the sexual appetite and has been often given criminally for this purpose. Full doses of cantharides, twenty to thirty drops of the tincture, or half a grain of the powder with full doses of sesqui-chloride of iron and phosphoric acid, or nux vomica three times daily, is a combination effective in some cases of impotence; in the impotence of old age, and in that resulting from self-abuse or sexual excess, it has proved successful and the patient has begotten children. Cantharides and iron combined are useful in some cases of seminal emissions.

Cantharides has been employed, sometimes successfully, to produce abortion; but the dangers are so great as to deter any medical man from so employing it.

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#### MUSTARD.

MUSTARD is in common household use as a poultice, as a counter-irritant, or an excitant. Much that has been said of blisters applies to mustard poultices. (See Cantharides). As has been elsewhere stated, cantharides need seldom be applied to produce much vesication, and with regard to mustard, vesication should be carefully avoided, as the sore so produced is intractable, healing slowly, and paining greatly. Although mustard may be used in all cases where we should employ cantharides, short of vesication, still there are differences in their action. A mustard poultice is more painful than a blister, producing a severe burning pain, soon becoming unendurable; and if not speedily removed, it will produce troublesome vesication: therefore a mustard poultice cannot generally be borne for more than twenty minutes or half an hour; and if the skin is delicate, as in children and many women, it cannot be endured for so long a time as this. Owing to the pain it gives, and to its prompter action, a mustard poultice is more effective than a blister when applied to rouse a patient drowsy and comatose from poisoning by opium or alcohol, or in certain conditions occurring in course of fevers. (See Cantharides.)

When a mustard poultice is employed to affect deep-seated diseased organs, as in bronchitis, pleurisy, or pneumonia, its action should be sustained for a long time, over a considerable extent, as the larger the tract of skin attacked, the greater is its influence on the organs beneath. Small mustard poultices are less useful, except when employed to remove a localized pain. The poultice should be of a large size, diluted with

bread or oatmeal, sufficient to cover the front or back of the chest, or both, and should be continued for five, six, or more hours. There is a prevalent idea, perhaps a true one, that the action of cantharides, is more searching and affects more thoroughly the deep parts of the body.

In bronchitis the whole chest of a child should be enveloped in a jacket-poultice, which may be retained in its proper place by the following contrivance:—the poultice is spread on a piece of linen, sufficiently large for the purpose, to which tapes are to be tacked, that they may be tied over each shoulder, and at three places in front of the chest. The poultice must be made with tepid water, for boiling water evaporates the active principle, vinegar destroys it, and alcohol prevents its formation. On removing the poultice, the skin should be sponged with warm water, or, if the smarting is severe, with ether, when the application of a layer of cotton-wool, although for the first few minutes it aggravates the pain, soon subdues it altogether.

A general mustard bath, when appropriately used, often does great good. Although it is almost exclusively used for children, yet it is just as serviceable for adults. It may be employed on the recession of the rash of any of the eruptive fevers, to bring it back to the skin. Again, in severe general bronchitis of children, this form of bath proves of great service as a general counter-irritant. A table-spoonful of mustard should be added to a bath sufficiently large for the child, who should be held in it by the nurse till her arms tingle and smart.

When the catamenia are arrested, a mustard sitz-bath may be used to redden and irritate the skin of the buttocks and thighs, a few days before and during the time the missing discharge is due and intermitted at other times. A course of these baths assists considerably the restoration of the uterine functions.

Added to a hot foot-bath, mustard is used to relieve headache, congestion of the head, and inflammation of the internal organs. A mustard poultice, or the more convenient mustard

leaf, applied to the nape of the neck, is often serviceable in various forms of headache.

It excites in the stomach a sensation of warmth and slight pain, which may be mistaken for hunger, giving rise to the notion that mustard sharpens the appetite and promotes digestion; but it has been proved that mustard does not increase the secretion of gastric juice.

It is somewhat strange that a substance which acts so powerfully on the skin should affect so slightly the mucous membrane of the stomach; for considerable quantities may be swallowed without other effect than the production of nausea and sickness. The mild action of mustard on the mucous membrane cannot be explained by its expulsion by the vomiting it produces; for even when retained, it excites only a little catarrh of the stomach. Mustard is not uncommonly used as an emetic when no other more appropriate is at hand, and when no time is to be lost. Cases of obstinate and even dangerous hiccup are reported, which were immediately cured by drinking an infusion of mustard made with a tea-spoonful of mustard steeped in four ounces of boiling water for twenty minutes and then strained.

Mustard appears to have very little action on the intestines, beyond making the motions moister.

Some of the active principle passes into the blood, but it is unknown what influence sinapine exerts on the organs to which it is conveyed. It is reputed to be diuretic, but this is doubtful; moreover, its advocates fail to discriminate the cases in which it is supposed to be beneficial.

It is said to be useful in whooping-cough.

#### CAPSICUM.

CAPSICUM irritates and inflames the skin, producing redness, a sensation of warmth or burning, and even vesication, but its preparations are rarely employed as rubefacients. The tinc-

ture is sometimes lightly painted over unbroken chilblains, but this application is inferior to the ointment or the tincture of iodine. The following capsicum preparation of De Rheims is highly lauded for chilblains:—

“Make a strong tincture of capsicum-pods by steeping them for several days in a warm place, in twice their weight of rectified spirits of wine. Dissolve gum-arabic in water to about the consistency of treacle. Add to this an equal quantity of the tincture, stirring it together with a small brush or a large camel’s hair pencil until they are well incorporated. The mixture will be cloudy and opaque. Take sheets of silk or tissue paper, give them with the brush a coat of the mixture; let them dry, and then give another. Let that dry, and if the surface is shining, there is enough of the peppered gum; if not, give a third coat. This paper applied in the same way as court-plaster to chilblains that are not broken, and burns that are not blistered, speedily relieves the itching and the pain. It acts like a charm, and effects a rapid cure. The same with discoloured bruises. It likewise allays rheumatic pains in the joints.”

My friend, Mr. Henry Buck of Newport, Essex, employs the following application in recent lumbago, neuralgia, tooth-ache, rheumatic pains and acute torticollis. He infuses a large handful of crushed capsicum pods in a pint of hot or cold water for thirty-six hours; to the affected part he applies a piece of lint soaked in this liquid, covering it with thin gutta-percha. It never vesicates, and indeed a stronger preparation may be used. The effects, he says, are often very striking; for instance, he cures acute torticollis in ten minutes. A quack doctor in the west of England, who told his secret to Mr. Buck, had long and successfully employed this preparation.

Preparations of capsicum have a burning, tingling taste, and act on the mucous membrane as on the skin. The tincture as a gargle, in the proportion of a drachm to half-a-pint of water, is useful in some sore throats, and may be applied under the same conditions which indicate the use of nitrate of

silver. Thus, in the very early stage of tonsillitis or pharyngitis, each of these substances, which acts as an irritant, will check the inflammation; but when the deep parts become involved, and the tissues much swollen, irritants of any kind do great harm. In malignant sore throats capsicum gargle may be used with advantage to stimulate the tissues into a healthier condition, and here again its action is similar to that of nitrate of silver. In relaxed throats, when the mucous membrane is bathed with a grey mucous or with pus, the same gargle may be employed, although it is probably not superior to the glycerine of tannic acid.

It acts as an irritant in the stomach, and if taken in large quantities will produce gastro-enteritis. It is often used as a condiment to spur digestion, but whether it is effective in this respect is undetermined. The stomach becomes accustomed to capsicum, and at last large quantities must be eaten to produce any effect.

The author can endorse Dr. Lyon’s strong recommendation of capsicum in dipsomania. Ten-minim doses of the tincture obviate the morning vomiting, remove the sinking at the pit of the stomach, the intense craving for stimulants, and promote appetite and digestion. It should be taken shortly before meals, or whenever depression and craving for alcohol arises. Capsicum also induces sleep, especially in the early stages of delirium tremens. Dr. Lyon sometimes gives twenty or even thirty grains made into a bolus with honey, and repeats this dose in three hours if the first fails to induce sleep. He says the quantity does not disturb the stomach.

Capsicum is very useful in summer diarrhoeas, and in diarrhoeas persisting after the expulsion of the exciting irritant. It may be used in flatulence.