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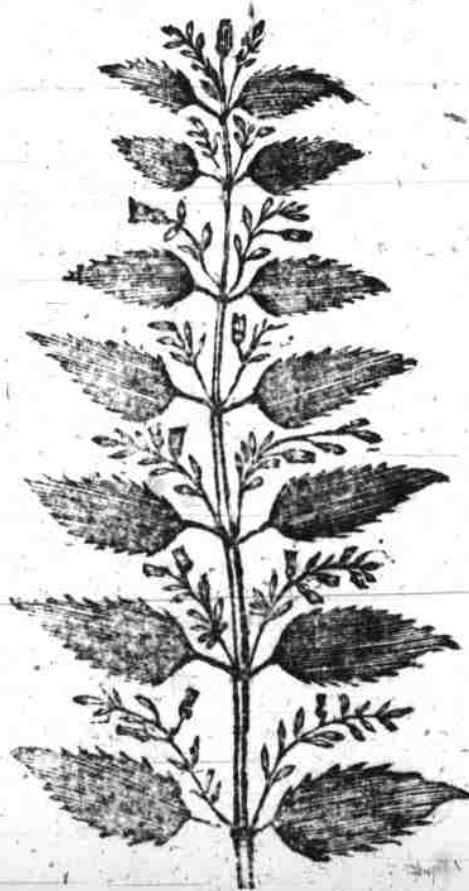
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Medical.

Hydrophobia.—I promised yesterday to resume to day the subject of mad dogs. But if I had not, the case which I have just read from the Philadelphia papers, and which we republish this evening, would render some remarks, at this time, on this awful and alarming topic, highly interesting and pertinent. This case is attested by two eminent physicians, and they add that hydrophobia "is without the hope of a relief from medicine"—"we know of no cure for hydrophobia." This is a frank confession, and I have scarcely a doubt accords with the truth.—It is a disease, which, when once having arrived at that pass as to shew itself by the usual symptoms in the system, baffles equally the skill of the most learned physician and the nostrums of the boldest empiric. But fortunately, it is not so rapid in its progress, but that it may be arrested and entirely counteracted and prevented, if proper means are seasonably resorted to, duly administered, and faithfully persisted in. These means nature has provided, in the plant called the scutellap, which grows almost every where in abundance in our country. It is not, however, every species of the plant bearing this name that will answer; but that particular one called in Latin scutellaria latiflora, or side-bearing flower, and not that one called scutellar: galericulata, or helmet-shaped. The former of these is efficacious in preventing this incurable disease, the latter is not. A mistake in taking one for the other has sometimes produced fatal effects, and brought the plant into discredit, at the eastward. Some time since, there was published in the Medical Repository, [hexade 3, vol. 2, No. 8.] an account of this plant, with an engraving; but there was an error in the text, as the species nor was the engraving which was after the right sort, sufficiently accurate to correct the mistake. Of the superior merits of this invaluable plant in the bite of a mad dog, as evinced in particular instances, I have room here to give any more than a general outline. Dr. Vandever left on record, that in upwards of three hundred cases in which he seasonably administered it, the success was complete, without a failure. Lewis asserted that he had met with the like success in upwards of a hundred cases, of three or four of which I was myself (happening to be in the county of York-Chester at the time) an eye witness. Dr. Thatcher, in his valuable dispensary, speaking of it says: "Should this plant ultimately prove a successful remedy for a disease so truly deplorable in its nature and so destructive in its consequences, no commendation can surpass its merit, even if recorded in letters of gold." The following is his description of it:

"The scutellaria is perennial, of which there are numerous species indigenous to the United States. The plant is found in great abundance on the banks and borders of ponds: flowering in July or August. The stem is square, branched; and attains the height of from one to three feet. The leaves are opposite, narrow pointed or narrow foot stalks. The racemes are axillary, and lateral, bearing small violet colored blossoms intermixed with small leaves. The calyx is hooded or helmet formed, from whence originated the general name of scull-cap or scutellaria." This, however, is a description of the genera not the species.

Here follows an engraving of the true plant.



Here follows an engraving of the spurious plant.



The eye will soon detect the material distinctions, while at the same time it will see a general resemblance.

The following is the manner in which Dr. Vandever and Mr. Lewis prepared and administered the remedy, as we find in Thatcher's Dispensary:

"The leaves should be gathered when in flower, (July or August) carefully dried, and reduced to a fine powder, and put into bottles, well corked, for use. When a person has received a bite by a mad dog, he must take of a strong infusion of the leaves of powder, a gill four times a day, every other day. The day it is omitted, he must take a spoon-full of the flower of sulphur, in the morning, fasting, and at bed time, in new milk, and apply the pounded green herb to the wound every two hours, continuing the prescription for three weeks. For cattle or horses, three times the quantity of each."

Thus I have in the shortest and plainest manner I am able, treated of a subject, now particularly, in the highest degree interesting to the community at large. And I have done so in the full and unreserved belief in the virtue of the plant here recommended to the public, and perfectly aware of the deep responsibility I assume in thus trying to persuade the patient and the physician to put life itself up on the issue. With the late benevolent Robert Bowne, whose letters on this subject are published at length in the Medical Repository and in Thatcher's Dispensary, I can with great truth declare, that my confidence in the virtue of this herb is so great, that, if bitten myself, I would trust my life to it, rather than to the skill of all the physicians in this city.—Ev. Post.

HYDROPHOBIA.

We now redeem our promise by giving the statement of the case of James Cann, who was bitten by a mad dog, and cured by the plant called Scutellap, as drawn up and furnished us by his two physicians.—New-York Ev. Post.

Early on Thursday morning, the 10th June, I was called upon by James Cann, who requested me to dress his right hand, which had just been bitten by a dog that he believed was mad. Upon examination, I found the dog's teeth had penetrated deep into the muscular part of the thumb, between its metacarpal bone and that of the fore finger, and that the skin was but little lacerated. From the situation and depth of the wound, I deemed extirpation inexpedient, and directed superficial dressings, telling him at the same time, if the dog should prove to have been mad, he had nothing to fear, as a plant had been discovered, (showing him a drawing of the scutellap in the Evening Post,) which had never been known to fail in such cases, when properly administered. In the evening I saw him again, and then advised him to call on Jesse Williams, the son-in-law of the late Mr. Lewis, of Westchester, and procure from him a quantity of scutellap. He did so, and obtained about three ounces of the dried herb finely cut up, with directions to put a tea-spoon full and an-half of it in a quart of warm water, and to drink half a pint of this infusion morning and night, for two successive days, and on the third to omit it and take a tea-spoon full of flowers of sulphur. In this manner Williams directed the scutellap and sulphur to be alternately used for forty days: during which time, exercise was to be avoided and an abstemious diet observed; he thought the wound required no other attention than simple dressing. Mr. Cann strictly followed the above directions, and remained free from complaint till Thursday the 17th. About noon he was suddenly taken ill, and sent for me. I found him laboring under frightful spasms of the muscles of the face and neck; his face was drawn towards the right shoulder, his head convulsively shaken, he ground his teeth with violence, his eyes had a wild and terrific stare, and his whole aspect was appalling; but the spasms soon subsided, and he became perfectly calm. Upon enquiry, I found he was first attacked with a shivering, then a pricking or tingling sensation about the parts bitten, ex-

tending over the hand and running up the arm, accompanied with slight involuntarily twitchings of the muscles of the hand and arm; to these succeeded a sense of tightness about the chest and throat; immediately after which, followed the convulsive action of the muscles of the face and neck, above described. I found his pulse and breathing regular and natural during the intervals; but when the paroxysms were approaching, they became hurried and irregular, and continued so till the spasms had gone off, when he complained of slight pain in the right breast, together with a soreness and stiffness of the back part of the neck. Liquids he took without difficulty, nor did pouring water from one vessel to another, in his presence, produce any perceptible distress; neither did the sight of the surface of a polished mirror, or the waving of a white curtain, sensibly affect him. He passed (on the 11th) at regular intervals of from five to ten minutes; their duration being from one to two minutes. His bowels being constipated, I gave him a scruple of calomel, and directed him to drink his tea (which upon inspection, I found very weak) as strong as it could be made—to take it warm, and in as large quantities as his stomach would bear—using it as his only drink.*

18th. Early in the morning, Dr. Robson saw him with me, and continued to see him afterwards. We learnt that some unauthorised person had taken ten or twelve ounces of blood from his arm the night before; that his cathartic had operated freely during the night; he had taken largely of his tea, and thought himself better; the spasms, however, still severe, but not quite so frequent. We directed him to continue his tea as yesterday.

19th. This morning we found him cheerful; he had passed a tolerably good night, feels much better than yesterday; his spasms moderating considerably, both in violence and frequency.—He still continued his tea as before. In the afternoon, a shower of rain fell, at sight of which, and the ripping of the water in the gutter, his spasms returned in quick succession, and with more violence than they had done at other times during the day, and produced in him such sensations that, to use his own expression, he could not bear to look at it, and was obliged to turn away.

20th. We saw him about noon; he was not so well; his spasms rather more frequent and severe, leaving him with a disagreeable feeling in his head, and an acute pain in the back of his neck.—Upon inquiring whether he still continued his tea, he replied, that, at William's direction, it was omitted for the purpose of taking a dose of sulphur; on which we immediately ordered his scutellap to be resumed. He did so, and again I and his spasms subsided.

21st. He said he felt like a new man; his spasms had nearly left him; and continued in the use of his tea as before.

22d. He had no spasms, nor did he complain of any thing but weakness. We directed him to continue in the use of the scutellap three or four weeks longer.

July 13th. We saw him; he felt no uneasiness whatever, and has been free from complaint ever since we last visited him.

To enable the reader to form just conclusions respecting the character of the above case, we will state the result of our enquiries and observations, concerning the rapid state of the animal which had inflicted the bite.

The dog was young and gentle, and had never shown marks of ill temper until the day before he bit Cann, when he snaped at and attempted to bite a man, without provocation who heretofore had been familiar with him. He was confined over night, but broke loose early the next morning, the 12th, when Cann on his way to work met him—the dog came trotting along, and Cann thinks would have gone on without noticing him, if he had not when opposite called him by name, and was in the act of patting his head when the dog seized him by the hand, made two snaps, and passed on without looking up; a few yards further he snaped at and quarrelled with three strange dogs; he next bit a neighbor's dog with whom he was accustomed to play, and as an apprentice of his master was attempting to tie him with a rope, he snaped at and tore off a part of his trowsers.

Behaviour like this, so opposite to his usual mildness, excited serious apprehension: he was immediately tied in a wood house. While thus confined, he eat sparingly, but lapped water freely; he snaped at his master; was restless, howling violently, and knowing furiously at the door of his prison. By the evening, when we saw him, he had gnawed a large hole through the door, in doing which he had lacerated his mouth, and broken off several of his teeth against the nails of the battening.—At this time, after many attempts, he lapped a little water, and then upset the vessel which contained it; refused food, and snaped at the approach of his master; his eyes were watery and dull, sometimes closed, then suddenly opened, when he snaped at imaginary objects. He now broke his rope, and as no one dared approach him to replace it, believing him mad, he was shot. Our next enquiry was after the dogs which had been bitten by this one, but we found they had all been destroyed, except the one last mentioned.

*Mrs. Williams, the daughter of Lewis, being informed of Cann's violent attack, sent him word, by his wife that he must make his tea as strong as ley, and drink it warm, and as much as he could bear. Ed. E. P.

"This dog was secured the same day he was bitten, and put in a cool, airy and dry cellar; he was regularly fed, and continued well until the 6th of July. He then began to shew symptoms of canine madness; the under jaw fell, his food dropped from his mouth when he attempted to eat; he made many efforts to drink, frequently burying his nose in the water, but did not appear to swallow; he was obedient to his master's commands; was dull and mooping, but would occasionally snap at imaginary objects, in the air or on the floor; his eyes were languid and watery, and considerable frothy saliva was discharged from his mouth. In the course of the next day, (the 7th) he was much weaker, particularly in the hinder parts, producing slight staggering; his tongue was livid and brown; slimy fluid was observed to run out of his mouth.—On the 8th, he would snap at his chain, or any object that touched him; was thirsty, and lapped water very frequently, without being able to swallow any; his tongue was darker, and his debility increased rapidly; he would not eat, and staggered very much when he attempted to walk.

9th. The dog appeared much weaker; seldom got up, except by compulsion, and soon fell down again. He appeared blind in his right eye—his back much curved.

10th. He was unable to stand; had spasmodic twitchings of all his muscles; would yet snap at any object that touched him; towards evening he grew worse, and died some time in the night.

The above statement of facts was drawn up, for publication, at the request of several respectable gentlemen, and is submitted without remark.

(Signed) { W. STILLWELL, BENJA. B. ROBSON. ADDITION.

One word in addition. With several medical gentlemen I accompanied Dr. Robson to see Mr. Cann after his recovery, and heard him recount in person most of the above particulars; I daily saw the last mentioned dog, from the commencement of rabies, until the day before he died; and I made enquiries of several neighbors who were called in to witness Cann's attack, and heard them confirm the description above given of his appearance. I will now say, that if this case is judged of impartially, I think it presents, not indeed mathematical demonstration, but that degree of evidence that must satisfy every candid and rational mind, of the efficacy of the plant in question to prevent or cure hydrophobia; and when we consider in connection with upwards of three hundred cases that have been treated with similar success by the late Mr. Lewis of West-Chester, and upwards of the three hundred recorded by the late Dr. Vandever of Rahway, (N. J.) in the course of a long practice, without a single failure, I think I shall not be thought asking too much if I claim for it the entire confidence of the public; especially when the faculty of medicine are driven to the humiliating acknowledgment, that they know of no remedy in the case of the bite of a mad dog on which they can place any reliance. Dr. Mosely has indeed recorded several cases of successful treatment by mercury, and we are assured in a publication by the late Dr. Rush, that a cure was effected by copious blood-letting still it is an undeniable truth, that physicians of eminence have repeatedly tried both methods, and still found their practice unsuccessful. It is a sad truth that the most skilful of the faculty attend the patient only to witness, in helpless commiseration, the last agonies of the most frightful death; totally and confessedly unable to prevent or retard its certain approach, or even to mitigate its horrors.*

But we have been presented with objections, and are demanded to answer them before we can lay claim to the public credence. It is asked, for instance, how we know the dog that bit the patient was actually mad; and how can we know that he was, the bite would prove fatal, if left to itself? As it is an indisputed fact that the bite of a mad dog does not always take effect, we frankly answer we do not, we cannot know either, to a certainty. But we say the nature of the case does not admit of certainty in the strict sense of that word, and we also say, that nothing more can, in fairness, be required of us, than to produce the best evidence the nature of the case admits of; this is all that can be demanded according to the strictest rules of evidence laid down by the highest authority. To ask more, and to expect of us that we should not proceed to act upon this species of proof, because it does not amount to the certainty of a mathematical axiom, would be to put a stop to human agency altogether, and reduce mankind to automaton, incapable of volition or action. We do contend then, that it is enough for our purpose, that we have offered evidence of the highest probability, and maintain that it is sufficient to warrant the conclusions we have drawn. May we not, at least, say,

—Si quid novisti rectius istis, Candidus, imperti; si non h. s. utere mecum.

Since writing the foregoing observations, I have had the pleasure to receive a letter from Dr. Thatcher, whom I have not the honor personally to know, but who bears the character of a learned physician, and a liberal and amiable man; in this letter he enquires with great interest

*Vide the late letter of Drs. Griffith and Sargeant published in the Evening Post of June 3. Their words are: "we know of no cure for hydrophobia; we know of no recoveries, but black, hopeless despair stares every one in the face who becomes the subject of it."