

gave me a prescription which I am sure would do you good; I will give you the number of it.' We have known half a dozen persons to obtain medicine in this way, without any certainty that their cases were analogous to the one for which the remedies were ordered.

"Sometimes, to save trouble, physicians who have occasion to make frequent prescriptions of the same compounds, will give numbered formulæ to certain druggists, and order them by numbers or by special designations. But this does not change the principle. If a surgeon examines a case of disease of the eye, and writes a prescription for 'collyrium adstringens,' or for 'tonic No. 3,' any apothecary who has the corresponding formulæ can follow that direction, as if the ordinary terms were used. It is merely an instruction to him to furnish certain remedies adapted to the existing state of the patient.

"This is the great principle for which we contend: that a prescription given in any case is not a thing sold and made over either to patient or to druggist, but a direction supposed to be based on that understanding of the morbid conditions which the physician alone has; and since these conditions may or may not exist at a later stage or in another case, it is at the druggist's risk that he recommends, or at the patient's risk that he orders, the filling of any prescription without direct medical sanction."

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LOCAL USES OF TANNIN.—Dr. G. P. Hachenberg (*New-York Medical Record*, August 15, 1872), reports several cases of the uses of this remedy in prolapsus uteri, where other means had failed to afford relief. His method is as follows: A glass speculum is introduced into the vagina so as to push the uterus into its place. Through the speculum a metallic tube or syringe, with the end containing about thirty grains of tannin, is passed. With a piston, the tannin is now pushed against the uterus, the syringe withdrawn, and the packing neatly and effectually completed, with a dry probang around the mouth and neck of the womb. After the packing is completed, the probang is placed

against the tannin, in order to hold it, and the speculum is partially withdrawn. The packing is now fully secured and the instrument removed.

The application of tannin holds the uterus firmly and securely in place, not by dilatation of the walls of the vagina, but by corrugating and contracting its parts. At first, the applications may be made weekly; finally, but once or twice a month. It not only overcomes the hypertrophy and elongation of the cervix, but even, the writer thinks, induces a slight atrophy of the parts. As a remedy for leucorrhœa, where the seat of the inflammation is at the mouth of the womb, or within the vagina, it actually gives speedy relief.

Dr. G. P. Hachenberg also reports a case of chronic ulceration of the rectum, which was cured after a few weekly packings of tannin.

He has found, moreover, that in affections of the throat, direct applications of tannin to the diseased parts give satisfactory results. In a case of extraordinary hypertrophy of the tonsils, preparatory to the operation of extirpation, tannin, mixed with tincture of iodine to the consistency of syrup, was applied with the effect of so diminishing the hypertrophy that a surgical operation will in all probability not be necessary.

No remedy has given such satisfactory results in certain forms of chronic ophthalmia and opacity of the cornea as tannin. Once a week place under the eyelids pure, well-triturated tannin. The application is not very painful, and the tears soon dissolve the tannin. An aged lady, who had chronic ophthalmia, was relieved by one application; another, who was blind from opacity of the cornea and chronic ophthalmia, recovered her sight mainly from the local use of powdered tannin—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.

**TINCTURE OF IODINE IN VOMITING.**—Schneider, of Offen-burg (*The Doctor*, April, 1872), administered tincture of iodine in doses of ten drops on sugar thrice daily to a patient who was troubled with salivation and vomiting after intermittent fever. Although the vomiting had proved rebellious to all other treatment, it yielded to tincture of iodine.