

SUPRA-RENAL EXTRACT IN HEART-DISEASE.

To the Editor of "THE INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE."

SIR,—I intend to publish a second paper on the use of the supra-renal capsule in organic heart-disease.* Will you kindly ask the readers of your journal to send me the reports of their cases as follows:—

- I. The condition of the heart and pulse and also the pulse rate.
- II. The effect on the heart and pulse and also the pulse rate, within ten minutes after the supra-renal powder, three grains, is chewed and swallowed without water by the patient.

Yours, etc.,
SAMUEL FLOERSHEIM, M.D.

**THE GREAT MEDICINAL VALUE OF PLANT LYGODI-
NUM PINNATIFIDUM.**

To the Editor of "THE INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE."

SIR,—I desire to draw attention to the following plant:—

The parts used.—The roots—they are black in colour externally, and slightly whitish internally. From a knotty bulb numerous rootlets are given off. Inodorous, tasteless; this fern abundantly grows in any part of Bengal and Behar, especially on the bank of rivers and in bamboo hedge. They can be had abundant in the rainy season. The plant is known to natives as *Kalazha*.

From the root is made—Oleum Lygodinum pinnatifidum.

Mode of preparing oil—With one pucca seer of mustard oil, pure, mix six chittacks of fresh root and boil till the roots are fried completely, taking care to boil the oil first and then to add the roots in heated oil; the oil is then distilled odour, strong and peculiar.

Action and uses—externally.—When applied to the skin or exposed mucous surfaces it does not produce any burning and urtication but produces a soothing effect.

In painful affections of local kind, such as chronic rheumatism of joints and muscles, in sprain of muscles or joints, the oil acts miraculously. In diseases of skin—in scabies, ulcers, eczema, in cut wounds—the oil applied locally is highly beneficial.

Specific action and uses.—In carbuncle,—the local application of the oil has the effect of making the surrounding inflammations subside and the slough come out by itself. It is in this particular disease that its great medicinal value is to be found.

MADHUBANI.

B. K. GUPTA,
Assistant-Surgeon.

PROPHYLAXIS OF SMALL-POX.

To the Editor of "THE INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE."

SIR,—If you will be good enough to give me a small space in your journal, I will just mention what occurred to me in a case of small-pox in my own house in a little child, aged 2½ years. Small-pox becoming prevalent in the railway premises I adopted all ordinary measures to prevent my family becoming infected; and as zymotic diseases will have their way in the face of every precaution, even if one is a medical man (as I happen to be), a little child, as I said before, made itself known to me with what I thought was measles, which seemed to turn to chicken-pox, and finally to my astonishment into small-pox. These variations and freaks certainly did not puzzle me; but when I came to cogitate on some remedy to relieve the poor little child, it so happened that I did really strike upon something which gave me extreme satisfaction. I started the application of the following from face to feet two days before the maturation stage which relieved the tension and inflammation, hastened desquamation, and instead of a peeling off, the shrivelled eruptions dropped like dead bugs from a cot or any furniture on the application of something really stinging and death-producing. And instead of pits, I find a wonderful modification of the real state of affairs, the true result of small-pox. It is only a pity I did not try this my remedy earlier. However I throw it open in your column, not for discussion, but for a real personal trial on the faces and persons of the victims of small-pox or any suspicious eruptive fever whose eruption is a prominent symptom of study and distress to the physician. The external application is as under—

R̄ Vaseline	...	...	oz. iv.
Glycerine	...	...	oz. iv.
Acid Carbolic	...	...	oz. i.
Ol. Eucalyptus	...	...	oz. ii.
Tinct. Opii	...	...	oz. iv.
Sweet Oil	...	...	oz. ii.
		ft. application.	

To be applied morning and evening all over the body with a fine swab.

Belgaum.

Yours, &c.,
M. N. RYLANDS,
Retd. Asst.-Surgeon,
Railway Apothecary, S. M. Ry.

* For first paper see *New York Medical Journal*, October 6th, 1900, pp. 581—585. 218, East 46th Street, New York, 18th February, 1901.

THE CAUSES OF HYDROCELE.

To the Editor of "THE INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE."

SIR,—I beg to submit my opinion about the causes of hydrocele as follows:—

I hope you will kindly publish in your Gazette.

Water is also one of the causes of hydrocele.

With regard to the remarks on the causation of hydrocele in the January 1901 (*vide* November 1900) *Indian Medical Gazette*, I beg to give my opinion, as my experience that the cause of hydrocele in a very large number of cases is also water. Those people who made use of Ganges water in Patna district (Behar) suffered less from hydrocele than those who drank an l used well water. Hydrocele at Nagpur (C. P.) is less now than when people did not drink and use pipe water.

BUDNUR MAIN DISPENSARY,
Betul, C. P.

Yours, &c.,
H. C. GANGULY,
Hospital Assistant.

BLACK-WATER FEVER IN DUARS.

To the Editor of "THE INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE."

SIR,—Referring to the subject of cholera on which I wrote to you in December last I give you some notes of the following experience. Towards the close of last rains in a dry hot break, I was sent for by the Manager of the Tea Estate, and found that in one section of the cooly lines a number of them had died after a very rapid illness which appeared to have been cholera. Soon I found that it was something else, *viz.*, that strong healthy men and women were taken ill, and in three or four hours fell into a collapse and died. I got *punkhas* for the patients and used all antithermal remedies, and in this way saved about twelve cases. When the sickness was at its height (fourth day of epidemic) a storm with drenching rain came, and in the following morning there was not a single sick person in the lines. There was much discussion as to the nature of these attacks. I think they must be attributed to the abnormal heat.

I have had several cases here of fever of the black-water type. It is very characteristic; it seems to occur at any time of year. It is rapidly followed by a depression of the cardiac system, some patients have had second attacks, and are left with permanent cardiac weakness. The urine is voided in large quantities of a thick gummy consistence. If kept, it became semi-solid like a clot. Sickness and vomiting was excessive in some cases and in one case diarrhoea. Jaundice is often well marked. The nerve prostration is a marked symptom. Instant removal of the patient from his environment I find very effectual; beer and sodawater I find very useful.

THE DUARS, April 1901.

Yours, &c.,
A. J. COPPLESTONE, M.B.

[We shall be obliged if any medical officer resident in the Duars can send us an account of black-water fever in those parts. The visit of the Royal Society delegates to India will, it is hoped, throw more light on the occurrence of this symptom in the Duars.—Ed., I. M. G.]

Service Notes.

The *United Service Gazette* (March 23rd) notes that miniature medals may now be worn with mess dress, but not otherwise.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL S. O'B. BANKS, I.M.S. (Bombay), is permitted to retire with effect from 12th November 1900. He entered the I.M.S. in October 1866, and was recently P.M.O., Nagpur District.

MAJOR P. MULLANE, I.M.S., 2/3 Gurkha Rifles, has been granted one year's leave on urgent private affairs.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL T. J. MCGANN, F.R.C.S.E., I.M.S., recently P.M.O., Bangalore District, has, on retirement from the service, accepted the appointment of Durbar Physician, Mysore, *vice* Lieutenant-Colonel Benson, I.M.S., on leave.

It is some satisfaction to know that the relatives of the fanatic who murdered Captain D. C. Johnston, I.M.S., at Loralai on January last, have been made to pay up a fine of Rs. 1,000. The murderer is reported to have died of pneumonia in jail.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL J. P. GREANY, M.D., I.M.S., Civil Surgeon of Poona, has been granted six months' extension of leave.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL FRANKLIN, I.M.S., Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Punjab, has been granted five weeks' privilege leave.