

'Peard, Dr Henry W'

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PEARL, DR. HENRY W., BUENOS AIRES

1906

Florida 957

Buenos Aires

June 5. 06,

Henry. S. Wellcome Esq.

Dear Sir

Yours of April 18th duly to hand. We have entered on our cold weather now and the toads are all dormant and unavailable. I shall however take the first opportunity of sending you some of their peculiar excretion when they awake again which will be towards the end of September

Yr very truly

Henry. W. Peard.

Return to Mr. C. J. S. Thompson

March 5th 1906.

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 3th ult. and thank you for the interesting information given therein.

Mr Wellcome is at present travelling abroad and on his return I will bring your letter before him and communicate with you again.

Yours very truly,

C. J. S. Thompson,

per

Dr Pearle,

Calle Florida 957,

Buenos Aires,

Argentine Republic.

18th. April 1906.

Dear Sir,

I desire to thank you for your kind letter dated Feb. 6th, which has been brought before me on my return from abroad.

The particulars which you kindly sent me of your experiments with the exudation from the dorsum of the South American toad are very interesting. It is curious that there is a considerable amount of medical folk-lore going back to a very remote period in connection with the toad, and I should think the matter would be well worth investigation. If you will be good enough to collect some of this substance as you suggest and forward it to me I should be pleased to have a careful investigation of it made in my Physiological Laboratories. The best method for collection would be to gather it on small pieces of pure filter paper: do not dry them but place them in a clean wide mouth bottle, adding two or three drops of chloroform before sealing up. If you could forward these in a small box thus they ought to come quite safely and intact.

I am sending you under separate cover a new prospectus of the Historical Medical Exhibition, and I shall be grateful if you could send me any details of medical folk-lore that have come under your notice or experience.

Again thanking you for your kind letter, and trusting to hear from you again,

I am,

Yours very truly,

Dr Peard,
Calle Florida 957
Buenos Aires

Pearl.

Pearl.

Recd
MAR 8 1906

Calle Florida 957

Buenos Aires

Feb. 6th 06.

Henry. S. Wellcome Esq.

Snow Hill Buildings

London E.C.

Dear Sir

Your agent, M^r Christie, visited me today and gave me a box of samples & pamphlets. All are appreciated and interesting.

Of course, I have used your compressed remedies, to some extent, for nearly twenty years, chiefly the hypodermic "Tablets". Therefore, as I told M^r Christie, I am quite acquainted with their reliability, portability, keeping qualities &c. My object is not to give you an unnecessary testimonial.

Now, amongst these papers, I note with interest that you purpose holding a Historical Exhibition of matters relating to Therapeutics generally. I am sorry I have nothing worth sending, though

I may have something interesting to relate.

As you well know, two of our most valuable medicines are of Inca origin, quinine and cocaine.

Now there is another substance which I am convinced would be worth examination and research.

This is the curious sweat-like exudation from the dorsum of the ordinary South American toad (*Lapo*). You have, doubtless, heard that the Chinese rub the face with a toad for trigeminal neuralgia. Well, the Gauchos, - descendants of the original Spanish settlers, with, often, a considerable tincture of Inca blood - in the remoter parts of this country, tie a living toad to the part affected with shingles - herpes Zoster - and the pain is relieved!

Now, considering the Chinese practice and the apparently equivalent one here, I made

Some very crude Experiments.

I kept some of these toads as pets! I noticed, when I took one up and irritated him by tapping on his nose or abdomen, that he promptly "swelled with rage", generally urinated and always began to exude a milky looking fluid from his back. I experienced, on handling this fluid, a peculiar numb sensation, something like when one inadvertently gets his fingers into strong carbolic solution, or handles a salt of cocaine with wet fingers. I tasted the substance and found it acridly bitter.

I scraped off some of this exudation, mixed it with a little glycerine, and the next case of herpes that I saw - it is very common here - I smeared with it. It certainly relieved the pain, but had no further influence on the duration of the disease.

In a very rebellious case of "tic" it also gave some relief after menthol and aconite had failed.

"Verbum Sap." There may be a

^
Affecting the mouth
something like
cocaine.

fortune awaiting the Elaborator of
this peculiar substance. The
toads are legion in any country
place here, and the supply would,
I fancy, be inexhaustible. I am
sorry that, living now in this big
city, I cannot personally collect a
quantity of this stuff for you.

If, however, you should care
to experiment with it, I shall have
a few toads caught and "scrape"
them for you! Is glycerine the
best Excipient for the crude substance,
or would it be better to dry some
by evaporation? Your experience
will suggest a method. How
would it do to collect it with bits
of pure filter paper and dry them?

I have practised medicine over seventeen
years in the Argentine Republic, and the
most part in outlying districts. I
have seen many curious remedies
applied. Some day, if you are
interested, I may write to you again.

I am, dear Sir,

Yrs Faithfully

Henry W. Peard M.B. BCh. T.C. Dub.

See also page 78 of The Naturalist in La Plata
by W. H. Hudson

Edited by Chapman & Hall 1892.