

Practical observations on the radix rhataniae, or rhatany root, a product of Peru : containing an account of its sensible qualities, it powers as a tonic or stomachic medicine, the various forms in which it may be employed, and the most respectable testimonies in its favor as superior to the Peruvian bark in all cases that require the use of a strengthening medicine. To which are added, directions for the use of the phosphate and oxyphosphate of iron in cancer, etc.

Contributors

Reece, Richard, 1775-1831.
University of Leeds. Library

Publication/Creation

London : Printed for Longman, Hurst, Rees, and Orme, 1808.

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/ynz5pavr>

Provider

Leeds University Archive

License and attribution

This material has been provided by This material has been provided by The University of Leeds Library. The original may be consulted at The University of Leeds Library. where the originals may be consulted.

This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

267

PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

RADIX RHATANIE,

OR,

RHATANY ROOT,

A PRODUCTION OF PERU ;

CONTAINING

An Account of its sensible Qualities—Its Powers as a tonic or stomachic Medicine—The various Forms in which it may be employed, and the most respectable Testimonies in its favor, as superior to the Peruvian Bark in all Cases that require the Use of a strengthening Medicine. To which are added, Directions for the use of the Phosphate and Oxyphosphate of Iron in Cancer, &c.

BY RICHARD REECE, M. D.

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN LONDON ; AUTHOR OF THE MEDICAL AND SURGICAL DISPENSATORY FOR THE USE OF HOSPITALS, &c.

LONDON :

PRINTED FOR LONGMAN, HURST, REES, AND ORME, PATERNOSTER-ROW ; AND S. HIGHLEY, FLEET STREET.

1808.

Price 2s.

CONTENTS.

Dedication to the Physicians and Surgeons of the Hereford Infirmary - - - - -	1
Introduction - - - - -	5
SECTION I. - - - - -	7 to 14
<i>Account of the Rhatany Root</i> - - - - -	7
General Description of it - - - - -	9
Its sensible Qualities - - - - -	11
Its constituent Principles - - - - -	12
General Deductions - - - - -	14
SECTION II. - - - - -	15 to 39
<i>Statement of Authorities in favour of the Medicine.</i>	
In Intermittents - - - - -	15, 17
In Epilepsy - - - - -	19, 20
In nervous Head-ach - - - - -	23
In Dyspepsia - - - - -	24
In Dropsy - - - - -	25
In Paralysis of the Lower Extremities -	27
In Lepra - - - - -	29
Conclusions from these Testimonies -	38 to 39

SECTION III. - - - - - 40 to 50

*Different Preparations of the Rhatany Root,
with their Doses ; and Remarks.*

1. In Substance - - - - - 42
2. In Infusion - - - - - 43
3. In Decoction - - - - - *ib.*
4. In Tincture - - - - - *ib.*
5. In Extract - - - - - 45

Extemporaneous Forms - - - - - 46 to 50

Intermittent Fever, Epilepsy, &c. - - 46, 47

Weakness of the Stomach, Flatulence,

Fluor Albus, Gleet, Lepra - - - - - 47

Indigestion, Flatulence, Heartburn, Scro-

fula, Gout - - - - - *ib.*Dropsy, &c. - - - - - *ib.*

Diabetes, Lepra - - - - - 49

Chronic Dysentery - - - - - *ib.*Gleet, Fluor Albus - - - - - *ib.*

Gargle - - - - - 50

Injection - - - - - *ib.*

Of the Phosphate and Oxyphosphate of

Iron - - - - - 51

To Dr. JOHN CAM, Physician Extraordinary ;

Dr. WILLIAM SYMONDS, } Physicians ;
Dr. WILLIAM BLOUNT, }

THOS. CAM, Esq. Surgeon Extraordinary ;

Mr. THOS. CAM, Jun. } Surgeons ;
And Mr. SAMUEL CAM, }

To the GENERAL INFIRMARY at Hereford.

Dear Sirs,

THE present observations on a new and important medicine, I beg leave to dedicate to you both from motives of a personal as well as public nature. To you I look up with feelings of gratitude and esteem, when I recollect the kind attention I received from each of you, during my residence in your hospital ; that you were ever ready, by

your polite and unreserved explanations, to convey instructions :—an advantage which enabled me to acquire more real professional information and experience than I found could be derived from the more extensive establishments of the metropolis, which, on leaving you, I was induced to attend. But, besides the strong impression of personal esteem, which I flatter myself I shall ever retain, I should be wanting in the respect due to you as professional characters, did I not seize this opportunity of expressing the high opinion I entertain of your medical abilities and learning. The success that attends your practice in the institution which, so happily for the good of that part of the country, you superintend, will prove I do not form this opinion on light grounds, but from a full acquaintance with your great professional merit, and from the fullest opportunities

of making a comparison between your conduct and that of those appointed to the charge of other public establishments. I have only to regret that so able practitioners should have the power of doing good confined by the limited funds of a county establishment, for in no infirmary in the kingdom will be found more humanity to patients, more attention to their morals, while under your care, or more rigid economy in the management of the support intended for them. In stating this, however, let me not fail to do justice to the liberality of the benevolent donors who, compared with the extent of the population in that district, deserve the highest encomium for their humane and charitable dispositions. To them also I beg to express my sense of their favours—a recollection I shall always recall with the most heartfelt satisfac-

*tion and gratitude. Wishing you every
happiness and success,*

I remain,

Dear Sirs,

Your most obedient Servant,

RICHARD REECE.

Henrietta Street, Covent Garden,

February 10th, 1808.

INTRODUCTION.



TO chance we are indebted for most of the great discoveries in medicine more than to induction or speculative reasoning. This fact is sufficiently exemplified in our first acquaintance with Mercury, with Opium, and even with the Peruvian Bark. The secret of these discoveries, originally in the hands of the ignorant, has at last been made known to the regular practitioner, and has then come by him to be appreciated according to its merit and the great extent of its utility. This circumstance may be equally applied to the present communication I am about to make. The introduction of a new and powerful

remedy to public attention requires no apology, provided the testimonies in its support are such as to warrant the distinguished character I am induced to give of it. Such a remedy at the present period claims the more attention from this additional circumstance, that Peruvian Bark, for which it forms a substitute, and to which it is a superior article, has of late years fallen off in quality, whether from sophistication or otherwise I shall not pretend to say; though this degeneracy, I should rather consider, was the effect of the great demand for it, and that the plantations from which it has hitherto been procured are wearing out, for it is a known fact, the West India Cinchona is not equal to that originally introduced from the seat of its first discovery, the Spanish Dominions in South America.—Prefacing then these remarks, I shall proceed to describe the medicine itself.

RADIX RHATANIÆ.

*Syn. Rhatanguia, Rattania.**RHATANY ROOT.*

SECT. I.

THIS Root is known in Peru from which it is imported under the names of Rhatania and Rhatanguia. What its generic name is, I have not been able to discover*. It seems evidently the root of a shrub, and in external appearance, resembles the Rubia Tinctorum, more nearly than any other substance with which we are acquainted. Though new in this country, it has been, for many years, collected in the district of Lima, for the use of the

* It has been suggested to be the root of the *Cinchona cordifolia* of Mutis; and that the colouring matter is peculiar to the root.

Portuguese Merchants, and employed by them for the purposes of improving the color, astringency and richness of red wine. From this use in the manufacturing of wine, the Portuguese and Spanish merchants have kept its properties so concealed that, in this country, till now, the root was entirely unknown. By chance it came in my way. The captain of a Spanish ship taken some months ago, having mentioned these facts, I was induced to apply for farther information to several Spanish wine merchants, who corroborated the account, with respect to a certain root being used as a coloring liquor, but were unacquainted with its name and production. One of them in particular was so obliging as to furnish me with a preparation of it, which he had received from Portugal under the name of *wine coloring*, which proved to be a saturated infusion of the root in brandy: the deep color and richness it

communicates to port wine renders it an article of great and deserved value to the manufacturers of wine.

Some of this root and extract having formed part of the cargo of a Spanish vessel taken by our cruizers, came to be sold at our public Drug sales in London, and I accordingly, in consequence of the above information, entered upon the investigation of its nature and medical qualities.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ROOT.

THE part in which the medical qualities reside, is of the size of a goose's quill, which ramify in the same manner as the Madder root: the cortical part, in which its sensible qualities predominate, is very thick and breaks short, and

is resinous. The ligneous part is tough and fibrous, and somewhat mucilaginous.

Sensible Qualities.—On being slightly masticated, the root discovers a very grateful astringency, which leaves a lasting impression on the palate, and is slightly aromatic and bitter, and very productive of extractive matter. These qualities are imparted as well as its coloring matter, both to cold and boiling water, and to proof spirit. The tincture made with brandy approaches very nearly to the flavor of Port wine. These properties shew that, as a medicine, it resembles more the Bark or Cinchona than the Rubia Tinctorum. The decoction and infusion precipitate also a greater proportion of Tannin than the same preparations of the Cinchona; and an ink is formed by either with the Sulphate of Iron. With respect to its tinctures, that made with rectified spirit of wine tastes both bitter and astringent, and is slightly aromatic. So strongly also

is it impregnated with the resinous principle, that on the addition of water it becomes turbid. Proof spirit equally extracts its resin and the gum.

GENERAL DEDUCTIONS.

FROM the sensible qualities of this root, and its constituent principles, discovered by the above chemical investigation, its power as a tonic medicine, independent of any other proof, will stand evinced to every practitioner.

Astringency, Aroma and Tannin are the three great constituent parts of all powerful strengthening medicines ; and it is the union of the two first that particularly characterises the Bark, and proves its superior efficacy to the vegetable Tonics of this country, in which they do not exist in the same proportion. The third

principle, Tannin, is one that has not been long discovered, and one, to the great knowledge of which we are indebted to the late improvements in modern Chemistry. The importance that seems to be attached to this principle in the practice of Medicine is perhaps not yet sufficiently appreciated. It approximates more to animal matter than the other principles, and has accordingly been supposed from this circumstance to possess a higher febrifuge power. In proof of it, this principle has been employed singly by Mr. Pezzoni, a French Physician at Constantinople, and with a success superior to the use of the Bark, or any other article where the proportion of this principle is less. This practice of Pezzoni is supported by the opinion of Vauquelin and some French Chemists reasoning on the nature and properties of the animal constitution. If these facts then are just, it is clear

the Rhatany Root, from its greater quantity of Tannin, must in the same degree be a superior remedy to the Bark in all cases in which the latter medicine is employed.

To this another important consideration with most patients may be added, that the Rhatany is much more agreeable to the taste than the Bark. It has not the same degree of bitterness, nor is it so apt to affect the bowels. These considerations are of the first consequence in the diseases of children, and where the stomach and bowels are uncommonly irritable. Such situations are too often a bar to the use of the Bark, and the practitioner is under the necessity of combining it in such a manner as to conceal its taste, or to prevent the unpleasant symptoms, as sometimes entirely defeats its effect.

Having said so much in favor of this medicine, from its sensible qualities and constituent principles, it is now proper

I should confirm these assertions by stating my own experience of it, and that of other respectable authorities in actual practice. In order to draw the attention of the Faculty to the subject, and to induce them to give a fair trial of its virtues, I some time ago published a concise account of it in *The Medical and Chirurgical Review*, (now published under the title of, *The London Medical Review*.) The learned and scientific Editors of which, with that polite attention and liberality which mark their conduct, immediately brought forward my communication, which had the desired effect in recommending this medicine to the notice of the Faculty. It has accordingly been used by the first names in medicine, who have all bestowed upon it the highest eulogium as a restorative and tonic. The particulars of these testimonies, with the result of my own experience, I shall now state under a distinct head.

SECT. II.

CONCEIVING that from the analogy of the Rhatany Root to the Bark in its sensible qualities, I should in the first instance consider it as a substitute for that medicine: I accordingly directed my attention to those cases of disease in which the Bark is supposed to act in some degree as a specific; I mean Intermittent Fevers.

Cases 1 and 2.

THE first opportunity I had of giving the Rhatany Root a trial in intermittent fever, was to a Lady in Clarges Street. On my first visit to her, she informed me that during her residence in Suffolk about twenty years ago, she was subject to ague, and that she could not take the Peruvian Bark on account of it oppressing the stomach, and violently disagreeing

with the bowels, in consequence of which her medical friend then prescribed for her, the solution of Arsenic. I ordered a gentle emetic of Ipecacuan powder to be taken in the even, and a dose of Rhubarb and Calomel the following morning. After the due operation of which she commenced taking the Rhatany Root powder in the quantity of twenty grains made into a draught with peppermint water, every four hours.—On the following day she experienced a very slight paroxysm, after which it did not recur.—The remedy did not in the least disagree with the stomach or bowels; but on the second day of taking it, she found her appetite improve, and her general health afterwards gradually to amend. Her sister, then on a visit with her from the country, was soon after attacked with tertian ague. The same remedy was employed with equal success.

*Case 3.**Intermittent Fever.*

THE footman of Captain Clavering was affected with ague during his stay at Highgate. Having taken a considerable quantity of Peruvian Bark powder without effect, his master sent him to me. I prescribed a scruple of the Rhatany Root powder to be taken in milk four times a day, which in four days effected a cure. Being in a bad state of health, he continued its use at longer intervals for a fortnight, with the desired effect.

*Cases 4 and 5.**Intermittent Fever.*

Communicated by Mr. Butter, Surgeon, Kenning Hall,
Norfolk, Jan. 7th, 1807.

“ I LOST no time in giving the Rhatany Root a trial, and from what I have

already seen of its effects, I think it bids fair to be a most valuable addition to the *Materia Medica*—I have been fortunate enough already to meet with two cases of intermittent to try it in—The first had been of long standing—He had been taking Fowler's Arsenical Solution for some time without effect. After the operation of a cathartic medicine, I gave him Pulv. Rhataniæ, gr. xx. quarta quaque hora. At the next period he had a very slight paroxysm, but has not since experienced any recurrence, and his general health, which was wretchedly bad, is improving daily. The other case had been of a week's standing, and nothing had been done for him—I prescribed an emetic, and on the following morning a gentle aperient, after which the Rhatany Powder was exhibited as in the former case, and to my great satisfaction he has had no return of the fit, and is in perfect health—I

find the Medicine is much more liked than the Cinchona and most other Medicines. I give the Extract dissolved in *Mist. Camphor. cum Tinct. Lavend. Comp.* which form an agreeable mixture, and is wonderful in giving appetite."

Case 6.

Epilepsy.

SARAH DANCEY, of Charles Street, Drury Lane, had been subject to Epileptic fits twice a day for many months. After taking 12 grains of Rhatany Root powder every five hours in a little milk for three days, the paroxysm did not return, nor has she experienced the slightest recurrence, although six months have elapsed since she discontinued the use of the remedy.

*Case 7.**Epilepsy.*

Communicated by Dr. Marris, of Colchester, late of Winterton in Lincolnshire.

“ I HAVE given the Rhatany Root a fair trial, and have the pleasure to add that it has not only fully answered but exceeded my most sanguine expectations. The first patient for whom I prescribed it was my own grand-daughter, an infant about four years old, who from the age of one year has been in a most deplorable state, owing, as her mother supposes, to an injury she received through her nurse-maid letting her fall when she was about two years old. Her mother perceived that she had nearly lost the use of her left side, which, with her general debility, increased so that at the age of four years she was totally incapable of walking or raising her left hand. She was also subject to Epileptic

fits, which often occurred four times in the course of twenty-four hours. When I saw her, which is now about twelve months ago, I ordered her to be electrified, and prescribed the Peruvian Bark and other tonic medicines, from which she derived no benefit; but on the contrary the Epileptic fits were more frequent in their recurrence. An account of the Rhatany Root in that respectable publication, *The Medical and Chirurgical Review*, induced me to give it a trial. I accordingly commissioned a friend of mine to obtain some of the foreign extract of it from Messrs. Reece and Co., Chemists, of Henrietta-street, with which I made a saturated tincture, and gave the child a tea spoonful of it three times a day in the arrow root jelly. Although she had a great aversion to the Peruvian Bark in any form, yet from the great similitude of this tincture to Port wine, she called it wine, and would not take

the arrow root jelly without it. She had not taken it a fortnight before her health began manifestly to improve. The fits became less frequent, and in a month she was capable of walking alone, and could lift up the left hand to her head; and at this time, which is about six months since her commencement with the Rhatany Root, she has only been affected with a slight epileptic fit once a fortnight; and as they evidently become slighter, and the intervals longer, and her strength increases, I have no doubt but that they will gradually leave her. She has also so far lost that epileptic countenance, or silly appearance, as many of her friends who had seen her some months ago did not know her to be the same child. The great and unexpected success that attended the exhibition of the Rhatany in this case, induced me to give it in several cases of great debility of the system, in ague, scrofula, in short

in all those cases in which I have been accustomed to prescribe the Peruvian Bark; and such has been the result, that I have no hesitation in pronouncing it a much more valuable tonic. I have also recommended it to a medical friend residing in the hundreds of Essex, who informs me that it has not failed in one case of ague.

Case 8.

Obstinate Nervous Head-ach.

MR. B. an Italian merchant, had been for many years subject to a violent attack of head-ach every forenoon, which sometimes nearly deprived him of his senses. He had consulted several eminent physicians in London, from whose advice he received only a temporary relief. After taking the following mixture one week, he received very essential benefit, and by persisting in its use three weeks, it entirely cured him; and although he has left

off the medicine nine months, he has not experienced the slightest return.

R. Extr. Rad. Rhataniæ 3 ij.
Tinct. Rhataniæ aromat. 3 j.
Magnesiæ vitriolat. 3 iij.
Aquæ puræ 3 x.
Cap. Coch. iij. larg. ter die.

Case 9.

An Obstinate Case of Dyspepsia.

Mrs. Ducard, of Foster Lane, had been for many years afflicted with acute spasms in the stomach, and other symptoms of indigestion and general debility. She had taken the common routine of Stomachic medicines under the direction of Dr. Babington, without experiencing the least mitigation of the symptoms. The Aromatic Tincture* of Rhatany Root in the dose of a desert spoonful with

* The formula for making this Tincture is given in the 3d Section.

treble the quantity of water, taken three times a day, effected a cure in the course of a week.

Case 10.

Dropsy.

Mr. Gwin, of Great College Street, Westminster, after labouring under symptoms of indigestion, and great debility of the system, in consequence of the too free use of spiritous liquors, became affected with Dropsy. When I first saw him, his legs and thighs were as much swollen as the skin could possibly admit of without giving way; there was also a considerable effusion of serum in the belly and chest. His face was likewise much swollen. He complained of intense pain in the region of the liver, and was at times delirious. His friends having applied to me for my opinion as to the probability of his recovery, I candidly told them that his case appeared to

me so hopeless that I did not believe he would be alive a week. I prescribed a gentle dose of Rhubarb and Calomel to be taken every third morning, and three table spoonfuls of the following mixture every four hours :

R. Extr. Rad. Rhataniæ, iij.
 Tinct. Rhataniæ aromatic. j.
 ——— Scillæ.
 Sp. Ammon. Comp. aa 3 iij.
 Aq. puræ, 3 x ij. M.

By persisting in the use of this medicine a few days, his appetite returned, the secretion of urine was encreased, and the morbid symptoms continued gradually to abate till he was restored to his usual state of health, which took place in the course of three weeks.

Case 11.

Paralysis of the Lower Extremities.

Communicated by Mr. T. Mott Caton, Surgeon, of
Stanhope Street.

THE son of Mr. L. aged nine years, was affected with palsy of the lower extremities, with general weakness, and an involuntary discharge of urine and fæces. Bark, Steel, and Sea-bathing had been resorted to by the advice of a physician, without producing any salutary effect. His emaciation was increasing when I was requested to see him. I ordered him the following Electuary :

R. Pulv. Rad. Rhataniæ, ʒj.

Syr. Croci. q. s. ut formet Elect.

Cujus sumat Cochl. parv. ter de die.

The two following days there was no visible amendment. On the third day he appeared more lively, and passed the night without an evacuation. On the sixth day I found him

considerably better, and I am now happy to say, although he has only taken the Medicine a fortnight, that he has the power of retaining his urine and fæces, and is capable of walking across his room, and that he evidently gains strength every day. I have also found the Rhatany Root a very valuable tonic medicine in gleet and fluor albus. In the latter complaint, I administered it in the form of an Electuary as above, but in the former, in conjunction with Balsam Copaibæ, in the following proportions:

R. Bals. Copaibæ 3 ij.
 Vitil. Ovi. vel Mucilag.
 Gum. Arabic. q. s.
 Decoct. Rhatanix 3 vj.
 M. secund. art.

I have been in the habit of administering the Rhatany Root in different forms in cases of Indigestion, Scrophula,

&c. every day for these last six months, and can with confidence assert that I have uniformly found it answer better than the Peruvian Bark, or any other tonic medicine, and to prove much more grateful to the palate.

Case 12.

Lepra.

A poor man with a leprous affection of the skin, applied to the Phthisical Dispensary for relief. In order that I might give the Rhatany Root a trial in such cases, he was admitted a patient, although he had no disease of the lungs. After the operation of Rhubarb and Calomel I ordered him the following mixture:

R. Extr. Rhataniæ 3 ij.

Tinct. Rhataniæ aromat. 3 j.

Natr. præp. 3 ij.

Aq. puræ 3 xij. M. Cap. Coch. iij.
larg. ter de die.

After taking this mixture four days he was considerably relieved of heart-burn and spasms of the stomach, to which he had been long subject. The affection of the skin was less troublesome and evidently in a more quiet state. In consequence of which I advised him to persist in the use of the mixture, and ordered him an Ointment composed of equal parts of the Citrine or Nitrated Mercurial and Spermaceti ointments, to be rubbed over the parts of the skin most affected every night. By persevering in the use of those remedies three weeks longer, he was completely cured. He stated he had been a patient of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and several dispensaries, and had repeatedly made use of the same ointment without effect.

I have been in the habit of prescribing the Rhatany Root, in various forms, for eighteen months, at least five or six times a day, in cases where it is necessa-

ry to give tone to the stomach and promote digestion :—viz. Rickets, Scrophula, Dropsy, Dyspepsia, Chronic Dysenteric affections of the Bowels, Fluor albus, Gleets, &c. and in no one instance of which has it disappointed my expectation. It evidently invigorates the digestive organs, produces a relish for food, and promotes digestion ; and, in no respect, has any objection been made to it by patients, either as to its taste or effects on the stomach or bowels. In all cases, where I have been accustomed to recommend the Peruvian Bark, I have always found the Rhatany Root to succeed better, and to prove far more grateful to the palate.

As I consider the foregoing cases sufficient to prove that the Rhatany Root possesses great tonic powers, I shall conclude this section, with the testimonies of those medical gentlemen, who have been

so obliging as to favor me with their opinion of it. The physicians and surgeons of hospitals at Edinburgh and Dublin, and most of our provincial hospitals, have very lately determined to give it a trial, in lieu of the Bark, the result of which, I have not the least doubt, will confirm the account I have given of it.

From Dr. Cheston, Physician to the General Infirmary, at Gloucester.

“ I have certainly made frequent use of the Rhatany Root, where I formerly employed the Peruvian Bark, and I am satisfied with equal, if not greater, success.”

From Dr. Beugo, Rochester.

“ I am in the train of constant trial of the Rhatany Root, which, in several instances, seems to have had a marked superiority over the Cinchona.”

From Mr. Griffith, Domestic Surgeon and Apothecary to the Infirmary at Chester.

“ Hitherto we have had few opportu-

nities of trying the Rhatany Root, except in intermittents, in two cases of which it has succeeded."

From Mr. Carmichael, Surgeon to the Dispensary at Dublin.

"I have lately much prescribed the Rhatany Root, and find it a very pleasant and powerful stomachic medicine. It has proved more successful in my practice, than the Cinchona."

From Dr. Nisbet.

"In consequence of your recommendation of the Rhatany Root, I was induced to give it a trial, in a case of a lady, for whom I felt deeply interested. For several years she had been in a declining state of health; naturally nervous and debilitated, her constitution had suffered from a long pressure of domestic uneasiness, and, when I began this medicine, she was reduced to a state of the greatest debility and weakness: her appetite was

entirely gone, the little food she did take, which was not always of the most proper kind, or the best adapted for her situation, seemed imperfectly concocted, and to be passed often without assimilation. Indeed a constant irritability of bowels prevented it from being retained the necessary time for undergoing this process. She had tried the Bark repeatedly as well as some other tonics. The effect of the Bark, though it seemed to suspend the irritability of bowels, was to produce such an inflation and uneasiness, that the remedy she felt worse than the disease; or when this symptom did not take place, it lay like a heavy load on the stomach. When I began first with the Aromatic Tincture of the Rhatany Root, I ordered her to take a tea-spoon full thrice a day. She continued this practice for ten days, before perceiving any sensible change: at the end of that time she found her appetite begin to amend,

her bowels retained longer the food she took, and this suspension was not attended with the uneasy feelings, which the use of the Bark occasioned. The same plan was continued till she is now restored to what may be termed, in a constitution like her's, the full renovation of health. In giving a statement of this case, I do not mean to say, that other tonics might not have accomplished the same cure ; but the merit of the Rhatany Root seems to be, that its tonic powers do not appear to stand in need of other auxiliary means, as most other remedies of this class do, and which often render their administration inconvenient, or require it to be occasionally suspended, from the occurrence of morbid symptoms, the effect of their secondary action. Such further experience as I may acquire, in the use of the Rhatany Root, in other diseases, I shall deem it a duty, on my part, to communicate, be-

ing what you have a right to expect, from every one of the profession, for the trouble you have taken in bringing forward this medicine to public notice.”

From John Hill, Junior, Esq. Wells, Norfolk.

“ I have, in many cases of Ague, given the Rhatany Root powder, and have not known it to fail of success in one instance, although some had been of long standing. I direct an ounce of the powder, with a little black pepper finely powdered, to be made into an electuary with simple syrup, and the whole to be taken in the space of twenty-four hours, in the quantity of a small nutmeg every two hours.”

In a second letter, this gentleman observes, that he still continues to administer the Rhatany Root in Ague, with the usual success, and that he has found it succeed in the cure of a very obstinate case of Diarrhœa of long standing.

At the Westminster Dispensary in Gerrard Street, the Rhatany Root powder has been for some time prescribed by Mr. Chevalier in lieu of the Peruvian Bark, and the Apothecary states that in every instance he has found it to answer as well, and that no instance has occurred of its having disagreed with the Stomach or Bowels, or any complaint whatever made of it. At this Institution about two pounds of the powder are used weekly.

From Mr. Platt, Surgeon to the New Finsbury Dispensary.

“ From the few trials I have made of the Rhatany Root, I am convinced it is a very valuable tonic medicine.”

From Mr. Roberts, Surgeon, Chancery Lane.

“ I have been so much pleased with the effects of the Rhatany Root, that I now adopt it in all cases of debility, in preference to any other tonic medicine ;

I have found it to succeed after the Peruvian Bark had either failed or disagreed with the stomach. It is a light, and very grateful stomachic medicine."

From Mr. Thomas Howard, Surgeon, London.

" I have administered the Rhatany Root, particularly the foreign extract of it, in many cases of extreme debility, with great satisfaction. I have also received great benefit from it myself in giddiness and confusion of the head attended with great prostration of strength. I employ it as a general stomachic medicine. In Passive uterine Hemorrhages, Fluor albus, and Gleet, I have found it in many instances a most valuable remedy. It has also succeeded in a case of Chronic Dysentery that resisted the usual remedies."

CONCLUSION.

From the foregoing numerous facts and testimonies, in favor of the Rhatany

Root, I may fairly conclude, that its merit is decided, as superior to the Peruvian Bark, for the following reasons :

1st. That from its more grateful nature, and pleasant taste, it can be administered to patients, who cannot, from particular dislike, or other circumstances, take the former medicine.

2d. That from its possession of more active principles, its powers exceed those of the Bark, in a high degree, and accomplish cures, where the Bark, previously used, has failed. And,

3d. That its administration is not attended with those unpleasant symptoms that often accompany the Bark, in affecting the stomach and bowels, and which occasion it either to lay upon it as a heavy load, or to produce irritation, looseness, and gripes, thus defeating the very intention of its exhibition.

SECT. III.

IN the introduction of every medicine, it is of the first consequence that it be given in a pure and genuine state. Many medicines, after having gained a reputation, have often lost it in a short time, from the substance being sophisticated by the Druggists who have supplied it. Having ascertained the valuable properties of the Rhatany Root, in my own practice, and by many chemical experiments, I commissioned a Drug-merchant to secure the first lot that was sold at the public drug sale, in order that the faculty might be supplied from my Drug and Chemical Warehouse* in Henrietta Street,

* In conducting the practice of Medicine, every practitioner is sensible how much the value of genuine drugs is to be prized. From a conviction of this fact, and strongly impressed with the advantages the Faculty would derive from it, the author was induced to open the Chemical and Medical Hall in Henrietta Street, Covent Garden. The principle that directs this concern is, that

Covent Garden, where many medical gentlemen have been, and still may be, supplied with it, on the same terms I procured it, with the express view that its medicinal powers may be put to the test of experience. Since then I have learnt, with much pleasure, that a very large parcel has arrived in this country on board a prize vessel from South America, the whole of which is now in the hands of one of the most respectable Drug-mer-

no medicine shall be purchased there but of the most approved and genuine quality the market can supply ; and he challenges the most severe tests in ascertaining the quality of drugs that can be employed in respect to every article obtained from this quarter. Besides, the object of this concern is to embrace not only the Pharmaceutical forms of medicine of the dispensatory of the College, but also of the Foreign Colleges, many of which possess, it is well known, considerable merit, and which physicians have not an opportunity of prescribing, from their not being kept in the shops.

chants in the City, by whom it is selling at about one third the price of Peruvian bark, and is already become an object of general attention among the London Druggists*.

The Rhatany Root may be administered,

1st. *In Substance*.—Viz. Fine powder: in this state it has answered best in Intermittents and Epilepsy, in doses, from ten to thirty grains, every two, three, or four hours, in a little mint water, or formed into an electuary, as recommended by Mr. Hill and Mr. Caton, in the 2d Section: fifteen grains of the

* I am pleased in having permission to say that the house here alluded to is that of Messrs. Davy and Roberts, of Gould Square, Crutched Friars, who say they have made arrangements by which they confidently expect to obtain a further supply, sufficient to answer the rapidly encreasing demand.

powder are a proportion equivalent to twenty-five of the Peruvian Bark.

2d. *In Infusion.* By macerating the bruised root in water six hours, the whole of its medicinal virtues is extracted. This infusion is as potent as the decoction, and possesses more of the aroma. Six drachms of the root are sufficient to saturate sixteen ounces of water.

3d. *In Decoction.* Which is made by boiling six drachms of the bruised root in twenty ounces of water, in a covered vessel for ten minutes, and straining the liquor while hot.

4th. *In Tincture.* Of which three kinds are kept—viz. the simple, the compound, and the aromatic, which are made as follows:

TINCT. RHATANIAE.

R. Rad. Rhataniæ contus. ʒ iiij.

Sp. Vinos. ten. lib. ij. M.

Digest for eight days and strain.

This Tincture has a fine rich red ap-

pearance, and is strongly impregnated with the medicinal virtues of the root.

TINCT. RHATANIÆ COMPOSITA.

R. Rad. Rhataniæ contus. $\bar{3}$ iij.
 Cort. aurant. sic. contus. $\bar{3}$ ij.
 Rad. Serpent. Virgin. $\bar{3}$ ss.
 Croc. Anglic. $\bar{3}$ j.
 Sp. Vinos. Rectif. lib. ij. M.

Digest for twelve days and strain.

This Tincture is much stronger than Huxham's Tincture of the Peruvian Bark, and of course given in less doses.

TINCT. RHATANIÆ AROMATICA.

R. Rad. Rhataniæ contus. $\bar{3}$ iij.
 Cort. Cannellæ. albæ cont. $\bar{3}$ ij.
 Sp. Vinos. ten. lib. ij. M.

Digest for ten days and strain.

This Tincture was first made by the direction of a very celebrated Physician, who speaks very highly of its beneficial effects in cases of languor of the system, weakness of the stomach, flatulence and other similar complaints. He di-

rects from two to three tea spoonfuls to be taken twice or thrice a day in a little water. As a stomachic and corroborant, this tincture is not to be excelled.

5th. *In Extract*, Of which preparation a considerable quantity has been received with the Root: being made from the expressed juice of the recent root, evaporated by solar heat, it contains in great perfection the medicinal virtues of the Root, and is a very beautiful preparation, being nearly transparent, and perfectly free from any empyromatic flavour. A drachm and a half appear to contain the virtues of an ounce of the Root. It is miscible with water, with which it forms a turbid mixture. It may also be administered in the form of pill. This extract has long been prepared for the use of the Portuguese and Spanish Wine Merchants, and has been occasionally imported into this country under the title of foreign extract of Bark.

EXTEMPORANEOUS FORMULÆ

FOR THE

EXHIBITION

OF THE

RHATANY ROOT.

No. 1.

R. Pulv. Rhataniæ $\frac{3}{j}$. in chartas
xvi. dividend. quarum cap. j. secunda
vel tertia quaque hora. *Intermittent
Fever, Epilepsy, &c.*

No. 2.

R. Pulv. Rhataniæ $\frac{3}{j}$.
Syrup. Cort. Aurant. q. s. ut. f. Elect.
cujus cap. magn. N. M. molem secun-
da quaque hora, absente paroxysmo.
Intermittent Fever.

No. 3.

R. Pulv. Rhataniæ

Tinct. Rhataniæ aromat. a. ʒ vj.

Aquæ puræ ʒ vij. M. Cap. Cochl. iij.
larg. omni tertia hora. *Intermittent
Fever, Epilepsy, &c.*

No. 4.

R. Inf. Rhataniæ, ʒ vj.

Magnesiæ vitriol. ʒ ij.

Tinct. Rhataniæ, ʒ vj. M.

Cap. Cochl. ij. vel. iij. larg. ter quaterve die. *Weakness of the Stomach,
Flatulence, Fluor Albus, Gleet, Lepra.*

No. 5.

R. Inf. Rhataniæ, ʒ vj.

Sodæ præpar. ʒ ij.

Tinct. Rhataniæ arom. ʒ ss. M.

Cap. Cochl. ij. vel iij. larg. omni quarta hora. *Indigestion, Flatulence, Heartburn, Scrophula, Gout.*

No. 6.

R. Extr. Rhataniæ exotic. 3 iss.

Sodæ sicc. 3 iss.

Ol. Carui gut. x.

Syr. simpl. q. s. ut f. mas. & in pilulas xxx. dividend.—Duæ bis terve die exhibeantur. *For Indigestion, Cramp in the Stomach, Heartburn, Gout, Fluor Albus, Gleet, &c.*

No. 7.

R. Extr. Rhataniæ exotic. 3 ij.

Tinct. Rhatan. Aromat. 3 vj.

Sp. Ammon. Comp.

Sp. Ætheris Nitros. a a 3 ij.

Aq. puræ. 3 vj. M.

Cap. Coch. iij. larg. ter die. *Dropsy, &c.*

No. 8.

R. Extr. Rhataniæ, 3 ij.

Tinct. Rhatan. Aromatic. 3 vj.

Aq. puræ, 3 vij.

Acidi Nitric. 3 iii. M. s. a.

Cap. Cochl. iij. larg. ter quater. die.
Diabetes, Lepra.

No. 9.

R. Inf. Rhataniæ, ʒ vj.
 Tinct. Rhatan. Aromat. ʒ vj. M.
 Cap. Cochl. ij. ad iij. larg. omn. quat.
 horis. *For Indigestion, Chronic Dysen-*
tery, Lientery, &c.

No. 10.

R. Bals. Copaibæ, ʒ ij.
 Mucil. G. Arabic. q. s.
 Decoct. Rhataniæ, ʒ vj.
 Tinet. Rhataniæ arom. vj.
 Cap. Cochl. ij. larg. ter die. *Fluor*
Albus, Gleet, &c.

No. 11.

R. Extr. Rhataniæ, ʒ j.
 Pulv. G. Oliban. ʒ ss.
 — Rhei,
 Syr. simpl. q. s. f. mas. in pilulas,

xxiv. dividend, quarum cap. ij. bis. vel
ter de die. *For Gleets, Fluor Albus, &c.*

No. 12.

Gargarism. Astring.

R. Inf. Rhataniæ, ʒ vj.

Acid Vitriol. dilut. ʒ ss. M. f. Gargar.

No. 13.

Inject. Astring.

R. Inf. Rhataniæ. *For Gleet,
Fluor Albus, Prolapsus Ani.*

Messrs. Reece and Co. recommend the following Preparations to the attention of the Faculty.

PHOSPHAS ET OXYPHOSPHAS FERRI.

Mr. Carmichael, Surgeon in Dublin, conceiving that iron in the blood is united with the phosphoric acid, was induced to try the phosphate and oxyphosphate of that metal, and since the publication of his Treatise on Cancer, this author asserts that he has found these preparations infinitely more efficacious than the other saline preparations of it. They have also prepared a Phosphoric Tincture of Iron, for the use of Mr. Carmichael. These preparations have been successfully employed by some eminent practitioners in London, in cases of Cancer, Chlorosis, Rachitis, Asthma, &c.—Several Hospital Surgeons in town and country, who have given these preparations a trial as directed by Mr. Carmichael, have found them to succeed in several cases of *carcinomaous* ulcers, *noli me tangere*.

In the exhibition of the oxyphos-

phate or suboxyphosphate of iron, Mr. Carmichael commences with ten grains three times a day, and gradually increases the dose to double that quantity, or sometimes more, if the appetite is not impaired, or if the head be free from pain, both of which circumstances large doses of ferruginous preparations are apt to produce. Mr. Carmichael observes that he has always found the internal and external use of those remedies to improve the appearance of cancerous ulcers, and to abate or remove altogether the characteristic cancrinating pains of the disease; or if the ulcer, after having made considerable progress to a cure, should become stationary, he directs the surface to be sprinkled with a more active preparation, as the arseniate of iron, which he has found to produce healthy granulation, and to effect a cure.

The following Case Dr. Reece publishes to corroborate the opinion of Mr. Carmichael that the same preparations of iron do possess the power of destroying the vitality of parasitical animals.

A Lady aged 45 had been afflicted

three years with great pain in the region of the uterus. She had menstruated very irregularly, and had latterly been much troubled with fluor albus. The cervix uteri appearing to be scirrhus, and her general health much impaired, the oxyphosphate was administered in the manner suggested by Mr. Carmichael. When she had taken this preparation a week, her health began evidently to improve, and after persisting in its use ten days longer, she was seized with great pain in the region of the womb similar to labour, which was in a few hours followed by a discharge of hydatids, amounting nearly to three quarts. The hydatids continued to pass with the hemorrhage for some days, but on account of slight fever, she discontinued the use of the oxyphosphate of iron till it subsided, when it was re-administered; she now enjoys a good state of health, and free from any uterine affection.

SUPER-CARBONAS SODÆ.

The carbonate of Soda, by being combined with an excess of carbonic acid

(as in this preparation,) is rendered not only more pleasant to the taste, but less liable to offend the stomach. Dr. Duncan observes, it is the only form in which the Soda can be exhibited in *sufficient doses*, and for a *sufficient length* of time to derive much benefit from its use in calculous complaints. A solution of the super-carbonate of Soda in pure water (in the proportions of four scruples to a pint) is preferable to the aerated Soda Water, on account of the carbonic acid gas not being disengaged on exposure to the atmosphere. On the addition of a small quantity of lemon or tartareous acid, a very pleasant effervescence is produced. They have also made the same preparation of Kali.

ACIDUM TARTARI PURIF.

This acid has lately been received into most of the foreign dispensatories under the title of *Essential acid of Tartar*. It is equally pleasant, pure and wholesome, as the same preparation of the Citric acid, sold under the name of "*Concrete Lemon Juice*." It is perfectly soluble in water, and to form a neutral salt or the saline mixture, re-

quires an equal quantity of the prepared kali—Two drachms are equivalent to three ounces of the recent juice of the lemon. The author of a late publication, entitled *Thesaurus Medicaminum* on this subject, observes “whatever serves as a cheap and pleasant substitute for the juice of lemons and the other native vegetable acids (which are not always procurable, especially on journeys or long voyages) and, at the same time, that it is more palatable than the mineral acids, is, as a refrigerant and antiseptic, at least equally efficacious with them; must certainly be considered as a valuable acquisition to the *Materia Medica*, such is the essential Salt or acid of Tartar.” Page 379, 2d Ed. It is not half the price of the same preparation of Lemon Juice.

PLUMBUM ACETATUM

In fine crystals, for internal use. This preparation has lately been very successfully employed as a remedy for Hooping Cough, Hemoptæ, Menorrhage.

BOOKS

Published by Longman and Co.

1. THE MEDICAL AND SURGICAL DISPENSATORY,

For the use of Practitioners of Hospitals, Dispensaries, Workhouses, and such as dispense Medicine gratuitously.

By RICHARD REECE, M. D.

Member of the College of Surgeons, and late of the General Infirmary at Hereford.

“ We think the Author deserves well of the Profession by this Essay, and we have no doubt that his benevolent intentions will be considerably promoted by its Publication.”

Physical and Medical Journal.

2. THE MEDICAL OBSERVER; OR, LONDON MONTHLY COMPENDIUM OF MEDICAL TRANSACTIONS;

A Work devoted to the detection and exposure of Medical Quackery, in every shape, whether confined to the Patent Warehouses, or shewing itself under the still more delusive and injurious impositions of regular Practice. The Editors of this work have to acknowledge the very flattering reception which the preceding Numbers have received from the Public; and animated equally by this, as by a sense of duty, they are determined not to relax in their efforts to bring before the tribunal of the Public every Medical Deception practised in the metropolis.

Each Number will contain:

1. Original Communications.
2. An Analysis of Medical Publications, on the Principles of modern Science.
3. An Exposition of the Nostrums and Pernicious Practices of Quacks.
4. A Popular Detail of fugitive Occurrences relating to Medicines and Medical Men.