

Observations and experiments on the *Humulus lupulus* of Linnaeus : with an account of its use in gout, and other diseases, with cases / by A. Freake.

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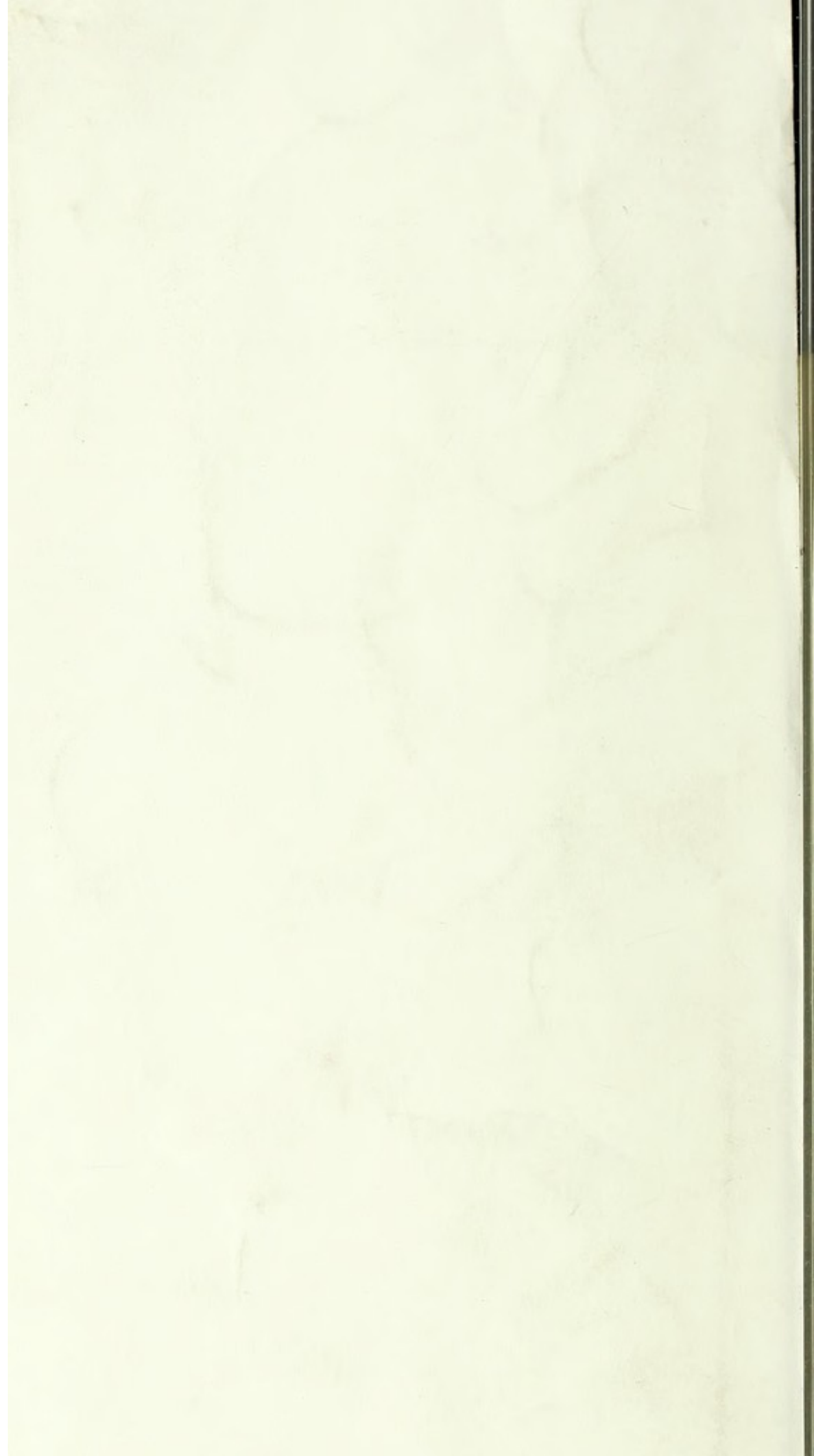
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ON THE USE
OF
THE HUMULUS LUPULUS,
IN
Gout,
AND OTHER DISEASES.

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OBSERVATIONS AND EXPERIMENTS
ON THE
HUMULUS LUPULUS OF LINNÆUS:

WITH AN ACCOUNT OF
ITS USE IN
GOUT,
AND OTHER DISEASES;

WITH
CASES.

BY
A. FREAKE.
TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD.

1806.

LONDON:
PRINTED
BY
T. CURSON HANSARD,
PETERBOROUGH COURT, FLEET STREET.

ON

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an account of several Cases, in which I have employed it with great success; previously to which, however, it may not be improper briefly to state the reasons which induced me to make trial of it.

In the beginning of the year 1801, I was applied to by a gentleman going abroad, to make for him some Bitter Tincture, which he might take with him, and occasionally use when properly diluted, for the purpose of strengthening his stomach, which had rejected the bark in every form, as well as most of the other bitters which had been prescribed for him. After having made numerous experiments with various herbs and flowers of the bitter class, as well as with the roots, barks, and other parts of vegetable substances, none of them appeared to me so pleasant to the taste, and so agreeable to the stomach, as the *Lupulus*. On mentioning this, he requested me to prepare for him a Tincture from that vegetable, which

I accordingly did, but before the process was finished, the ship on which he was to embark, unexpectedly sailed, and he was obliged to depart without the medicine. This circumstance I consider fortunate, for otherwise, in all probability, I should not have made trial of the *Lupulus*; but having the preparation complete, after due examination of what different authors had written respecting it, I determined to employ it whenever a fair opportunity should occur, being convinced from what I had read, as well as from its known use in the preparation of malt liquors, that a careful administration of it could not injure my patients, even though it should not answer my expectations of affording them relief.

The *Humulus Lupulus*, says Chambers, appears to have been brought into this country "from the Netherlands, in the year 1524. It "is first mentioned in the English statute book "1552, viz. in the fifth and sixth of Edward

“ the VIth, chap. 5. And by an act of Parlia-
“ ment, in the first year of King James the Ist.
“ anno 1603, chap. 18; it appears that Hops
“ were then produced in abundance in England;”
he also says, “in the spring time, while the bud
“ is yet tender, the tops of the plant being cut off,
“ and boiled, are eat like asparagus, and found
“ very wholesome and effectual to loosen the
“ body; the heads and tendrils are good to
“ purify the blood in the scurvy, and most
“ cutaneous diseases. Decoctions of the
“ flowers and syrup thereof, are of use against
“ pestilential fevers. Juleps and apozems are
“ also prepared with Hops, for hypochondria-
“ cal and hysterical affections, and to promote
“ the menses. A pillow stuffed with Hops,
“ and laid under the head, is said to procure
“ sleep in fevers attended with a delirium.”

1657. Wm. Coles, Herbarist, in his History
of Plants, published in 1657, relating the
virtues of Hops, says, “they are good to
“ cleanse the kidneys from gravel, and to pro-

“voke urine; they likewise open obstructions
“of the liver and spleen, cleanse the blood,
“and loosen the belly, and as they cleanse the
“blood, so consequently they help to cure
“eruptions of the skin. He also says, half a
“drachm of the seeds powdered, and taken in
“drink, will kill worms,” and adds, “that the
“expressed juice will cure the jaundice.”

1753. Dr. Brookes in his Dispensatory, published in 1753, speaks thus of the *Lupulus* :

“*Lupulus*, Hops, the Leaves. They help
“digestion, open obstructions of the viscera,
“especially the spleen, promote urine and
“loosen the belly; they are good in the
“hypochondriac passion, the scurvy and diseases of the skin, if given as an alterative in
“whey or broths. The depurated juice may
“be given from two to four ounces; the decoction of the tops from one to two handfuls,
“and half a drachm of the seeds may be given
“against worms.”

Dr. Lewis in the second edition of his Dispensatory, speaking of Hops, says, “these
“are one of the most agreeable of the strong
“bitters, though rarely employed for any
“medicinal purposes. Their principal consump-
“tion is in malt liquors, which they preserve
“from undergoing the acetous and putrefactive
“fermentations, render less glutinous, and
“dispose to pass off more freely by urine. The
“odour of Hops hung in a bed has been said
“to induce sleep after opium had failed.”

In his Materia Medica, the same learned author says, “Hops have a very bitter taste,
“less ungrateful than most of the other strong
“bitters, accompanied with some degree of
“warmth and aromatic flavour. They give out
“their virtue by maceration, without heat, both
“to rectified and proof spirit, and by warm
“infusion to water; to cold water they impart
“little though macerated in it for many hours.
“The extracts obtained both by watery and spi-
“rituous menstrua, particularly by the latter, are

“very elegant balsamic bitters, and promise to
“be applicable to valuable purposes in medicine,
“though the Hop is at present scarcely regarded
“as a medicinal article, and scarcely other-
“wise used than for the preserving of malt
“liquors, which by the super-addition of this
“balsamic apperient diuretic bitter, become less
“mucilaginous, more detergent, more disposed
“to pass off by urine, and in general more
“salubrious.”

Dr. Motherby says, “the scaly heads of hops
“have a bitter, warm, aromatic taste; they give
“out their virtue to spirit both proof and recti-
“fied by maceration without heat; and to water
“by warm infusion. The extracts obtained from
“the spirituous tincture is an elegant bitter.”
“The Spaniards boil a pound of hop roots in a
“gallon of water to six pints, and drink half a
“pint of the decoction, whilst in bed, every
“morning. This they do to cure the Lues Ve-
“nerea.”

Dr. Cullen in his Lectures on the Materia Medica, observes, that "the Hop is a pretty strong bitter with a slight aroma." He adds, "from good authority I know that in Spain it is used as a sudorific, to banish the remains of the Venereal Disease."

Herophilus Lobbius attributes to the Hop a lithontriptic power, and says, that by a decoction of it, he has softened the hardest urinary calculi, and Darelus assures us that half a pint, or a whole pint of decoction of Hops, drunk in the morning, possesses much virtue as an anthelmintic.



From these authorities, and from my own observations, I am persuaded that the Lupulus is eminently beneficial as an alterative and tonic, that it is a good diuretic, that it acts gently as an aperient, and that it possesses considerable pow-

er as a sedative, having in some cases afforded relief from pain and procured rest, when opium and other medicines had failed, or could not be continued with safety. From my own experience I can likewise declare that it possesses great power in correcting acrimony, and that while it gently acts in opening the bowels it is at the same time a corroborant.

I have administered the *Lupulus* in many different forms, namely, in powder, tincture, extract, infusion, decoction, and conserve. I have made a plain tincture of it, and a compound tincture, with the addition of tinct. cardam. comp. in equal proportions. I have also made plain and compound pills, the former composed of the extract and powder, and the latter formed with the addition of pulv. rhabarb. et zingib.

The following account of the various processes which I have employed in making my different preparations of the *Lupulus*, may not

be unacceptable, particularly to practitioners in Pharmacy.

CHEMICAL EXPERIMENTS WITH

GREEN HOPS.

Experiment 1. Ten days before the usual time for picking the Hops for drying, I obtained a quantity of flowers fresh from the vine. Ten ounces of these when bruised and pressed produced four ounces and a half of juice; one ounce and two drachms must have been wasted in the bag, press, &c. the pressed cake only weighing four ounces, and two drachms.

Experiment 2. The cake was broken to pieces, and with one pound of lard boiled till crisp, to form an ointment, which tasted very strongly of the Hop, and weighed when strained, ten ounces; the colour was rather brown, although boiled with steam.

Experiment 3. The juice evaporated in a water bath, produced only half an ounce of extract of the thickness of treacle.

Experiment 4. Four ounces of the same kind of flowers, without bruising, being boiled in like manner till crisp, with one pound of lard, made an ointment of a yellowish green colour, strongly impregnated with the flavour of the Hop; the flowers were pressed after boiling in this experiment; the ointment weighed eleven ounces.

Experiment 5. Sixteen ounces of the like flowers, bruised and pressed, produced seven ounces and a half of juice; the cake weighed seven ounces; waste one ounce and a half. The cake boiled in two quarts of water, till three pints were wasted, then pressed, and the liquor added to the juice, and evaporated together, in a water bath, produced of extract one ounce and six drachms of the consistence of treacle.

Experiment 6. The experiment, No. 5, repeated with flowers ready to dry on the kiln, produced of extract of the same consistence, two ounces and nearly two drachms, although the quantity of juice obtained, was only six ounces and two drachms.

Experiment 7. Sixteen ounces of the Green Hop flowers, picked from the stalks and finely pounded, being added to three pounds of powdered sugar, formed an excellent conserve.

Experiment 8. Twelve ounces of the conserve, dissolved in six ounces of water by boiling for ten minutes, and then strained, made a good syrup. This is a convenient preparation of the medicine for children, who cannot swallow pills or take the tincture.

Experiment 9. To four ounces of the green flowers, one pint of rectified spirit of wine was added. After standing for seven days

(occasionally in a sand heat) and then pressed, it afforded an elegant tincture, strongly impregnated with the flavour of the flowers, but it did not appear to act with so good an effect, even when given in double the dose, as that prepared from the dried flowers.

Experiment 10. Seven pounds of Green Hops were put into the still, with twenty gallons of water; when half the quantity of liquor was drawn off, I could only obtain one drachm and a half of essential oil, which was strongly flavoured by the Hop, and pungent to the taste; the remaining flowers were repeatedly boiled and pressed, and all the liquors evaporated to an extract of the thickness of treacle, which weighed fifteen ounces and three drachms. This extract, like the former tincture, did not prove nearly so efficacious as the extract from the dried flowers.

CHEMICAL EXPERIMENTS WITH THE
DRIED FLOWERS OF THE HOP.

Experiment 11. Half a pound of the *Lupulus* was boiled for ten minutes in six pints of water, and after standing till cold, was strained and pressed. The decoction measured five pints; the *Lupulus*, when dried, weighed five ounces and a half. The dried *Lupulus* was infused for ten days in four pints of rectified spirit; when pressed out, it produced a tincture of a brownish green colour, strongly impregnated with the flavour of the flowers, but did not render distilled water very turbid.

Experiment 12. Half a pound of the *Lupulus* was put into an infusion pot, with six pints of boiling water, and when cold, was strained and pressed. The infusion mea-

measured five pints and a half; the *Lupulus* when dried, weighed five ounces and six drachms. This quantity was also infused for ten days, in four pints of rectified spirit, and produced a tincture of a yellowish green colour, very strongly flavoured with the flowers, and which rendered distilled water considerably more turbid than the tincture from the residuum of the decoction.

Experiment 13. To one pound of dried Hops, one gallon of water was added, and made to boil for half an hour; it was then strained through a bag, and the remaining flowers were pressed; the pressed cake weighed one pound fourteen ounces; but when dried, only eleven ounces; the liquor measured three quarts. The cake was broken in pieces, and the process was repeated with a gallon of fresh water, and when the liquor was strained, it was added to the three quarts before prepared, and evaporated to an extract of the

consistence of treacle ; the produce was five ounces and two drachms.

Experiment 14. One pound of the same kind of Hops was infused in a gallon of boiling water, and when cold, strained through a bag, and the flowers pressed ; the cake weighed one pound thirteen ounces and a half, and when dried eleven ounces and a half ; the liquor measured seven pints. This process was also repeated with another gallon of fresh boiling water, the liquors were added together, and reduced to an extract of the thickness of treacle ; the weight of which was only four ounces and six drachms.

Experiment 15. Seven pounds of dried Hops were put into a still with twenty-one gallons of water ; twelve gallons of a liquor were distilled off, which was not strongly flavoured with the flowers ; but from the receiver, I collected three drachms and one scruple of essential

oil, of an aromatic bitter taste, pungent, and very characteristic of the flowers from which it was obtained; the liquor left in the still was strained through a bag, and the remaining Hops were pressed; the boiling and pressing were repeated, and the liquors were added together and evaporated to an extract of a consistence similar to that in the last experiment; it weighed thirty three ounces and two drachms. This extract is easily diffused through water, which it renders very turbid.

Experiment 16. One pound and a half of dried flowers, were put into a vessel with one gallon of proof spirit, and digested for seven days, occasionally using a sand heat, and then pressed out; the tincture, which was highly flavoured, and of a yellowish green colour, contained all the aromatic flavour and pleasant bitter of the Hop.

Experiment 17. The same quantity of dried flowers was put into a vessel with one gallon of rectified spirit, and digested in like manner for seven days, only twice during that time using a sand heat; when pressed out, it afforded an elegant tincture highly flavoured, but very pungent, though possessing all the aromatic bitter of the flowers.

Experiment 18. The Tincture made in the last experiment, was put into a glass retort placed in a sand heat, and the spirit drawn off, which was flavoured strongly with the flowers. The extract remaining after the process was finished, weighed four ounces and three drachms. It was of the consistence of treacle, very highly flavoured and grateful to the taste. It rendered water turbid but did not dissolve; after standing some time, it separated, and adhered to the sides of the vessel.

N. B. Avoirdupois weights were used for these experiments, and, whenever the preparations were made for extracts, the boiling and pressing were repeated as often as the liquor proved turbid, or had any bitter flavour remaining, the liquors were then added together and reduced by evaporation to an extract.

OBSERVATIONS.

THE dose of the different preparations of the *Lupulus*, must be regulated by the age and constitution of the patient, and the nature of the complaint.

Of the Decoction and Infusion, which were made with half an ounce of the dried flowers to a pint, I have usually given an ounce and a half, as a medium dose for an adult, mixed with some cordial or compound tincture, two or three times a day, and have increased or diminished the quantity according to the effect produced.

The Conserve has been given in doses of one drachm, two or three times a day. This is a pleasant mode of taking the medicine, but I have seldom trusted either to it, or to the decoction or infusion alone. I have usually joined to them the tincture or the extract.

The Powder has generally been formed into pills with mucilage of gum arabic, and given in the dose of about eight grains two or three times a day. More nausea has been produced by this than by any of the other preparations of the Hop, probably because the powder, which is extremely light, rises in the stomach, after the pills have been dissolved.

The Tincture I have given in doses of one drachm, either alone, or mixed with some compound tincture, and diluted with water, once or twice a day. Double this quantity in the twenty four hours constitutes the extreme dose.

The Extract, on which with the tincture, I have placed the greatest dependance, has been given in doses of seven grains, twice a day, (formed into draughts or mixtures with infusion, decoction, water, &c.) and increased to double the quantity in twenty four hours.

Two different kinds of Pills have been prepared with it, the one made with extract and powder, the other, called compound pills, made with the extract and powder with the addition of rhubarb and ginger. Of each of these pills, three have generally been given twice a day; and in some cases the dose has been increased to double that number, in the course of the day.

The Ointment applied alone has eased the violent pain in the last stage of cancer when all other applications were ineffectual, and has proved very beneficial for eruptions on the skin with the addition of a small portion of ung. cerus acet. and ung. e pice, when the ichor discharged from the sores had been extremely troublesome.

Though the Lupulus, administered in its proper dose, is I am convinced, perfectly innoxious, yet when taken in too great a quantity, I believe it is capable of producing con-

siderable inconvenience. In confirmation of this opinion, I beg leave to relate the following circumstances.

In the month of March 1805, a Physician of eminence, called at my house, one afternoon, in order to taste the tincture. About half an ounce of it was presented to him in a wine glass, of which he took a small quantity, and finding the bitter flavour agreeable, he continued to sip it until he had taken the whole. I remonstrated with him on the imprudence of taking the medicine in this way, and told him that I had never ventured to prescribe more than such a quantity of it, in several doses, in the course of twenty four hours. He said that it was very pleasant and would do him no harm, and soon afterwards took his leave. After three days, I met him by appointment, when he informed me that the tincture had occasioned a very unpleasant sensation, similar to the effect produced by Burton Ale; that this continued

for the whole of the evening, and that the next morning he brought up an amazing quantity of bile. He added, that he thought, however, the medicine had done him good, for that he was better both in health and spirits, than he had been for several days before.

The diseases in which I have employed the Lupulus with the greatest advantage, are scurvy, stomach and bowel complaints, nervous languor and debility, cutaneous eruptions, and above all Gout, both regular and atonic.

With respect to its use in worms, or in syphilis, I cannot speak from experience. I have great doubts of its lithontriptic power, after having made the following experiments.

A hard piece of urinary calculus weighing four grains, was put into an ounce of infusion of Lupulus, and another piece also weighing four grains, into an ounce of the decoction.

They remained for eight days, in a heat of 96 of Fahrenheit, without the smallest diminution of weight. Afterwards one of these pieces was put into an ounce of distilled water, with ten grains of the extract, and ten grains of the powder; the other piece with the same quantity of extract and powder, was put into an ounce of proof spirit; they were kept in 96 degrees of heat, for eight days, yet both pieces of calculus remained undiminished; the phials containing them were frequently shaken.

Dr. De Roche, in his ingenious inaugural dissertation, *De Humuli Lupuli viribus medicis*, presents us with a very striking confirmation of the accounts of Lewis and Chambers, respecting the sedative power of the volatile parts of the Hop, when assisted by warmth, in the case of a girl, who had laboured under an inflammation of the breast, attended with great diminution of strength. This patient was directed by Dr. De Roche to try the effects of lying with her

head on a pillow stuffed with Hops; and he was much gratified in being informed, that on the very first night of making the experiment, she experienced from it the most beneficial effects; the night was passed in quiet sleep, and the next morning she awoke much refreshed and strengthened. The same plan was pursued for two weeks with equal success; the odour of the Lupulus however, was so powerful that it became necessary to place another pillow upon that stuffed with the Hops. He likewise afterwards gave her the Lupulus internally in powder, in the dose of three grains, with good effect. In this case opium, hyoseyamus and camphor had been in vain tried for the purpose of procuring sleep. At the distance of five months, this patient was seized with pains of colic, when the tincture of Lupulus was exhibited with considerable advantage, though the tincture of opium had, for three nights, been given in increased doses, without any good effect.

Dr. De Roche remarks, that this girl became so partial to the medicine, that she immediately had recourse to it whenever she found herself unable to sleep. The *Lupulus* in this case, had the effect of gently opening the bowels.

Dr. De Roche likewise mentions the case of a medical gentleman who having an objection to opium, on account of its unpleasant effects on him, was induced to try the *Lupulus* on being suddenly attacked by rheumatic pains without fever. He took a draught containing ninety drops of the tincture, after which he slept well, but awoke in the morning with a head ach, which lasted till noon. On the following evening he took only sixty drops of the tincture, after which he had a good night, followed with less head ach, and on the third night, he took only forty drops, when he slept well and awoke without any head ach.

CASES.

CASE I.

THE first patient to whom I gave the Lupulus, was a Lady of 80 years of age, who was much afflicted with a scorbutic humour, which had occasionally almost covered the whole of her body. She had likewise generally once a year, an erysipelatous fever, which sometimes became so violent as to be attended with considerable danger. These complaints in a greater or less degree, had remained for more than twenty years, though she had often been relieved by medicines prescribed by different physicians, or by my own efforts to assist her; for respecting her much as a friend, my attention to her was unremitting.

She was of a costive habit, so that scarcely three days ever passed, without her having recourse to some aperient medicine. She was

very restless, and though opiates procured sleep, they increased the costiveness. She was affected frequently with flying pains, which were considered to be connected with Gout, a disease to which her family had been subject, and which it was supposed she had not strength enough to throw off. In the case of this Lady, whose stomach had been exceedingly weakened by age and disease, and to whom every medicine in the Pharmacopœia likely to relieve her had been administered, I was induced to try the *Tinctura Lupuli Composita*, of which I gave a drachm with ten drachms of distilled water, in a draught, twice a day, with the intention and hope of strengthening the stomach. The medicine was continued in this dose for sixteen days; the flying pains were eased, rest was procured, the stomach became stronger, and the bowels less costive. After this I gave it in the same quantity, three times a day, and this plan I pursued for a month, at the end of which time, she was in every respect, considerably

better. This flattering success encouraged me to persevere, and in addition to the tincture I gave the Lupulus in infusion, and in substance, in the form of pills. These medicines were continued for three months, at the end of which time, what remained of the scorbutic humour was very trifling, the erysipelas had not in any degree returned, and the bowels were in such a state, that aperient medicines were no longer necessary. In this case, I have exhibited the Tinctura Lupuli, at intervals, in different doses, for nearly five years: and no symptom of disease of an alarming nature, has since recurred, nor has any other medicine been taken except a little antispasmodic mixture, occasionally. The lady is now in her 85th year.

CASE II.

1803. *August 24th.*—A Gentleman 37 years of age, who had been for two months laid up with the Gout, by which he had been much weakened, on this day for the first time, began

to take the Compound Lupulus Pills. His stomach was so debilitated, and his appetite so much impaired, that he took but very little nourishment, and had become considerably emaciated. He could not walk without much pain and difficulty. He was of a costive habit. After having taken the medicine for a few days, his stomach became evidently stronger, he had a motion regularly every day, and in less than a fortnight, he was able to walk with as much ease as he had usually done in three or four weeks after preceding fits. He continued the use of the pills with good effect for three weeks.

• 1804. *February 28th.*—Symptoms of an approaching fit making their appearance, the pills were taken. A trifling inflammation took place, which continued for two or three days only, after which he was able to take the exercise, which his professional business required. He continued to take the medicine for three weeks.

May 5th.—The gouty pain returning, he had recourse to the pills, which he took for a few days, at the end of which time the pain left him.

July 24th.—The patient having remarked that the disease had often returned at this season of the year, began the use of the *Lupulus* as a preventive.—He took it for three weeks, and continued in a good state of health.

December 2nd.—On the appearance of certain symptoms, which had generally preceded a violent fit of gout, the pills were again taken, and with the usual success, so that after a few days indisposition, he was enabled to return to the duties of his avocation. In the hope of preventing future returns of the disease, I recommended a continuation of the medicine for three months, but the patient remaining well, and being hurried in business, neglected to follow my advice.

1805. *January 26th.*—At this time the pain and inflammation recurred, and continued with great violence, for a few days. The pills were taken for some time, with considerable advantage, but a return of health prevented him from following the advice I had before given him.

March 26th.—Pain and inflammation again recurred, but the patient was prevented from taking the pills by an observation made by the medical gentleman who usually attended his family, that bitters long continued generally enriched the blood so much that the vessels were unable to retain it, in consequence of which they became ruptured, and apoplexies, &c. supervened. In confirmation of this he added, that most of the persons who had taken the Duke of Portland's Gout Powder, which is directed to be administered for two or three years in continuance, died of apoplexy, when they were supposed to be cured of gout. As I have never tried this powder, which consists of

the leaves of long birthwort, the greater centaury, lesser centaury, ground pine, germander and gentian, in equal parts, pounded and sifted, I can give no precise opinion as to its effects, but allowing them to be pernicious, no conclusion can be drawn against the *Lupulus*, but by a very remote analogy, since not a particle of it is contained in this celebrated nostrum, and since there is no necessity, as far as I am able to judge, to continue its use for one sixth part of the time.

This opinion, which has been entertained by others as well as the medical gentleman above alluded to, appears to me to be destitute of foundation, and is certainly in no degree supported by the various trials I have made of the *Lupulus*. I have no doubt of the purity of the motives which have influenced gentlemen to give this opinion, but I think it an unfortunate circumstance for the public that it has been promulgated, as it is calculated to prevent a fair

trial of a medicine, which I think capable of producing very great relief, in many cases, if properly administered; and I hope I shall be pardoned when I say, that I think no practitioner ought positively to prohibit any article of the *Materia Medica*, without having by trial, in some degree at least, ascertained its effects. I am very sorry that in this particular instance, a gentleman has been thus deprived of the use of that, which has so often alleviated his pains, and which in all human probability, would have much diminished the violence, or shortened the duration of the paroxysm, with which he was attacked on the 26th of March, and from which he did not completely recover until the middle of June. I have the authority of the patient himself to say, that this statement is correct, and that he was induced to decline having recourse to the *Lupulus*, because he was led to believe that it is a dangerous medicine, and because he was desirous that its safety should be ascertained before he again employed it. In-

fluenced by these circumstances, I think I should not discharge my duty, if I did not generally solicit the opinion of medical gentlemen as to the probability that danger would arise from a continued use of the Lupulus. I therefore earnestly request, that I may be favoured with the sentiments of those who have actually tried this medicine, or who have any strong reasons from analogy to discountenance its employment. I make this request because I wish the powers of the Lupulus to be fully and fairly ascertained; for though my experience has been uniformly in its favour, I wish medical practitioners to be influenced by their own observations on this article of the Materia Medica.

CASE III.

1803. *October 22nd.*—A gentleman, aged 59, who had been confined for nearly two months with the Gout, applied to me for advice. For several preceding years, he had been afflicted with that disease, which usually made its attacks in spring and in autumn; and for more than ten years, he had occasionally been subject to asthma. He appeared at this time to be recovering from the gouty paroxysm, and only complained of restless nights, flying pains, which were by no means acute, and loss of appetite; I therefore thought that the Compound Lupulus Pills as sedative and tonic, might prove serviceable to him. I directed that three of them should be taken twice a day, and though averse to medicine, he followed my advice, beginning with them that very evening, and continuing regularly to take them with beneficial effects, resting better and his

appetite daily increasing until the 26th. On taking leave of him, I ordered that the pills should be taken for two or three months longer; but, on the 4th of November, finding himself so much recovered as to be able to walk out, and that his general health was very much improved, he discontinued their use.

December 12th.—I this day met my patient, who was walking with a stick with great difficulty, and on enquiring into the cause of his present indisposition, he told me that he had been living too freely, had caught cold, and that he believed he had left off the pills too soon; he added, that if I would send him some more of them, he would take them regularly as long as I pleased. Hoping that his past sufferings would make him more careful for the future, I sent him the pills as he desired, which he took for about fourteen days, at the end of which time, finding himself well, he discontinued them as before.

1804. *February 13th.*—I was again desired to attend this gentleman, who was labouring under an attack of Gout, with much pain and inflammation in both feet, and a tendency to sickness. I found that he was likewise afflicted with a swelling of the scrotum, which had been gradually coming on for two years, and which was now increasing very fast. With a view to relieve him from the Gout, I ordered a repetition of the *Lupulus*, and I advised him to send for a surgeon to examine into the nature of his other complaint. The disease was pronounced to be a hydrocele in its advanced stage. A lotion of *aq. ammon. acet.* was ordered to be applied to the part affected, I was desired to keep the bowels gently open, and the patient was advised to undergo the operation, when the weather should have become sufficiently warm. The opinion of another surgeon was taken on the case, and for the present nothing further was directed. The lotion was applied three or four times, and the pills were

regularly taken, which kept the bowels sufficiently open, without the assistance of any other aperient remedy. The symptoms of Gout decreasing, the inflammation of the scrotum disappeared, but the swelling remained as before. This gentleman having a third time experienced relief from the pills, determined to persevere in their use as long as I should think proper.

March 2nd.—This day finding my patient considerably better, and that the gouty symptoms had disappeared, I took my leave, reminding him of his promise, that he would persist in the use of the Lupulus.

April 24th.—With a view of enquiring after the health of this gentleman, who had sent regularly for the pills, and of ascertaining whether he was prepared to submit to the operation or not, the weather having become warmer, I this day called upon him, when I found him looking remarkably well. He informed me, that he was

going to walk to the Bank, a distance of three miles. On expressing my surprise that he should be able to make such an exertion, he told me that the swelling with which he had been so much afflicted, was nearly gone; at the same time assuring me, that he had not made any external application to the part, or taken any medicine but the *Lupulus Pills*. Thus was a disorder relieved, which, after having gradually increased for two years, had become so formidable as to make it necessary, in the opinion of his surgeons, that an operation should be performed.

He took the medicine until the first of June. What remained of the tumour rapidly subsided, and he continued well in every respect until the 2nd of July, 1805, when, having taken more exercise than usual, and lived rather too freely, he was again attacked with Gout. He immediately began again to take the pills. The fit continued with violent pain, swelling, and in-

flammation, for seven days, then gradually went off, and on the fourteenth day he was able to walk out.

Although he had before received so much benefit from the medicine, and had probably on this occasion been relieved by it, he could not be prevailed on to take it for a longer time than a fortnight.

1805. *December 20th.*—This day I met the patient walking with much difficulty, who with great concern told me that he had been laid up with Gout for nearly a month. On asking him why he had not had recourse to the pills, he replied that he could not be continually taking medicine.

1806. *January 16th.*—Last night he was attacked with Gout in the knee, with much pain, swelling and inflammation. As these symptoms were attended with fever, I sent him a saline

draught, two pills containing four grains of calomel, to be taken at bed-time, and a draught with rhubarb and vitriolated tartar, to be taken in the morning, which together produced several motions.

17th.—I now prescribed three of the Compound Lupulus Pills twice a day, and a draught with two drachms of Compound Tincture each night, at bed-time. He took the medicines regularly, and in about a fortnight he got perfectly well. From his own experience of its beneficial effects, this gentleman has a very high opinion of the medicinal virtues of the Lupulus.

CASE IV.

1804. *April 8.*—A gentleman, aged 48, who had for several years been subject to Gout, but who had for the last four years been free from it, this day sent for me. He described himself to have been in torments for ten days and nights, and said that he had in vain tried every remedy that he or his friends could think of; but the fever increasing, he was induced to apply to me for assistance, although he had almost persuaded himself that patience and flannel were as likely to afford him relief as medicine. I found him in a most deplorable state, crying out with the violence of his pain. The swelling and inflammation were very great, both in his hands and his feet; pulse 118, tongue furred, with yellow streaks, there was much thirst, and continued disposition to sickness, and occasional vomiting of bile; he had had no motion for two days. Under these circumstances I

wished him to take the advice of a physician; but that he declined. I directed for him a saline draught with ten grains of compound ipecacuanha powder, and four grains of calomel, formed into two pills, at bed-time; and a saline draught with half a drachm of rhubarb and one drachm of vitriolated tartar in the morning.

9th.—Though these medicines procured three copious motions, I found that he had got no rest and very little ease from pain; and though he drank plentifully of warm fluids, such as barley-water, gruel, and the like, that there was no free perspiration, but merely a dampness on the skin; his pulse was 112, yet he was in no other respect better. I then prescribed a saline draught in the effervescing state, every six hours, with the addition of ten grains of compound ipecacuanha powder in the night draught, hoping that as the bowels had been emptied it would procure rest and perspiration, and consequently tend to relieve the pain.

10th.—In this expectation I was disappointed, for when I saw him at ten o'clock the following day, I found the sickness increased, and no alleviation of any other symptom. In this irritable state of the stomach, as he would not consult a physician, I determined to try the effect of the Lupulus, and directed him to take two Compound Lupulus Pills every six hours, with a saline draught, and if that dose should be rejected by the stomach, to try half the quantity every three hours. The first dose was taken at eleven o'clock, and in two hours afterwards, the sickness began to abate. At five o'clock a second dose was administered; and when I saw him at eleven o'clock at night, I found him perfectly free from sickness. Encouraged by this, I gave him a third dose, and directed that the medicine should be repeated at five o'clock the next morning.

11th.—When I called the next day at eleven o'clock, and heard my patient's account of him-

self, and observed how much he was evidently amended, I felt a pleasure only to be experienced by those who have the good fortune to relieve extreme distress; a pleasure greatly enhanced by the reflection, that the relief afforded was produced by a medicine which I was attempting to rescue from oblivion. I found that every symptom was less urgent; that the patient had had one easy motion; that the pulse was reduced to 96, the tongue less loaded, and becoming moist; that a gentle perspiration was diffused over the whole surface, the swelling being rather increased, though the inflammation was nearly in the same degree. The patient lay quiet during the greatest part of the night, and slept soundly from two till nearly six o'clock, and at intervals, during twenty-four hours, had taken a considerable quantity of sago, panada, gruel, and barley-water. The urine had deposited a large quantity of lateritious sediment. The draughts and pills were repeated.

12th.—All symptoms were decreasing, and the patient in a progressive state of amendment. One motion. Medicines continued.

13th.—Continues getting better, the swelling and inflammation subsiding kindly. As the patient had no motion this day, I added half a drachm of tincture of rhubarb, and the same quantity of tincture of senna to each draught, and continued the pills.

14th.—I directed the medicines to be taken every eight hours, the swelling and other symptoms subsiding very fast.

15th & 16th.—Continues convalescent;—medicines repeated.

17th.—The patient is now able to walk a little; the pain, swelling, and inflammation, considerably lessened; tongue almost clear, pulse 80, rest good, one motion daily. Three

pills were directed twice a day, and the draughts with the addition, to each, of one drachm of the Compound Lupulus Tincture.

21st.—This day the patient went out in a carriage, and afterwards stood for several hours to transact business. The medicines were repeated, with the omission of the aperient tincture in the draughts, the bowels being sufficiently open.

24th.—He was now so much better in every respect that the pills only were ordered twice a day, the draughts being discontinued.

29th.—The patient being perfectly recovered, I this day took my leave of him, but recommended a continuation of the pills for two or three weeks longer. He has remained well ever since.

CASE V.

1805. *January*.—While I was attending a lady who was indisposed, I had frequent opportunities of seeing her husband, a gentleman aged 59, who, for the last thirty-two years, had been generally, in each year, confined to his room with Gout, for three or four months, the attack usually beginning in December, which he had this season hitherto escaped, though in daily expectation of it. As he talked much on the subject, and doubted the probability of any medicine being serviceable to him, I mentioned the benefit which several persons afflicted with Gout had received from the Lupulus, and added, that all who took it for that complaint appeared to have been relieved in a considerable degree. This account attracted his attention, and induced him to wish to try it, when the next fit should come on, which happened early in February.

February 12th.—I was this day sent for, and found him labouring under considerable pain, swelling, and inflammation, both in his hands and feet, which had been preceded by loss of appetite, restlessness, and lowness of spirits. I sent him some aperient tincture, composed of equal parts of tincture of rhubarb and senna, with a view to keep the bowels open, occasionally, of which however he took only one dose. I likewise sent some of the Compound Lupulus Pills, directing him to take three of them twice a day. After ten days the symptoms gradually subsided, and at the end of a fortnight he was able to walk about. By a continuance of the medicine for a month, his strength was in a great degree restored.

April 12th.—He experienced a return of pain, the pills were again taken for a fortnight, when he appeared in a better state of health than for many years before.

June 15th.—From over fatigue, in consequence of too great exertions in the preceding week, he was this day seized with Gout, manifested by loss of appetite, inflammation and swelling in one hand, and in one of his feet. Though I did not see him, he immediately had recourse to the pills, of which he always kept a supply. The symptoms increased until the seventh day from the attack, though the pain was less violent than in former fits. He did not perceive any operative effect from the medicine; yet, after the seventh day the swelling and inflammation gradually subsided. At this time I saw him, as he wished much to relate the progress of his complaint. I advised him to continue the pills for some time longer, after which he found himself much improved in strength and general health.

December 10th.—He was this day seized with Gout in his left hand and foot, the stomach and feet having been for three or four days pre-

viously in a weak state, probably owing to his having caught cold by being exposed to wet. As this was the season in which he used to have his regular severe fits, he expected, as usual, to be confined for a considerable time; but on again taking the pills, the paroxysm went off without much pain or inconvenience, and when I visited him in the latter end of January, 1806, I found him quite well.

1806. *April 9th.*—This gentleman having exposed himself frequently to the cold north easterly winds prevalent for some time past, had this day an attack of Gout, and although urged by his wife either to send for me, or to take the medicine I had recommended, and which had apparently relieved him before, he thought he had better try if the fit would not go off without medical assistance. The symptoms growing more violent, he took a little of the aperient tincture, and sent for some of the Compound Lupulus Pills.

30th.—I called this day, and found him suffering greatly from Gout, with pain, swelling, and inflammation. His tongue was furred; he had much thirst, and febrile heat; occasional sickness, and vomiting; looked bilious, had very little appetite, and his bowels were costive; his pulse 108: he was afflicted also with a scorbutic humour, to which he had long been subject. I prescribed for him a saline draught with a small quantity of antimonial wine and laudanum, and four grains of calomel formed into two pills to be taken at bed-time, and a draught with rhubarb and polychrest salt for the following morning. I desired him to take every night two drachms of the Compound Lupulus Tincture in a saline draught, and twice a day, three or four of the Compound Pills. He seemed glad that I had called, and promised to follow my prescription; and when I visited him

May 6th, The improvement in his health

was considerable, and his tongue was clearing. I desired him to continue the saline and Lupulus medicines.

8th.—This day, as there appeared more bile to be carried off, and as some fever still remained, I directed the calomel pills and aperient draught to be repeated, and a saline draught to be taken each night with the tincture as before, for a few days longer, and that he should persist in the use of the pills also.

14th.—The medicines were all taken as directed, the symptoms had gradually subsided, and the patient had no complaint remaining but weakness, except the scurvy, which continued apparent on the skin. I desired him to leave off the saline draught, and to continue to take the tincture (diluted with water) and the pills, for two or three months longer.

He remarked that such an attack had usually lasted for three months, and the weakness after it for nearly two months more, before he could walk out of his house.

of age, who had been for six weeks afflicted with Gout, this day sent for me. He complained of pain in his leg and foot, which though not constant, was frequently violent. In the leg there was much swelling and tension, and the foot was redematous. There was great general debility and loss of appetite; his pulse was 92, and his tongue loaded. Notwithstanding his weakness he was able to go out every day in a carriage. I directed him to take two of the Compound Lupulus Pills three times a day, and a draught in the morning and again at noon, with a drachm of the Compound Tincture, and at bed-time another draught, containing two drachms of the Tincture.

24th.—Had rested better; two motions in the twenty-four hours; pulse 90; medicines continued.

The remarked that such an attack had usually

CASE VI.

It was nearly two months more, before he could

1805. *September 23rd.*—A gentleman 52 years of age, who had been for six weeks afflicted with Gout, this day sent for me. He complained of pain in his leg and foot, which, though not constant, was frequently violent. In the leg there was much swelling and tension, and the foot was œdematous. There was great general debility and loss of appetite; his pulse was 92, and his tongue loaded. Notwithstanding his weakness he was able to go out every day in a carriage. I directed him to take two of the Compound Lupulus Pills three times a day, and a draught in the morning and again at noon, with a drachm of the Compound Tincture; and at bed-time another draught, containing two drachms of the Tincture.

24th.—Had rested better; two motions in the twenty-four hours; pulse 90; medicines continued.

26th.—Had rested well for two nights; appetite better; two motions each day; pulse 90; leg less swelled. A florid rash now appeared covering the leg entirely from the ankle to the knee. Medicine repeated.

29th.—Continued to rest well; pain considerably lessened; pulse 80; tongue cleaner; one or two motions each day; swelling of the leg and foot considerably less; appetite tolerably good; spirits better. The rash continued out. Medicines repeated.

October 2nd.—The swelling is now much reduced, spirits much better, and the patient is gaining strength very fast.

4th.—Continues much better, though after a fatiguing day's business; somewhat feverish, however, probably from having taken cold; the swelling of the leg had nearly subsided, but there was still considerable uneasiness in the

ankle and foot. With a view to open the bowels, I directed the following medicines:—

Rx Calom. pp. gr. iv.

Cons. cynosb. q. s. ft pil. ij. h. s. s.

Rx Pulv. rhabarb. ʒss.

Kal. vitriol. ʒi.

Tinct. card. comp. ʒij.

Aq. menth. pip. ʒiſs.

Ft. haust. cras mane sumendus.

5th.—The pills and draught procured five motions, and hardened faeces were discharged. The medicines formerly prescribed were repeated.

7th.—Appears in every respect better; tongue clean; but little pain or inflammation, which was confined to the great toe of the swelled foot. Medicines to be taken only twice a day; three pills at each dose, and two drachms of tincture in each draught.

11th.—Continued convalescent. Medicines repeated.

18th.—Very much better; ankle and foot very little swelled after standing for many hours on the preceding day; general health much improved; medicines continued.

22nd.—This day he left off his large shoe and woollen stocking, although the weather was intensely cold. Medicines repeated.

25th.—His strength improves daily, and he is able to walk without much inconvenience.

28th.—The patient's health was now so much improved, that he had been able to bear a very fatiguing day's business, from seven in the morning till nine at night, without pain or uneasiness. Under these circumstances, I directed that the medicines should be taken only at bedtime, for two days longer, after which, finding himself quite well, he discontinued their use, perfectly satisfied with the benefit he had received.

I was highly gratified by the result of this case, for in the beginning I had not much expectation that the Lupulus, without the assistance of other medicines, would have effected a cure.

22nd.—This day he left off his large shoe and woollen stocking, although the weather was intensely cold. Medicines repeated.

25th.—His strength improves daily, and he is able to walk without much inconvenience.

28th.—The patient's health was now so much improved, that he had been able to bear a very fatiguing day's business, from seven in the morning till nine at night, without pain or uneasiness. Under these circumstances, I directed that the medicines should be taken only at bed-time for two days longer, after which, finding himself quite well, he discontinued their use, perfectly satisfied with the benefit he had received.

CASE VII.

1805. *November 26th.*—A gentleman, 57 years of age, whose father had been subject to Gout, and whose brother is much afflicted with that disease, this day sent for me. He had been for three days affected with considerable swelling and redness of the left leg and foot, but without any tenderness or pain. His tongue was loaded, pulse 96. His bowels had been generally kept open with cathartic pills, &c.; but now the belly was rather distended, and he felt some uneasiness in the lower part of it. I directed him to take four grains of calomel, in pills, with a saline draught at bed-time; and a draught with rhubarb and vitriolated tartar in the morning.

27th.—The aperient medicines procured three motions, and the patient thought himself so much relieved, that he would consent to

nothing more than a repetition of them in a day or two.

28th.—Having passed a restless night, with pain in both legs, I was sent for. I found the right ankle and foot considerably swelled and inflamed, with a shining surface, and extremely tender when touched; pulse 96; tongue loaded, and spirits low. I proposed to him to see his physician, but this he declined, and desired that I would give him such medicines as I thought most likely to relieve him. I directed him to take the *Lupulus*, both in the form of pills, and tincture in a draught three times a day, to keep himself from taking cold, and to avoid excess of every kind.

29th.—Has rested better; pulse only 80; tongue cleaner; spirits a little better; two trifling motions; medicines continued.

December 3rd.—The patient slept well the

preceding night; bowels gently open; inflammation in the right leg gradually decreasing, and the swelling of the left leg fast subsiding. Medicines continued.

5th.—Continues better in every respect; the draughts and pills to be taken only twice a day; the patient walked out and did not return for three hours; legs nearly of their usual size.

9th.—The patient finding himself perfectly recovered, the medicines were discontinued. Since this time I have frequently seen him, and he continues well.

CASE VIII.

Soon after the publication of my account of the *Lupulus*, in the Medical and Physical Journal for May 1805, I received a letter from a gentleman in Herefordshire, wherein he mentioned having given the *Lupulus* in a number of cases, out of which he selected the following, as that was the only medicine which had been used. It was formed into pills containing ten grains of extract for a dose, and repeated twice a day. He relates the case thus:—

“ About six years ago my advice was solicited by a labourer on the turnpike road, upwards of sixty years of age, for a leprous affection from the knees to the ankles, and a considerable ichor distilled from his feet and toes, his habit costive, great loss of appetite, a feverish diathesis, &c.—To excite my humanity, he told me he could no longer follow

“ his employ, if his sufferings were not abated.
“ He continued the pills about a fortnight, and
“ then told me he was in every respect perfect-
“ ly well; and upon asking him as to his appe-
“ tite, (in his own words) answered, ‘ Sir, I could
“ eat horse-nail-stubbs.’ Have seen him within
“ these few days, and have authority to say he
“ has remained well ever since.”

On my writing to know if any application was used outwardly for the legs, the answer was,—“ He had used a lead wash prior to the
“ use of the pills; it gave him ease, but no
“ abatement to the complaint: whether it was
“ continued during the use of them, he does
“ not recollect.”

I HAVE now, for nearly five years past, administered the *Lupulus* in a variety of diseases, and I can with confidence assert that it is a very valuable medicine. I have not preserved an account of all the trials I have made of it, but I think I should be correct in asserting, that it has afforded relief in more than one half of the cases in which I have given it. I do not recollect a single instance in which I have had occasion to regret the employment of it; for, although a slight giddiness in the head has occasionally been produced, its duration was always very short. Dr. De Roche seems apprehensive that the saturated tincture may occasion diarrhœa and pains in the bowels. I have not observed either these or any other unpleasant effects from it, nor has its administration prevented the use of other medicines as auxiliaries.

FINIS.

CONCISE SUMMARY

I have now, for nearly twenty years, administered the Tincture of Capsicum in a variety of cases, and I can with confidence assert that it is a very valuable medicine. I have not prepared an account of all the cases I have treated, but I think I should be correct in saying that it has afforded relief in more than one-half of the cases in which I have given it. I do not recollect a single instance in which I have had occasion to regret the employment of it, although a slight reddening of the face has occasionally been produced, its duration was always very short. Dr. De Mead has observed that it stimulates the mucous membrane of the throat and gives rise to the hoarse, husky, and gummy condition of the bowels. I have observed either these or any other of the effects named, it has not been attended with the use of other medicines, and I have

