

Patterns of nature: a series of decorative plants. 4, Liliun regale.

Contributors

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



PATTERNS OF NATURE: a series of decorative plants

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#### No. 4: *Lilium regale*

*This species of lily, so often seen in our parks and gardens, was unknown in Europe until 1903, when E. H. Wilson imported 300 bulbs from the valley of the Min in the Szechuan province of China. All the specimens we now have are descendants of these.*

*Wilson's own description of the habitat is as exotic as the flower itself:*

*"There, in narrow, semi-arid valleys, down which thunder torrents, and encompassed by mountains composed of mud-shales and granites, whose peaks are clothed with snow eternal, the Regal Lily has its home. In summer the heat is terrific, in winter the cold is intense, and at all seasons these valleys are subject to sudden and violent windstorms against which neither man nor beast can make headway.*

*There, in June, by the wayside in rock-crevices by the torrent's edge, and high up on the mountainside and precipice, this Lily in full bloom greets the weary wayfarer. Not in twos and threes but in hundreds, in thousands, aye, in tens of thousands. Its slender stems, each from two to four feet tall, flexible and tense as steel, over-topping the coarse grass and scrub and crowned with one to several large funnel-shaped flowers more or less wine-coloured without, pure white and lustrous on the face, clear canary-yellow within the tube and each stamen filament tipped with a golden anther.*

*The air in the cool of the morning and in the evening is laden with delicious perfume exhaled from each bloom. For a brief season this lonely, semi-desert region is transformed by this Lily into a veritable fairy-land".*

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Colour photograph by John Markham, F.R.P.S.

THE natural pattern of acid secretion varies so much from one patient to another that it is useless to think of antacid therapy in terms of neutralisation of free acid. We obviously cannot titrate against the acid a predetermined quantity of alkali.

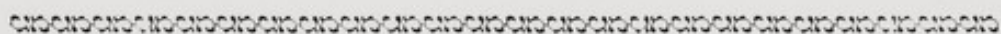
The margin of error can be overcome by administering an amphoteric buffer; in theory the most satisfactory one is alumina.

In practice, however, alumina is sometimes inefficient, because there is so much variation in chemical reactivity between one physical form and another.

Prodexin, however, is a remarkably active and consistent alumina buffer. The occasional sucking of one tablet gives the peptic ulcer patient all the benefits of an ideal antacid:—

- 1 Prompt relief of acid pain:** antacid action at least as prompt as that of fresh, liquid alumina gel.
- 2 Sustained control of pH** no matter how much the acid secretion fluctuates.
- 3 No rigid restriction** of dose or the patient's activity.

Prodexin tablets do not over-alkalise, however many tablets are taken, and they do not aggravate acid secretion. The tablets are pleasant to suck, but are not overflavoured: they are unusually smooth and do not yield gritty, irritant particles.



PRODEXIN

restores the pattern of gastric acid secretion

Each Prodexin tablet contains:

Aluminium glycinat (dihydroxy aluminium aminoacetate)...0.9 gramme
Light magnesium carbonate.....0.1 gramme

DOSAGE:

To ensure a steady and prolonged flow of medicament to the stomach the tablet should be allowed to dissolve *slowly* in the mouth.

For hyperacidity:

One or two tablets as required.

For prevention of hyperacidic attacks:

One tablet every hour. If pain recurs regularly it is best to anticipate each attack by a dose 15 to 30 minutes before pain is expected.

For peptic ulcer:

One tablet every hour, or more frequently, depending on the degree of hyperacidity.

PACKAGES:

Cartons of 30 individually wrapped tablets and dispensing packs of 240.
Basic N.H.S. cost of 240 tablets: 30s. 4d.



C. L. BENCARD LTD.

PARK ROYAL, LONDON, N.W.10

Telephone: ELGar 6681

Telegrams: Bencarlond, Harles, London

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