

Remarks on the efficacy of matico, as a styptic and astringent. With additional cases, mode of exhibition, &c; / [Thomas Jeffreys].

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Piper Angustifolium Matico.

SECOND EDITION.

REMARKS
ON THE EFFICACY OF
MATICO,
AS A STYPTIC AND ASTRINGENT.

WITH
ADDITIONAL CASES, MODE OF EXHIBITION, &c.

BY THOS. JEFFREYS, M.D.

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR.

LONGMAN & CO., PATERNOSTER ROW, LONDON.
W. GRAPEL, LIVERPOOL.

1844.



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PREFACE.

THE favourable manner in which my medical brethren have received the introduction of the powerful vegetable astringent, MATICO, made known to them through the medium of the "Transactions of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association," 1843, vol. 11, p. 347, together with the pressing intreaty of those who have the sale of the article, and the results of further experience of the utility of the plant, not only in cases of hæmorrhage, both externally and internally, but also in other diseases, where the usual remedies employed have failed to afford the relief anxiously wished for, must be my apology for further trespassing upon the public.

The manner also of using it, and the form prescribed, is of much importance to attend to. The simple washing the bleeding vessels with a strong Decoction has, with me, proved successful, when the Leaf, the Powder, and the Tincture, have failed, though aided by well-directed mechanical pressure. This should be kept in mind, as happened in one instance, where a spontaneous bleeding from the inner sides of the cheeks, and from under the tongue, was so great as to endanger the life of the patient, from the extent of the hæmorrhage, although the vessels from whence the blood flowed were scarcely visible to the naked eye. By removing all the

pledgets of lint, and holding the Decoction in the mouth, the bleeding speedily ceased,—proving that such an application will succeed, where mechanical means cannot be conveniently either used or retained.

As I am convinced that the power, use, and value of the herb, only requires to be more generally known, to be duly appreciated, I shall avail myself of adding such instances as have occurred to myself, and also of recording the cases of several medical friends, who have favoured me with communications upon the subject, and to whom I beg to acknowledge my best thanks. The formulæ recommended, and the mode of using them externally, and taking internally, will be found at the conclusion of these pages.

REMARKS ON MATICO.

HAVING already had recourse to active means to draw the attention of my medical brethren, both locally and generally, to the use of the plant MATICO, well known in South America as a styptic, under the name of the "Soldier's Herb," I certainly did not intend to trouble myself further upon the subject by repeating my request, either to them or the public, had not an unfortunate circumstance occurred, in my young mercantile friend's forwarding to me a "seron" of what he supposed to be Matico, which proved to be a spurious specimen, and which was sent to many members of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, before I discovered the error. Although I lost no time in correcting the mistake, by sending circulars to every individual who had received a specimen, still I have reason to believe that, when I had procured a fresh supply of that which I knew to be genuine, and used every means to circulate it for trial, I very much fear that the want of accuracy in the first instance may probably have lessened their zeal in giving it a fair trial, if not even have caused a total indifference to ascertain its real effects. This, I trust, will be a sufficient apology for my thus appearing before the medical profession and the public; more especially, as I have instances to bring forward which convince me that its styptic powers are sufficient to make it a valuable auxiliary to that class of articles in our *materia medica*.

I am quite aware of the obstacles which the introduction of every novelty in the practice of medicine has to encounter, and I am too old in experience to expect infallibility in any remedy, come from what quarter it may ; but I hold it to be the duty of every medical man, who believes that benefit may be conferred upon his suffering fellow-creatures, to give trial to a remedy furnished by the hand of the Creator himself, and justified by instances of its success. The cases in themselves may not be so formidable as to endanger life, yet they may be sufficient to cause great anxiety to parents and friends, and consequently, whoever gives his assistance, is only fulfilling one of the higher duties which should constitute a distinguished position in the medical profession, where harmony ought ever to prevail, in honour preferring one another.

A very trifling circumstance, and that quite accidental, first induced me to direct my inquiries to the subject, and the styptic powers of the plant Matico ; and when I did so, it was more as a matter of medical curiosity, than as supposing them to be worthy of the attention of the medical practitioner, or that the remedy itself should be considered an article of mercantile speculation, as it has been for the last year or two. There are merchants in Liverpool now, who hold not less than between thirty and forty hundred-weight of the article Matico, a circumstance which has been one cause of rousing me to increased inquiry, although there may be those who fancy the spring of my efforts otherwise, when neither my labours nor my pecuniary outlay are ever likely to be rewarded.

I should, however, here instruct those who may use the Matico, that there are two sorts of the article imported, one collected when *green*, the other when *ripe* and of a more yellow

appearance, which *latter*, I have proof beyond all doubt, both chemically and practically, to be the much more powerful styptic, consequently preferable.

My first notice of the styptic power of Matico appeared in the *Lancet* of January 5th, 1839, p. 567, of which the following is a copy. At that time I heard its name variously accented, *Matecó*, *Matica*, and *Matico*; the latter I now believe to be the most correct. It is also well known by the Spanish name of "Yerba Soldado," or "Soldier's Herb."

"To the Editor of the Lancet."

"SIR,—In the course of last year a young mercantile friend of mine brought with him from South America a small quantity of the leaves of a plant, which he stated was much used, and in high repute, as a styptic of great power and efficacy, by immediately closing the extremity of a bleeding vessel in profuse hæmorrhage. At the same time he gave me the following account of its accidental discovery. 'A soldier, wounded in the field of battle, was left bleeding so profusely as to afford little or no hope of his surviving. The occurrence of syncope so far checked the hæmorrhage as to revive him, and enabled him to perceive his threatened danger. He immediately exerted what little strength he possessed to fill the wound with grass, and the leaves of a plant accidentally within his reach,* and the effects were so speedy and complete as to enable him to rise from the place where he fell; and he survived to record the means which he supposed had saved his life.'

"My opportunities of proving the truth of this information have neither been extensive nor frequent, but they are quite sufficient to induce me to draw the attention of surgeons to a trial of the remedy; and as the subject is familiar to every well-informed person who has visited South America, there can be no difficulty in procuring some leaves for further proof of its efficacy. I do not know that I should have troubled you with this communication, had I not, within these few days, derived further information on the subject from Mr. William Wheelwright, a gentleman now in Liverpool, who has resided in that country for fifteen years, and is well known as the successful projector (now carrying into effect) of steam navigation in the Pacific, and also between Valparaiso, Panama, and England. The name of the plant from which the leaves are collected, is *Matico*, and it is to be met with in the province of Chequas, the eastern extremity of Bolivia,—

* The latter, upon examination, was found to be MATICO.

where, he says, it is not only used for suppressing the bleeding from wounds externally, but also as a diuretic ; of which latter quality I have no knowledge, but I will not fail to use it, the first favourable opportunity which may offer, should I be able to procure it in a larger quantity than I at present possess.

“ I am, Sir,

“ Your obedient Servant,

“ THOMAS JEFFREYS, M.D.

“ *Liverpool, Dec. 24th, 1839.*

At the anniversary meeting of the Lancashire Branch of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, held June 29th, 1839, I availed myself of the opportunity of reading the above letter to the members present, having had the account confirmed in a conversation I had with Mr. Scarlett, son of the late Lord Abinger, and author of “ *Travels in South America.*” The subject interested the members of the Branch considerably, some of whom, from the appearance of the leaves, supposed it to be a *Salvia*, or sage ; but I was better informed by my friend Dr. Dickinson, lecturer on Botany in Liverpool, that it was not a *Salvia*, but a *Piper*, which he verified by reference to Cramer’s edition of Persoon’s botanical work, vol. i., page 32, where it is called “ *Piper angustifolium*,” and which I believe to be correct. I lost no time in endeavouring to procure a sufficient quantity of the plant to furnish my medical friends with the opportunity of judging for themselves, which was speedily answered by the receipt of a seron containing twenty pounds of it. I instantly forwarded (September, 1840,) specimens of half-ounce papers by post to more than 132 individuals, and 18 hospitals or dispensaries ; when, shortly afterwards, I had the mortification to discover that the seron sent me was either not Matico at all, or, if so, certainly a spurious species of it. This error arose from a want of attention in the person I applied to for it at Valparaiso ;

and although I immediately sent a circular round to the 150 places I had sent to, apprizing them of this careless blunder, the effect of it, I have no doubt, caused any future attempt to introduce it, to be looked at with suspicion, if not with indifference, or entire neglect. I, however, pledged myself to remedy the evil as soon as I could procure the genuine plant with any thing like confidence of its purity.

This opportunity did not occur until the month of July, 1842, when I received intimation from a mercantile house in Liverpool, stating that they had received from their correspondent eighty serons of Matico, twelve of which were of a *green* colour, giving me the idea that it was collected before the plant had come to maturity: the other sixty-eight serons appeared to me to have been gathered when ripe, for the plant is not only of a *yellow* colour, but the seeds are far more distinct; and indeed this was further proved by the styptic power being greater, as evinced by chemical tests very carefully made for me by a skilful chemist,* from whom an ample supply may be obtained.

He proceeded to prepare an *infusion* of each, with *half an ounce to the pint*; that made from what I consider the younger plant, gave rather a darker colour than the *yellow* or ripe plant. The latter has a stronger smell, and a more powerful taste, and by three chemical tests precipitates more than the green does, which was evinced as follows:—

1. A solution of peroxide of iron was added to the above infusion, which turned it quite black; consequently it contains most *gallic acid*.

2. A solution of sub-acetate of lead gave a yellow precipitate, showing the quantity of *mucilage*.

* Mr. Clay, Bold Street, Liverpool.

3. A solution of nitrate of silver, which also gave a dark grey, or nearly a black precipitate; which I believe was done with a view of showing whether it contained tannin; but, as none was reported, I conclude that none was contained.

In each of these experiments the results were far more evident in the yellow or ripe plant than they were in the green, or that supposed to be younger, or less carefully dried. The original cost of the plant is very trifling, not more than 1s. or 1s. 6d. per pound, and it may be had from the merchant for 2s. 6d. or 3s. when in bond; but as heavy expenses are incurred by keeping it in Liverpool, it will not be retained here in large quantities, unless the demand for it should be both speedy and extensive.* It is much used in Belgium, and sells there for 7s. 6d. per pound. I must again warn those who may use it, to be careful in obtaining the genuine *yellowish* ripe plant. The odour of the genuine is so powerful that it will be immediately detected by any one who enters the place where it is kept, and though powerful, is by no means unpleasant; some have thought the smell resembles that of cubebs.

BOTANICAL CHARACTERS.

The appearances of the leaf, to an ordinary observer, resemble that of a sage (*Salvia*), but a botanist soon discovers it to be a pepper. My friend, Dr. Kendrick, of Warrington, has evinced a zealous anxiety that the Matico should be accurately defined, both botanically and practically, having had experience of it himself quite sufficient to manifest its good effects. He applied to his botanical friend, Mr. Wilson, of

* Large cargoes are now imported, and in possession of merchants both in London and Liverpool.

Orford Mount, near Warrington, well known to the public, who has favoured me with a correspondence which he has had with Dr. Walker Arnott, sub-editor of Sir Wm. Hooker's *Botanical Journal*, to whom I have to offer my most cordial thanks for the information they have given me, and also for the ready offer of publishing my communication, which I should gladly have done before, had I not thought it desirable to wait for more convincing practical facts of the efficacy of the remedy, and the subject more suitable to a medical publication than to one purely botanical:—

EXTRACT FROM DR. ARNOTT'S NOTE, DATED MARCH 15, 1841.

“Since I wrote you last, I have pounced upon a plant, lying loose with some others, from Peru, in Sir William's herbarium. It is marked ‘*Matico*, a famous styptic.’ Now the plant is certainly *Piper elongatum*, (Vahl,) or *Piper angustifolium*, (Ruiz and Pav.); but your fragment (also a *Piper* obviously) differs in some little respects. Both may be the same. It is not now a *Piper*, but a *Stephensia* of Kunth, or *Artanthe* of Miguil. The styptic property is nowhere mentioned, that I know; and it was about that, and how applied, that I wished for information. Had you sent that, I would have given a description of *Stephensia elongata*, and stated the reasons for that being the true *Matico*.”

In a note received from Dr. John Lindley, Professor of Botany, Apothecaries' Hall, London, dated Sep. 7th, 1841, I received the following information:—

“The plant you have sent a specimen of, under the name *Matico*, is the *Piper angustifolium* of the Flora Peruviana. From that work we learn that its Peruvian name is ‘Thoho Thoho,’ and that it is used *ad gonorrhæas et ulcera cancrrosa a lue venerea ortas, extirpandas*, in form of a decoction.”

It was not, however, till about the middle of September, 1842, that I was enabled to procure a more accurate account of it, as above alluded to, in the Flora Peruviana, in consequence of that work being both scarce and expensive. For

this I am indebted to a friend,* who after an unsuccessful search in the college libraries of Glasgow and Edinburgh, found a choice copy of the work in the Advocates' Library of the latter place, and to whom I feel truly grateful for the subjoined extract, descriptive of its botanical character, which he copied, whilst his accomplished lady took a very accurate drawing of the plant, from which the accompanying plate is taken:—

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF MATICO.

Diandria monogynia.

Piper angustifolium.

Foliis cordato-lanceolatis acutis rugosis, spinis recurvis foliorum longitudine.

Frutex—biorgyalis.

Caulis—erectus, articulatus, nodosus, ramosus.

Rami—subdivisi, geniculati, articulati, subpurpurascens, teretes, scabri, teneri, pubescentes, punctati.

Folia—breviter petiolata, cordata, lanceolata, acutissima, parum obliqua, basim-æquantia, integerrima, subtus pubescentia, mitia, super retrorsum scabra, utrinque venosa, reticulata, rugosissima, nervosa, nervis alternis.

Spathæ—lanceolatæ.

Spicæ—oppositifoliæ, solitariæ, recurvatæ, dum teneræ erectæ, foliorum longitudine, cylindricæ, saporis piperis nigri.

Stigmata—hispidæ.

Habitat—In silvis et ripis Huanuci, Cuchero, Panao, Chaclea, et Muna.

Floret—Julio, Augusti, et Septembri.

Vernaculi—Moho Moho, id est Nodus Nodus.

Vires et Usus—Incolæ ad gonorrhœas et ulcera cancrosum a lue venerea or-
tas, extirpandas decoctum affatim hauriunt.

Explic.—1. Flosculus.

2. Squama.

3. Stamina.

4. Drupa cum Stylo.

5. Semen.

A healthy plant was sent me, but it died on the voyage, accelerated, no doubt, by the sailors plucking off the leaves

* R. E. Alison, Esq., London,—an intelligent South American merchant, who is well acquainted with the purity of the Plant, from information obtained during his residence in that country; and now imports the article in large quantities.

to heal any accidental bleeding wounds; which fact I had from Captain Brown, of the ship *Stagellion*,—who tells me he had seen a tree of it in Mr. Green's garden, at Valparaiso, ten or twelve feet high. It is generally raised from slips or cuttings, in consequence of the seeds not being so successful.

It may require both zeal and patience to ascertain its good effects; but that it has sufficient power to deserve the attention of the medical profession, I have no doubt, and I have collected the following facts, illustrative of its efficacy. They are by no means so extensive as I have been anxious to obtain; but when I consider the urgent wishes of a few of my medical friends, the apathy of others, and the difficulties I have to contend with, among those who have to supply us with the genuine article, I am compelled to come forward sooner than I otherwise should have done, which I hope will be received as an apology for deficiencies.

My first trial of its external application was to a cut on the face, from shaving, and other trifling cuts on the fingers, every day occurring, not requiring surgical assistance, when, if pressure be made with the finger for a short time, it never failed stopping the bleeding, the leaf succeeding better than the powder; and let me here remark, once for all, that the *under* side of the leaf is more powerful than the *upper*.* I then proceeded to use it to leech-bites, where the bleeding could not be stayed, (a circumstance sometimes rather dis-

* If the leaf be moistened by steam, and expanded for examination through a magnifying power, the *upper* side is of a dark yellowish-green colour, presenting an uniform papillary appearance throughout; if, on the contrary, the *under* side be so examined, the colour is of rather a brighter yellow, with a distinct reticulated appearance, the interstices of which are the under side of the papillæ, consisting of a fibrous spongy texture, from the expansion of which, it is probable, the styptic power so rapidly acts.

tressing in delicate infants,) and uniformly with success. This has been confirmed to me by many of my medical friends, both in public and private practice.

October 28th, 1840, I received a letter from my friend Dr. Kendrick, of Warrington, to say that he was hastily sent for to a gentleman who had cut his throat, and observing a small artery divided, which was not of sufficient importance to require being secured by ligature, but was large enough for the pulsation to be visible, and the hæmorrhage from it so profuse as to require immediate attention, and having accidentally some Matico in his pocket, he applied a small portion of the leaf to the bleeding vessel; the effect of it was the speedy, nay almost instantaneous cessation of the flow of blood. This valuable fact I consider of great importance, as far as a solitary instance can go; and although it cannot be supposed sufficient to establish its efficacy, it is quite so to induce those who have an opportunity to encourage further experiment.

The next notice of it is from Dr. Monro, surgeon to the Dundee Infirmary, dated May 28th, 1842; and although it has already appeared in the *Provincial Medical Journal* for June 18th, 1842, (page 209,) I hope its introduction here will not be considered obtrusive:—

“Dear Sir,—I was favoured with your communication, containing the Matico, some time ago. I find you are, naturally, desirous of knowing the result of it in my hands. The circumstance of its being my year to officiate as attending surgeon to our Infirmary, has given me opportunities of using it more than ordinary in surgical cases. I have not administered it internally, but from what you state, I shall certainly take the earliest opportunity of giving it a trial.

“It has been very often used after the application of leeches, where there was difficulty in stopping the oozing of blood, and uniformly with most decided success. One of these cases was that of our house-surgeon, who had fever; and being a young, stout, and florid person, with early

symptoms of head affection, leeches were ordered, which, by his own desire, were applied inside of both nostrils. The bites bled profusely, and there was a difficulty in stopping the bleeding: cold applications to the head, and plugging the nostrils, &c., were tried without effect; when the Matico in leaf was applied over the bites, *pressed* on with the point of the finger, the remedy proved immediately successful. This is, in my opinion, a good and decided case, happening in the person of an intelligent and experienced medical man. He describes the feeling produced by the leaf, to be one of increased heat and throbbing, which continued for about five minutes, when all unpleasant sensations went off. Others, to whom it was applied, described their feelings as very similar to those just mentioned.* The Matico was also applied to a man brought into this hospital with a wound of the right temple; a considerable branch of the temporal artery had been divided. The wound was dressed, and a compress and bandage applied, but still the blood burst out; cold water was several times had recourse to, still the bleeding returned after a while; at last the Matico was used. At first I stuffed the wound with the powder, but found it not to answer so well as the leaf, being soon washed away from the wound in the vessel. I then pressed in several pieces of the leaves, holding them firmly for some time with the point of the finger. The result was, that we had no more hæmorrhage. We had a somewhat similar case of a man with a wound of a branch of the palmar artery, which resisted graduated compression and bandages, and in which the Matico was used with the best success.

“From these cases I cannot doubt but that the Matico has most decided qualities, and that it may become a very valuable addition to our *Materia Medica*. It will afford me pleasure if I can give you any further testimony of the effects of this substance, in which you seem to have a peculiar interest. I shall persevere in trying it in cases where I think it appropriate, whether medical or surgical. Mr. Crichton, my successor for the following year in the Infirmary, has promised to follow up the experiments with the Matico; and the house-surgeon takes an interest in the matter, so that I hope to give you further proof of its good effects as a styptic.

“I remain, dear Sir,

“Yours very truly,

“WILLIAM MONRO.”

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM DR. KENDRICK, OF WARRINGTON, TO
DR. JEFFREYS, OF LIVERPOOL, JUNE 8, 1842.

“On the subject of the cultivation of Matico, I procured as many seeds as I could from the packet I last received, and placed them in the hands of a gardener on whom I could depend, for the purpose of sowing them. I am sorry to say, not a single seed has vegetated,—and that, I suspect, from the

* The sense of heat in the part when applied is a strong proof of its being likely to succeed.

plant being gathered previous to their being fully ripened ; as my friend Wilson, (one of the best microscopic observers of the present day,) has not been able to discover an embryo in any specimen he has submitted to examination. If so, we have no right to expect them to vegetate." *

In another letter, July 27, 1842, he further says :—

"A lady of my acquaintance has taken up the subject very enthusiastically ; and having cut her finger, applied the leaf of the Matico, and found that it was the *under* side of the leaf alone which possessed the styptic quality. I find on trial she is correct in her statement." †

The following letter is from Dr. G. C. Watson, surgeon to the Liverpool Lying-in Hospital, and Dispensary for Diseases of Women and Children :—

"My dear Sir,—In compliance with your desire when you favoured me with a specimen of the Matico for trial, that the result should be reported to you, I beg to state that I have given it the fairest trial I could in our Hospital, Horatio Street. I consider, from the comparatively limited scale of experiment, that it has proved decidedly efficacious as a remedy in the subjoined instances ; so much so as to warrant my confidence in it, as a valuable addition to our stimulant and astringent class of remedies. I need not go into any particulars, but simply to give the nature and number of cases wherein on trial it has answered the expectations your account led me to form of its virtues :—

	Cases.
"Blenorrhagia	5
Vaginal Leucorrhæa	3
Uterine ditto, (conjoined with a rubefacient liniment over the loins)	1
Hæmaturia	1
Hæmorrhage from the bowels	2
Cynanche Tonsillaris	2

And successful as a styptic in a case of *nævus*, after removal by double ligation, where one or two small vessels proved troublesome on its coming

* The information I have received from South America is, that Matico is raised from cuttings.

† In confirmation of this fact, I have been favoured this day (Mar. 2, 1844,) with a note from the lady herself, who says she certainly did, "accidentally," cut her finger, and was most agreeably surprized to find such immediate good effects. I avail myself of this opportunity of expressing my grateful acknowledgments to Miss H—, for the interested zeal she has evinced.

away. I used it *internally* and *externally* in general, according as the case admitted of it, in both instances confining myself to the one mode of exhibition by *infusion*. If my information be correct, it is best to begin with a small dose of it, gradually increasing it as the stomach gets accustomed to it; when I disregarded this point, nausea marked the disagreement of the remedy. It also appears to me, judging from two instances, that after the dose has been pushed rather too liberally, the *really beneficial effect diminishes*, and pathological symptoms come on, viz., feverish excitement and pains in the limbs and back, indicating the necessity of intermitting the remedy for two or three days; when, after a purgative, the medicine may be resumed with safety and final curative effect. It may be thought that the data for these observations on the pathological effects are insufficient to base any solid opinion upon; so they are, undoubtedly, and I only take the liberty of soliciting your own attention to them, in order that future investigation may be extended towards their verification, or the contrary,—seeing that they have, if true, a direct practical import, as far as the suggestion of a guide to the exhibition of any remedy, with *adequate benefit*, goes. Begging your indulgence for so meagre a report, and promising not to forget you in any further trials of the same,

“I remain, my dear Sir,

“Your obedient humble servant,

“G. C. WATSON, M.D.”

“*Horatio Street, Liverpool,*

“*July 31, 1842.*”

FROM DR. SCOTT TO DR. JEFFREYS.

“Dear Sir,—I think I ought to communicate to you a very striking instance of the effects of the Matico leaf, which occurred to me yesterday, as I think its efficacy in stopping the bleeding of leech bites in young children, which is often very difficult to accomplish, is scarcely sufficiently known. It was the case of a child eight months old, labouring under acute bronchitis. The bite of the leech, which was applied to the chest, bled profusely, and resisted the usual means of stopping it; but by placing a piece of leaf on the bite, and keeping it fixed by the finger for a few seconds, the hæmorrhage totally subsided, much to my satisfaction and the astonishment of the child's friends.

“Yours, very truly,

“*July 31, 1842.*

“R. W. SCOTT.”

FROM MR. OSWALD, SURGEON, DOUGLAS, ISLE OF MAN.

“My dear Dr. Jeffreys,—I have never thanked you for sending me a supply of Matico for trial, nearly two years ago. I now take the liberty of doing so, and of informing you that I have not lost an opportunity of testing it by experience. The first case that occurred was that of enlarged hip joint, from scrofula, with fistulous openings over the great trochanter,

which frequently discharged blood copiously, and could not be suppressed by pressure, owing to the pain it gave the patient. I applied the Matico in leaf, so as in a great measure to suppress the bleeding; but the constitutional disease was too deeply seated. In bleeding gums, and leech bites in infants, sometimes very difficult to manage, I have no doubt it will be useful.

"The last case I used it in was one of excessive discharge of blood from the bowels, and I had every reason to think that the hæmorrhage proceeded from a stricture or ulceration of the tranverse arch of the colon, or higher up in the intestine. The patient is greatly reduced by frequent and excessive loss of blood, great pain and constipation of the bowels, with all the concomitant symptoms of it. The Matico has been given in infusion three times a-day, and there has been less hæmorrhage since, than under any other remedy. This patient thinks the infusion an exceedingly pleasant tea. I have now expended my stock of the leaf, and would feel greatly obliged by another supply in an envelope, by post, for I think I should lose no time in continuing the use of it in this case. With many thanks for past attentions,

"I remain, dear Doctor,

"Yours, very sincerely,

"November 16, 1842.

"H. R. OSWALD."

FROM THE SAME.

"My dear Sir,—I am most happy to be able to say, that the case of intestinal hæmorrhage, in which the Matico was prescribed, continues to recover. This lady had been subject to discharges of blood from the bowels for several years, and had been in Dublin for advice in 1841. Last summer the discharges had been so frequent and profuse, that at the beginning of November she was reduced to the last stage of debility, and had been confined to her bed for many weeks. Under these circumstances I prescribed the Matico, in addition to the use of the longest rectum bougie, and *oleum olivæ*, as a mild laxative. The blood evidently came from above the descending colon, and was often preceded by scybala. Since the Matico has been administered, she has experienced no serious discharge of blood: she had one about *ten* days since, which she ascribed to the exertion of walking up stairs.

"This lady and her sister are so well pleased with the medicine, that they gave a part of it, about a month ago, to a young lad, who suffered from epistaxis *weekly*; and they informed me to-day, that the lad, after taking the Matico, had no bleeding at the nose for four weeks in succession, which he considered quite an event, and was only fearful lest the stoppage of blood might lead to some dangerous consequence; I, however, advised them to repeat it.

"During the last fourteen days, I have been using it in the case of a plethoric young female, 17 years of age, who is subject to profuse catamenia, about every fortnight; and also to frequent bleeding, sometimes daily, at the nose. I gave it first in form of powder, combined with small doses of

the *sulphas sodæ*, but she disliked this form so much, that I abandoned it for the infusion. Her report this week is, 'the daily bleeding at the nose is not nearly so bad, and I am otherwise much better since I took the medicine, but whether from it or not, I cannot tell.' I advised her to give the infusion a longer trial. I am very glad that you have made your experience in the use of this herb public, and shall look for its appearance with much interest.

"I remain, my dear Sir,

"Yours, very sincerely,

"December 16, 1842.

"H. R. OSWALD."

CASES FROM DR. DICKINSON, OF LIVERPOOL.

"A. R., aged 67, labouring under scirrhus uteri, has been liable for nearly a year to excessive occasional hæmorrhage from the diseased organ, with an abundant discharge of fœtid sanious matter in the intervals between the hæmorrhagic attacks, which generally occurred every fifth or sixth day. The patient has been taking the infusion of Matico, conjoined with the tincture of conium, with the happiest effects, for three weeks, in doses of two ounces, four times daily. The hæmorrhage has ceased for a fortnight, and the sanious discharge considerably diminished.

"C. M. G., aged 36, has suffered from a gonorrhœal discharge for the last three months, for which she had used injections of sulphate of zinc, and taken copaiba, &c. After taking two ounces of the infusion of Matico four times daily for a fortnight, the discharge completely disappeared.

"J. M., aged 35, has had a gonorrhœa for the last four months, for which he has been treated in the usual mode, having taken cubebs, copaiba, and used injections. He has taken the infusion of Matico for ten days, with very much benefit, although there is yet a very slight discharge from the urethra.

"The following may be adduced amongst others, as cases in which the Matico was of the greatest service:—

	Cases.
"Gonorrhœa	3
Leucorrhœa	5
Menorrhagia	2
Hæmorrhoids (very severe)	1
Epistaxis	1
Catarrhus vesicæ	1

"In two instances I was compelled to suspend the use of the Matico, as the plant appeared too stimulating:—the one case being complicated with gastro-enteritis, and the other with urethritis. I think that the active virtues of the plant are principally due to the essential oil.

"B. C., aged 37, married, has been subject for the last two months to excessive discharges of pure blood and coagula from the vagina, amounting to nearly a quart in a few days, occurring every ten days or a fortnight, and followed by a serous or muco-purulent discharge: bowels free, tongue clean,

the skin and lips blanched, pulse sixty and weak. This patient had for nearly a month been treated by the usual mode for such cases, but without any very decided improvement, when she began to take a wine-glassful of the infusion of Matico four times daily, and in ten days had recovered from all severe symptoms; indeed is nearly perfectly well."

In confirmation of the above good effects of the Matico in intestinal hæmorrhage, I may mention that of my being called to a severe case of sanguineous dysentery, in the month of October, 1841, which required very active treatment for full two weeks; and at times the unfavourable symptoms caused great anxiety for the probability of its fatal termination. However, the patient got quite well, and I had discontinued my attendance for one week, when I was hastily sent for, in consequence of his having had a profuse discharge of pure blood, with scarcely any feculent matter in the stools. I immediately prescribed a *decoction* of the Matico, in the proportion of *half an ounce to the pint*, and directed *three* table-spoonfuls every four or six hours, three doses of which completely suppressed the hæmorrhage.

I may also mention that the daughter of the last patient was attacked with laryngitis, for which ten leeches were applied with great relief, but the oozing of blood from some of them could not be stayed; I immediately applied compresses made wet with the decoction ordered for her father, and the good effects were almost immediate.

I have been asked for formulæ for its use. Externally, I believe the *under* side of the *leaf* is preferable to the powder, and more powerful than the smooth or upper side. Internally, the decoction or infusion may be safely given, *half an ounce to the pint*, and the dose, three table-spoonfuls; increasing the strength to *one ounce to the pint*, gradually; suspending its use for a day, and substituting a gentle purgative; but if it produces nausea, it should be omitted for a few days.

ADDITIONAL

REMARKS ON MATICO,

SINCE THE PUBLICATION OF MY PAPER ON IT IN THE TRAN-
SACTIONS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL & SURGICAL
ASSOCIATION FOR 1843, VOL. II.

FROM MR. WOOD TO DR. JEFFREYS.

Salop Infirmary, January 5th, 1843.

“Dear Sir,—I must express my earnest praise in favour of Matico, having tried it in about ten cases with complete success. Last night I had occasion to use it in a case of secondary hæmorrhage, four days after an operation for Necrosis, and should not have been able to have arrested the bleeding, without the knife, had it not been for the Matico. It has often succeeded after all other styptics had failed.

“I am, dear Sir,

“Yours truly,

“SAMUEL WOOD,

“*House Surgeon.*”

In the month of February, 1843, Dr. Kendrick informs me that his son, Dr. Kendrick, junr., had received a letter from his friend Dr. Kingdon of Exeter, stating that he had had considerable experience of its usefulness, and requesting a further supply of the plant. Dr. Kendrick also states that Dr. Davies, a young physician of Warrington (who studied in Paris) tells him that he had accidentally seen some notice of it; and that the following is an extract from Foote's Medical Pocket Book, for the Year 1836.

“*Matica*.—M. Merat presents some leaves of a Peruvian plant called Matica, to the Academie des Sciences, which is considered in Peru to be a powerful astringent.”

Dr Sommà of Antwerp, from whom I obtained it, had used it in several cases of hæmorrhage and gonorrhœa, with advantage. According to Trow, it is a species of Pepper.

The subject also had attracted the attention of some distinguished medical men in Paris the previous year, and a communication was made of its styptic power to a medical Society of Paris, as follows:—

Société de Médecine de Paris.

Séance des 21 Août, 1835.

“Piper Matica,—M. Merat soumet à la Société des échantillons d’un végétal de l’Inde, designé par Vèron sous le nom de Piper Matica, adressés par M. Somme d’Anvers. Les feuilles de cette plant ont été employées comme astringent, dans la blennorrhagie, à la dose de ʒ ii dans litar d’eau; ou s’en est également servi comme moyen hemostatique.”

FROM MR. BAINBRIDGE, SURGEON TO THE NORTHERN HOSPITAL,
LIVERPOOL, TO DR. JEFFREYS.

“My Dear Sir,—I cannot refrain from sending you the following facts, showing the very efficient and convenient results which have arisen from the use of your remedy, “Matico.”

“A gentleman applied to me for the cure of a small urinary fistula, which passed along the raphe of the penis, and which had existed for *ten* years. Several attempts had been made to heal it by injections, &c. without any benefit; I therefore proposed, as the only effective means, to lay it open, and unite it by bringing the wound in close contact. The former I readily performed, but the latter was not so easily accomplished, in consequence of the continued hæmorrhage. Caustic I applied freely without success, and I then thought of the Matico. I inserted the leaf between the lips, pressing them together for about a minute, when to my surprise on removing it, I found the bleeding had stopped and the wound perfectly dry. I was then enabled to bring the edges of the wound into nice apposition with adhesive plaster, and so perfectly that not a drop of urine escaped, and it healed without any trouble. A similar convenient effect was produced on an incised wound of the thumb, which bled so profusely, from the division of several arteries, that no plaster would adhere. In this case the wound was perfectly dry after applying the leaf, and from thus allowing the edges to be brought into close contact, it healed in a few hours.

" Another case more important, showing the good effect of the Matico, came under my care on Saturday last. A lady, 57 years of age, had a sharp attack of bilious diarrhæa; not feeling well on Friday, she had taken 3 grains of Calomel over night, and a dose of Castor Oil in the morning, which had purged her considerably. I therefore merely prescribed her a little warm gruel, and a chalk mixture with opium. On the following morning, Sunday, I was summoned suddenly, and found her suffering from very urgent symptoms: Pulse 110, dry skin, constant purging, the evacuations containing a large quantity of red fluid blood, vomiting, tenesmus, and cold shivering. I ordered her to take every four hours two table-spoonfuls of the Infusion of Matico; (half an ounce or an ounce to eight ounces,) with five drops of the acetate of morphia. After the first dose, the symptoms were relieved, but on taking *three* doses, the discharge of blood had entirely ceased. Yesterday morning, Thursday, I found she had passed a tolerable night, and not a vestige of blood was discharged: No pain, pulse 88, tongue moist, and every symptom much improved.

" She told me the medicine had, on taking each dose, produced a sense of burning, without being painful or unpleasant, and was much pleased with the relief which it afforded her. She is now going on well. I give you these few hasty facts, without note or comment. I never saw any remedy act so beneficially; and I must think it a most useful addition to our Pharmacopœia, in spite of all the sarcastic comparisons of its resemblance to a bit of sage leaf, backed by prejudice, or want of knowing how to apply it. I believe that Matico will be handed down the stream of time, and hailed in ages to come as a blessing to Society.

" I am, yours truly,

" W. H. BAINBRIGGE."

March 21, 1843.

April 24, 1843.—I was applied to for information relative to the effect which Matico may have by giving it internally to an unmarried female, who had profuse menorrhagia; it having been very successfully used as snuff by the same individual, who had epistaxis. The patient was under the care of Dr. Blundell and Dr. Marshall Hall, who would not prescribe it, until I had been written to; and when my letter was received, she had been taking the Acetate of Iron, which had subdued the hæmorrhage, without the use of Matico.

I was, however, informed by Mr. John Marshall, Surgeon, of Liverpool, that he had given it in a case of uterine hæmorrhage, and that after a few doses, it had a very powerful effect

in changing the discharge from a florid, to a pale red ; and his impression then was, that it would stop it altogether.

In the Medical Times of April 29th, 1843, page 81, it is noticed thus,—“The Matico or Matica, so highly esteemed in Peru, Dr. Martins believes to be a species of *Phlomis*. The tree grows in the interior of Peru ; also on the other side of the Andes.” And I myself have been informed by a person who has seen it (Captain Brown, of the Ship *Staghellion*,) that it is very *bushy*, and grows to the height of ten or twelve feet.

The Times further says,—“Its leaves are said to possess marvellous medicinal properties. The preparation for use among the Indians is very simple; the leaf is dried, and finely powdered, and the dust, sprinkled on wounds, is said to effect *cicatrization* very speedily. The Indians use an infusion of the fresh leaves as an aphrodisiac, and also attribute to them the power of arresting hæmorrhage, even if a large vessel be wounded.”

The following is an extract of a letter I received from Dr. Martyn Payne, Professor of Medicine and Materia Medica, New York, dated March 13rd, 1843.

“The Matico has been tried here in cases of Leech Lites, with admirable success ; and so far I can add my own knowledge of its superior efficacy in arresting hæmorrhage, I have succeeded immediately with it ; and, in one case where the usual applications had entirely failed. A little management secures its rapid effect in such instances. I apply a piece of the leaf, about one fourth of an inch in diameter ; and then absorb the blood as fast as it exudes, by dabbing the styptic with a rag or towel. Its attachment is thus often secured in a minute or less. This rapid absorption of the blood, by the dabbing process, is essential to speedy results. I apprehend the styptic may also operate mechanically, by its absorbing power, though chiefly probably by the pungency of its oil, and, as Mr. Morson has observed, in its resin.” *

* See notice of a Paper on certain plants of the genus *Piper*, in the Medical Times, Vol. ix. page 473, by Mr. Morson, read to the Pharmaceutical Society of London, March 13th, 1844.

June 17th, 1843,—I had a letter from a lady at Bake-well in Derbyshire, who had some Matico in her possession, to say she had an instance of its efficacy in the case of a cook: A carving knife falling upon her foot, wounded an artery, which bled so profusely that Mr. Walters, the surgeon of the place, was sent for, and applied the Matico; it stopped the bleeding immediately, which so surprised and delighted him, as to be anxious for information on the subject.

I could add many other instances of its efficacy, but I conceive its external use is now so well established, that it is unnecessary to take up more time upon the subject; and I myself have no doubt of its equal value internally.

I am quite aware how difficult it is to introduce a novelty into general use, more especially if only one instance of failure can be brought forward; nor am I at all annoyed by any significant innuendoes which may, and indeed have been thrown out, of its being inert; because, as far as I can collect, I have generally found that where it has failed, it has been more owing to the prejudice of the individual, or what perhaps is less pardonable, ignorance in knowing how to make use of it. Be this as it may, I have very little doubt but, sooner or later, its power and efficacy will be duly appreciated.

June 29th, 1843.—Mr. Neill, a skilful ophthalmic surgeon of Liverpool, informs me, that he had occasion to order leeches to a lady for intestinal inflammation, which was objected to on account of the difficulty of stopping the bleeding of them afterwards, and which was the case not only in herself, but in all her family; and when stopped, was often followed by erysipelas, with ulceration to a dangerous extent. He however prevailed upon her to have them, by being provided with the Matico, and having applied it carefully in the way directed,

when the leeches dropt off, it not only stopped the bleeding, but was not followed by any marks of inflammation the next day, which had always been the case with her previously.

August 26th, 1843.—In a letter which I received from Richard Corbet, Esq., of Aston, near Newport, Shropshire, he says:—"I forgot to name to you, that Mrs. Corbet tried the Matico you were so good as to give her last winter, and proved its efficacy in stopping the bleeding of leech bites, which had previously occasioned some trouble."

The following is an extract from a letter I received from Dr. William Monro, one of the Surgeons of the Dundee Infirmary; to whose zeal and accuracy, I am already much indebted for information.*

Dundee, July 5th, 1843.

"Since I last wrote to you, I have had several cases where the good effects of Matico were evident: one case in particular, a mill-manager, had a warty, vascular excrescence, growing from the chin, near the angle of the mouth: it had been repeatedly touched, very freely, with nitrate of silver, but its growth was little arrested; I proposed shaving it off with a bistoury, and then applying the caustic, when the bleeding from the cut surface was very profuse; I gave him a basin of cold water to keep applied, but the hæmorrhage still continued: when I applied the Matico, pressing it on with the point of my finger; in less than a minute, the bleeding had entirely ceased, when I applied the nitrate, and had no more trouble with the cure; it got quite well.

"Within the last few days, I had an attack in my own person, of rheumatic ophthalmia, and had half a dozen leeches applied; it being bed-time, I was desirous that the bleeding should entirely cease, so caused the Matico to be applied, which soon stopped the bleeding, although immediately before, the bites were discharging very freely. I was quite sensible of the hot, burning sensation, so well described by our House-Surgeon† of the Infirmary.

"In the Infirmary, the Matico is frequently employed, and its character seems well established; indeed, two of our druggists have got a supply, and sell it; so that I believe it is in the hands of a good many of our prac-

* See page 14.

† See page 14.

titioners. I shall be glad at all times to hear from you, and if I can be of any service in promoting your laudable object, in extending the knowledge of so useful a discovery, I shall be happy.

“I am, dear Sir,

“Yours very faithfully,

“TO DR. JEFFREYS.”

“WM. MONRO.”

It is with some reluctance, that I here notice some remarks made by Dr. Hunter Lane, late of Liverpool and Lancaster, with a view to impress the public, that the use of the plant was made known by a gentleman of the latter place, before it was by my exertions; in answer to which I have the acknowledgment of a very zealous old Physician,* in a letter to Dr. Scott, of Liverpool, dated December 4th, 1843, to prove that he was the individual who supplied the Lancaster gentlemen; and which was a part of what he had received from me.

Much may be said upon this part of the subject, but as my object is to publish its power and efficacy, and not to enter into any controversy, I shall decline saying more than that Dr. Lane has added another instance of its utility in vaginal and intestinal discharges, although such confirmation, from such authority, was neither wanting, nor new.†

November 12th, 1843.—Dr. Scott informs me, that he prescribed an infusion of Matico for a dispensary patient, who had suffered much from menorrhagia, for *three* months, parting with about a pound, daily; and, that by taking the infusion, made with one ounce to the pint, three times a day, it was stopped completely, in *four* days.

When externally applied, it possessed so powerful an adhesive quality, as not to be disturbed by washing the hands, until the healing process, or even cicatrization, is complete.

* Dr. Kendrick, of Warrington.

† See Dr. Watson's Letter, page 16.

I have only lately had an instance of this, where a severe bruise of the finger was received, and was much irritated by applying court plaster; inconveniently again bleeding, several days after the injury had been inflicted. The Matico was carefully applied, which immediately stopped the blood, and adhered so firmly to the ulcer, that it was not the least disturbed by washing the hands, until the ulcer was completely healed; and which was fully effected in *four* days from its application.

I must not omit offering my best thanks to those gentlemen who have felt an interest in the remedy, and favoured me with their observations; amongst whom are, Dr. William Henry Cullen, Sidmouth; J. A. Edwards, Esq., Walsall; Henry C. Attenburrow, Esq., Nottingham; Mr. Keating, London; who had seen it seven or eight years ago, but knew nothing of its effects; and, though last, not least, my very zealous friend, Dr. Kendrick, of Warrington, who has proved to me in a letter, dated December 4th, 1843, that the specimen used, and said to have been previously known, by a gentleman at Lancaster, was a part of that which was furnished by me to Dr. Kendrick, and by him, to Mr. Hinde, of Lancaster, who having been in South America, took a lively interest in seeing, and having some sent to him. I may also mention that Dr. Kendrick is very anxious to raise plants from the seed in this country, and is now engaged in the attempt, with some prospect of success.

The following is an account of a case which I have been favoured with, from my friend Mr. Bainbrigge, one of the Surgeons of the Northern Hospital, whose standing and character is too well known in Liverpool, to require any encomium from me.

"MY DEAR DR. JEFFREYS,

March 25th, 1844.

"Interested as you must be in all matters connected with the history of the Matico, I send you a short, hurried statement of a case in which I have recently tried it with the most favourable results. A lady, aged 35, having suffered, more or less, for three years, from general ill health, discovered some months back, a swelling in the left lumbar region, which soon showed evidence of the commencement of a large abscess. When I first saw it, its appearance was that of half a large orange, situated in the space bounded above by the lower ribs, below, by the crista of the ilium, and laterally, by the vertebræ. Her general health much improved during its formation, and she gained flesh. On the 25th of November, I opened the abscess, when a large quantity of pus was discharged, which subsequently varied from seven to eleven ounces, daily. Up to the 17th of December, her appetite continued good, the discharge was lessened to three or four ounces, and she progressed very favourably, until the following day, when several clots of blood were discharged, which ceased upon slight pressure. On the 19th, she complained of not feeling so well, and the pressure had caused some uneasiness. On removing the bandages, very considerable hæmorrhage ensued, and having with me a Infusion of Matico, (half-ounce to the half-pint,) I immediately injected the whole of it into the cavity of the abscess, keeping it distended with the fluid for about ten minutes: no bleeding followed. On the 23rd, a slight return took place, which was instantly stopped by a similar proceeding. Nothing further occurred until the 3rd of January, the patient having recovered from the temporary loss of blood, when a repetition of the hæmorrhage came on with greater violence; four or five ounces of blood escaped, and she became very much exhausted. In this instance, I used an infusion of double strength, with the same good effect; and from that time, no bleeding whatever has re-occurred. The discharge has now nearly ceased, and the abscess itself nearly healed. I cannot but think this case shows in a strong light, the efficacy of this very valuable remedy. The effect each time was instantaneous, without causing the slightest pain, or even *heat* in the part; and I am aware of no application that, in this case, could have been used with equal success. I need not dwell upon the importance of such a remedy, in such a case.—The patient wasted by a constant discharge of matter, the loss of the smallest quantity of blood was most momentous, and I can only attribute her subsequent gradual improvement to the application of this truly valuable remedy. I may add, that I have lately given the infusion internally, with the greatest success, to patients, with a cachectic habit, labouring under hæmorrhagic dysentery; especially when the discharge of blood has arisen from a gorged and relaxed state of the vessels.

"I remain,

"My dear Dr. Jeffreys,

"Yours very sincerely,

"W. H. BAINBRIGGE."

I have next to bring forward a most interesting case of hæmorrhagic tendency, which shewed itself, 1st, from the stomach; 2nd, from the mouth, under the tongue; 3rd, from the inner side of the cheeks; 4th, from the under surface of the tongue, again, repeatedly, at different times; 5th, from the nose, and lastly, from the vagina, which proved fatal. Although this was the case, it furnishes me with another striking example of the styptic power of the plant, in a constitution where it was beyond the reach of any medical means to save the life of the individual;—but the case is drawn up in detail, by Mr. Johnstone, Surgeon, my neighbour in Liverpool, so satisfactorily, that I shall make no apology for giving it in his own words, and is as follows,—

“October 27th, 1843.—I was called to Mrs. Parkinson, aged 44, married, and has had one child, whom I found labouring under hæmatemesis.

“January 19th, 1844.—I was again called to her, under the same circumstances, except that the loss of blood was greater, and she was altogether much more delicate and weakly looking than before, and I learned that she had not got strong from her former attack.

“January 27th, at 8 a. m.—Was called to my patient, who had been seized in the night with a severe attack of pneumonia. Her breathing was very difficult and painful. She was so weak, from the vomiting of blood, and purging, &c., that I dared not to perform venesection. Gave her two grains of chloride of mercury, with two grains of compound soap and opium pill, every four hours.

“January 29th.—Breathing easy, and pain gone. To cease taking the pills, of which two out of twelve remain unconsumed. To take a saline purgative, and repeat it every four hours until the bowels are relieved.

“February 12th.—I was sent for at twelve o'clock, in consequence of the patient and her friends being greatly alarmed at a copious hæmorrhage from the mouth. Being some distance from home, I did not arrive until one o'clock p. m. The hæmorrhage had ceased, and probably there was the greater part of a pint of coagulum in the vessel she had received it into. I found the hæmorrhage had taken place from the under surface of the tongue.

“At five o'clock p.m., I was again sent for, the hæmorrhage having returned more copiously than before. I found the mouth filled with coagulated blood, which I cleared out, when I found the whole under surface of the tongue bleeding (oozing). All I could do, I could not check it until about seven o'clock. I feared it might return, and called on Mr. Bickersteth,

who advised a trial of the Matico, in powder. Having cut a piece of sponge, of proper shape, at nine p. m. I removed the lint which I had applied, and covered the bleeding surface with the powder, and put a thick covering on the sponge also, which I pressed under the tongue, and within the teeth, instructing my patient to keep the tongue motionless.

"February 13th.—Removed the sponge in the evening. No hæmorrhage.

"February 20th.—At seven p. m. hæmorrhage very profuse from the inside of both cheeks. Three petechiæ on the right, and four on the left side, from which the blood oozes, also from the under surface of the tongue, on the left side, opposite the fourth molar tooth. Cut a piece of sponge, with a long horn, to apply over this and the front surface, and flat pieces to apply between the cheeks and teeth, and used the Matico as before.

"February 21st.—At half-past twelve a.m., was called up in consequence of the hæmorrhage having returned; applied the Matico as before, and remained till three o'clock. At seven p.m., bleeding returned; re-applied the Matico as before; also to the under surface of the tongue, where the original bleeding occurred: the papillæ are very much enlarged here; there is also a bleeding surface just within the left angle of the mouth. Having failed to stop the hæmorrhage on this occasion, after repeated applications, I called on Dr. Jeffreys, who advised me to give the decoction internally, and apply the powder to the parts as before, covered with the leaf, and over all a pledget of lint, saturated in the tincture, which had the desired effect, but she complained bitterly of the pain the tincture gave her. To the under surface of the tongue I was obliged to apply the sponge over the leaf; lint could not be kept there.

"February 22nd.—At eleven, a.m., removed the lint and sponge, (in the presence of Dr. Jeffreys, who was so kind as to visit my patient with me), and re-applied them as before. At eight p.m., the fœtor was so great I was obliged to take away the dressings, when I found the mucous membrane of the mouth adhering to them, and from the palate it was hanging in festoons, which I clipped away with scissors. It struck me, the Matico administered internally might have some share in producing this. I did not apply anything on this occasion, there being no bleeding, the mouth presenting the appearance of having been boiled.

"February 25th.—Called in at half-past five a.m., (hæmorrhage.) At half-past twelve p.m., (renewed hæmorrhage.) By appointment, at three p.m., (hæmorrhage.) Dr. Jeffreys accompanied me; advised the use of the decoction of Matico to wash the mouth, as well as internally. At six p.m., found the hæmorrhage had ceased, and that a small coagulum had formed over the bleeding surface.

"March 4th.—Since last date, and at different times since the twelfth of February, when there was no bleeding from the mouth, epistaxis would supervene, which the application of a cold wet cloth, over the nose, was sufficient to check. This day, a smart attack of diarrhoea came on, and the patient, when on the night chair, passed a clot of blood from the vagina,

about three inches long, and three-quarters of an inch in diameter, after which she had a profuse serous discharge, requiring the constant application of cloths to absorb it.

“ March 5th.—About three a.m., when on the night chair, she passed, according to her husband’s report, nearly a pint of fluid blood, per vaginam, and died about an hour and a half after.

“ Mrs. . P. gradually sunk after the hæmorrhage of the twenty-fifth February, and there can be no doubt whatever, that she died from loss of blood.”

I am indebted for the following valuable remarks, to Dr. George C. Watson, Senior Surgeon to the Liverpool Lying-in Hospital, and Dispensary for diseases of Women and Children; who has the merit of being the first who noticed its efficacy as an injection into the vagina, in leucorrhæa, and this long before Dr. Hunter Lane’s confirmation of its power in that disease.

To the same individual too, is due the merit of using the powder in form of ointment, in cases of external piles, as a substitute for the compound ointment of galls.

“ *Bedford Street, April 6th, 1844.*

“ MY DEAR DOCTOR,

“ In performance of a promise contained in my former letter, I beg to offer you the results of some subsequent trials of the Matico, both in *public* and in *private* practice; results which, for the inquirer after truth, demand an impartial setting forth, as faithfully when disappointment, as when success, has been reaped by the experiments. With this premise—which is as much your own truth-seeking as it can be mine, I send you the few details of my cases, without any attempt to gloss over the failure where such may have presented itself. The herb may rest its credit upon the number of successful cases; the failures are often due to the *experimenter himself*, who, when a new remedy is introduced to his attention, will be occasionally tempted to employ it in cases where it is not adequate to contend with the disorder, and where it consequently fails, or rather, I should say, *his expectation* of its virtues fails.

“ In a case of profuse *epistaxis* in an old woman, which had lasted for two days, and she had become much weakened from loss of blood, and when the plug was washed out by the current of blood; and after her bowels had been previously moved by a senna and salts mixture, I ventured to rely upon a prescription of the infusion, exhibited in ordinary doses. Perhaps it was too bold a reliance, in the eyes of many a practitioner, for a case so

severe; nor should I have felt that I was justified in trusting to it alone, had the patient lived remote from myself or any other medical man, but it happened that she resided within a few yards of my house, and I requested them to send immediately if the hæmorrhage re-appeared; they did not send, and, on my calling, I found her comfortable all that day; the pulse, which had threatened to flag, became calm and steady; she continued the medicine, and the day after, all was doing so well that I slackened the doses, allowed her to go about the room gently, and on inquiring what, to her own mind, seemed to have been the beneficial agent, she expressed her unqualified conviction that it was the infusion, the properties of which I had not particularly alluded to when ordering it, in order, as much as possible, to dissociate the moral effect depending on the employment of a "*new styptic remedy*," from the simple medicinal action of it. I confess that, in this case, the result surprised myself, for I feared lest its constitutional employment should prove too weak to contend with the enemy, and I expected to be finally driven to some old-fashioned sheet-anchor, such as the Di-Acetate of Lead, &c. All these cases of its beneficial effect only amount to as many *post-hoc's*, in the mind of the logical and sceptical physician; but it will be upon the number and variety of un-ambiguous results, that he will be, on his own ground, constrained at last to accept the '*propter hoc*.'

"CASE 2.—In an instance of *hæmorrhage from the womb in possible conception*, at the time the mother was prolonging her suckling to the thirteenth month, I ventured to use the *Tincture*, in half-drachm doses, every hour, and enjoining the horizontal posture. I selected the Matico, in this case, because of its seeming to me preferable to select a styptic out of the cordial vegetable class than from the mineral salts or acids, combined, as they usually are, with some opiates or other, the effects of which, either latter or former, being likely to disorder the bowels of the mother, or of the child, through the milk; hence it is better to use a simpler style of remedy, if such can be found of adequate restraining power. The event proved to me that I was right; the discharge gradually diminished for three days, when I intermitted the remedy almost entirely. I had no trouble to take with the alimentary canal of either mother or child on suspending the drug. I required her to wean the child from that date.

"CASE 3.—In a case of *Hæmorrhage from the uterus*, at about two months' pregnancy, I tried it. The hæmorrhage occurred in a young woman, married a few months, upon suddenly lifting a weight off the floor; it had lasted four or five days before she sent for me. *I could not find that the ovum had been dislodged*; and the drainage was constant, with considerable pain in the lumbo-sacral region. At once I ordered the acidulated infusion of roses, with sulph. magnesiæ, as usual, and enjoining perfect repose of mind and body, I left her. On calling for two days successively, and whilst she was still continuing the acidulated rose mixture, her complaint was that the hæmorrhage continued as before. I then changed the medicine for the Matico in infusion, at ordinary doses, every two or three

hours. The first half-pint "was of some service," and in the second quantity taken, there was so much improvement that I ceased to attend daily, and on my inquiring of her as to which medicine she felt inclined to attribute the relief, she said, '*to the second.*'

"In three or four cases of *vaginal leucorrhœa* it has proved of service; as an injection, I have tried it in *leech-bites* with undoubted utility.

"I tried, the other day, the *leaf pulverized and mixed up with lard*, as a substitute for the *ung. gallarum*, in hæmorrhoids. Although there was not any addition of opium, which the last London Pharmacopœia has ordered for the present gall ointment, yet it corrugated the hæmorrhoids, and, along with the proportion of opium, it would have no doubt been found a beneficial application. I have not yet tested its powers in any case of hæmorrhage from the *cancerated uterus*, though I am inclined to think that its topical application, either by steeping cotton-wool or lint with the tincture, or by an ointment made with it, and *ceratum cetacei*, (to which opium, henbane, or conium, might be usefully added), would be serviceable. I am in the habit of using the acetate of lead, and the *ext. conii* or *ext. hyosey.*, for this hæmorrhage, but I propose to try the above-suggested ointment. My colleague, Dr. Roche, tried the Infusion, *after venesection*, in a case of *hæmoptysis* in a severe form, which occurred in a young man of thirty-three. After the third dose of one ounce of the Infusion, the hæmorrhage very much diminished, and finally subsided, on his continuing the remedy. This case afterwards died of tubercular phthisis.

"Dr. R. has allowed me to report the above to you, and also mentioned to me, that, in his practice, the Tincture had 'failed,' in a case of *Menorrhagia*, and the Infusion, in a case of *Dysentery*. I presume there may have been too inflammatory a state of the mucous surface and glands of the large intestines in the latter, for the styptic leaf to restrain beneficially; and I agree with the opinion given by our associate Dr. Carson, at the Pathological Society, the other evening, viz.:—"That it is desirable to keep in mind, that the cases relieved by the Plant have been and will be those of *passive* rather than active hæmorrhage."* This remark, which I should call the *key* to the right use of the Matico, will also, of course, equally correspond to those cases of various discharges, &c., in which an active or a passive condition of the capillary circulation is the proximate cause. The *stimulant* character of the Plant would lead us to this conclusion, *à priori*, though now it seems to have been arrived at as the direct result of experiments, successful, or the contrary, according to the fact of the diseases ranging themselves under the active or the passive forms. I have continued to try it at the Lying-in Hospital, in some cases, with decided benefit to the complaints, the nature of which, as *leucorrhœa*, *blenorrhagia*, &c., corre-

* [For this reason, perfectly well understood by medical men, it is of importance that the remedies should be directed under the guidance of a medical practitioner; for although the bleeding may be suppressed by the Plant, it may be necessary to substitute some other evacuation to remove the cause of the hæmorrhage.]—T. J.

spond to the first letter's statements.* I may add to these, *chronic dysuria*, in a young person of twenty-seven, who was benefited by the Infusion.

"I remain, my dear Dr.,

"Yours respectfully, &c.,

"GEORGE C. WATSON."

"To Dr. Jeffreys, Great George Square."

The following satisfactory communication has been kindly conveyed to me from Mr. Haffenden, Surgeon, of Hanwell, Middlesex.

"Hanwell, Apr. 22nd, 1844.

"Dear Sir,

"The case I mentioned to Mr. Keating, as having been successfully treated with the Matico, was one of severe leucorrhœa, beginning first with hæmorrhage, with a strong disposition to prolapsus uteri.

"I used the herb in the form of injection, and with very marked good effect. Indeed, the patient, from being confined to her house, and almost to her bed, was in a few days able to get about her work. I have not kept a register of the case, and cannot, therefore, send you the particulars more circumstantially.

"I have also used the Matico, in the form of Tincture, in some cases of irritable state of the mucous membrane of the bowels; and with marked good effect. I am trying it in a case of Purpura. My patient is an infirm old man, and I can hardly expect *much* benefit from the use of the medicine, though I think it has been of service.

"From the little experience I have had of the effects of the Matico, I consider it a valuable medicine, and shall try it more largely, particularly in extreme hæmorrhage.

"I am, dear Sir,

"Yours faithfully,

"THOS. HAFFENDEN."

"To Dr. Jeffreys."

The different formulæ must be left to the judgment of the practitioner, according to the nature of hæmorrhage, and its severity; for although its power is equally evident in almost every kind of bleeding, both external and internal, there are frequent instances of hæmorrhage which may be an effort in nature to relieve internal congestion, and ought not to be sup-

* See page 16.

pressed without substituting some other evacuation, of which none but medical men can properly judge.

FORMS IN USE.

To leech-bites, and bleeding from cuts or other recent wounds, the *inner* side of the leaf should be pressed upon the bleeding part for a few minutes, when it will be found to possess not only an adhesive but also a *healing* quality, not easily separated by washing the hands or other ordinary means.

The Powder of the Herb, used as snuff, has been found a very convenient form in bleeding from the nose.

The genuine Leaf is of a yellow-green, as though it was prepared from the riper leaf. The purely green leaf is not so powerful as the yellow-green.

THE INFUSION.

Take of Matico-leaves, one ounce,
 Boiling Water, one pint.

Macerate for two hours, or until cold.

Dose, two table-spoonfuls for an adult, twice or thrice a day; or if the case is a severe one, or the symptoms urgent, every one, two, or three hours.

THE DECOCTION.

Take of Matico-leaves, one ounce or more,
 Water, one pint.

Boil for ten or fifteen minutes, and strain.

Dose, the same as the Infusion.

The Decoction has been found very useful as an injection in cases of mucous discharges, and cavities occasioned by an abscess,* where more mechanical means are inconvenient.

* [See Mr. Bainbrigge's Case, p. 29.]

THE TINCTURE.

Take of Matico-leaves, three ounces,
 Proof Spirit of Wine, one pint.

Digest for fourteen days, in the usual way, and filter for use.

The dose is from thirty to sixty drops, or from half to one tea-spoonful, in water, as often as the case may require.

N.B.—As there is not only a spurious Herb, sometimes offered for sale, but also an inferior sort met with in the market, the first of which is quite inert, and the latter inefficacious, the public are earnestly warned not to use any but that which is genuine, and which is now well known by those who deal in it. If this important point is not rigidly attended to, and the judgment of a medical man called in to regulate its use, it must be evident that its good effects may, by such an omission, be rendered doubtful.

It may be had in any quantities, and in every form, from Mr. KEATING, Chemist and Druggist, 79, St. Paul's Church Yard, London; or from Mr. CLAY, Chemist and Druggist Bold Street, Liverpool.





