OBSERVATIONS
ON THE USE OF
THE CUBEBS, OR JAVA PEPPER,
AS A REMEDY FOR GONORRHEA.

BY

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THE efficacy of the Cubebs, or Java Pepper, as a remedy for gonorrhea, being still of a doubtful nature in the minds of many practitioners, while, on the other hand, some place very considerable reliance upon its powers, it appears desirable that all the experience which can be collected from our public institutions, and other sources, should be brought forward, and submitted to the notice of the profession at large.

The history of this plant, its nature and tendency, and the best modes of preparing and exhibiting it, being already before the public, I shall confine myself altogether to a summary account of the results of my exhibition of Cubebs in *fifty* cases of gonorrhea; the largest proportion of which were

those of soldiers, and the remainder dispensary and private patients.

The preparations employed were the powder, and the wine or tincture; the former in doses of from half a drachm to two, and the latter from one drachm to half an ounce, twice or thrice a day.

The following statement will exhibit a concise and general view of the results:

Patients cured in from two to seven days.....	10
- - - - - eight to fourteen	17
- - - - - fifteen to twenty-one	18
- - - - - twenty-two to thirty	1
- - - - - in fifty-five days	1
Patients in whom no sensible effects were produced ...	3

Total.....50

In *five* of the above cases, though the relief obtained was immediate and decidedly marked, the final cure was completed under the use of copivy in *four* of them, and an astringent injection in the other.

In one case the complaint, having been arrested, returned again, and was eventually removed by copivy.

Two cases, solely removed by the cubebs, were attended with swelling of the testicles, and one was accompanied by severe chordees, for which the

usual remedies were used, in conjunction with cubebs. A small proportion of these cases only was of the severer kind, and two such were among the failures.

The greater part were recent cases ; but one of six months' existence yielded to cubebs in as many days, while the case of fifty-five days' cure had existed no more than a fortnight.

Among *fifty* cases treated with cubebs, there were, therefore, *three* total failures, *five* relieved, and *one* suffered a relapse ; leaving *forty-one* cases cured under the use of the pepper, in less time than a month, with *one* exception ; the largest proportion in less than three weeks, and several in a few days, among which latter some were well in eight-and-forty or thirty-six hours ; and, the failures excepted, the relief in all cases, where the symptoms were urgent, was very sudden ; and only two instances of swelling of the testicles occurred, and one of chordees continuing after the exhibition of the pepper, although in other respects the clap was relieved directly..

The account may therefore stand thus :

Cured.....	41
Relieved	5
Cured and relapsed	1
Failed.....	3

Total.....50

It may be said that other plans of treatment are capable of affording similar results, especially that of injecting. But there are some points of view in which I cannot avoid looking at the cubebs pepper more favourably than any other remedy. It seems to possess a power of allaying irritation beyond that of alkalies, or the nitre and gum powders, and also of diminishing the discharge. Overbalsam of copivy it seems to hold an advantage, in being admissible in the earliest and worst stages of the severest gonorrhea, without being productive of inconvenience to the patient; while I have not found its continuance attended with that injury to the functions of the stomach which so frequently arises from full and continued doses of copivy.

It appears to be superior to injections in not possessing any one of their injurious effects; and a remedy which is equally effective, and introduced into the general system, is, I think, more valuable than one applied topically to such a membrane as that of the urethra.

As to the time which is usually consumed in removing a clap with cubebs, I think it might challenge most remedies in this respect, and is not more fickle in its operation. And, at the same time, we must take into consideration its negative qualities, which, rendering it a perfectly safe remedy, would naturally induce an inclination to sacrifice a little time, were it necessary, for the

sake of avoiding the chances of a ruder, though a quicker plan of cure.

Upon the whole, considering the effects in general of medicines on the human constitution, the resistance which the latter often opposes to the former, and the variable state of medicines, there are grounds for presuming that the cubebs pepper, though certainly not a specific, is as worthy of being relied upon, in removing gonorrhea, as any other remedy, while its exhibition is unattended with any dangerous or disagreeable consequences; and it is frequently a quicker remedy in its action than those usually employed.

As to the general use of this pepper, I agree with others in thinking that when it does not seem to act in three or four days, it should be superseded by some other remedy; and as soon as (having relieved the urgent symptoms) it appears to cease exerting its influence on the constitution, the balsam of copivy may be employed advantageously.

Although no general rule can be laid down, yet it appears to me that those cases in which most benefit may be expected to arise from the use of cubebs, are the most recent, and perhaps not the severest cases; in short, those cases which are most usually met with in practice.

As a farther advantage of this medicine, it may

be added, that the habits of life and mode of diet need not to be infringed upon, any farther than such as common sense would dictate to every individual labouring under a local inflammatory affection, which, in every instance, must be aggravated by exercise and intemperance ; and recovery assisted by degrees of rest and abstinence, proportionate to the degree of the existing inflammation ; the neglect of which must oppose the beneficial influence of any remedy whatsoever.

Great Marlborough Street,

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