

The blood-supply to the scalp is conveyed by the frontal, temporal and occipital arteries, situated just where a tight hat would press on them and bring about a gradual starvation of the hair follicles. A woman, on the other hand, wears her hat resting lightly on top of the head, bringing no pressure whatever on the arteries, and thus escapes baldness. The maximum of hat pressure in a man comes on the frontal arteries, and in consequence we find baldness generally commences on the regions supplied by those vessels. To escape this affliction we must henceforth wear our hats on the back of the head or make hat-makers study anatomy.

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*A CASE OF POISONING BY CONVALLARIA MAJALIS.*

To the Editor of the THERAPEUTIC GAZETTE.

SIR: My excuse for this communication is the rarity of recorded cases of poisoning by convallaria majalis, in contrast to the number of cases in which another drug of the same class—digitalis—has produced toxic effects. While this scarcity of cases is probably due to the fact that digitalis is prescribed so much more frequently than the lily-of-the-valley, another factor has undoubtedly some influence, namely, the preparations of convallaria differ widely in the proportions of the active principles which they contain, and many of them are practically inert.

Annie E., aged two years, was given nearly a teaspoonful of medicine, which her mother supposed was the fluid extract of cascara sagrada. About an hour later the attention of the mother was called to her mistake by the peculiar actions of the baby, and I was hastily summoned. I found that the bottle was labeled fluid extract of convallaria majalis.

The child seemed extremely restless, rolling and tossing about the bed, showing a continuous trembling of the arms and legs, with general convulsions once. She was aroused with great difficulty, and immediately relapsed into a stupor again. The pupils were dilated moderately. Axillary temperature 97° F., pulse 140 at times, and again so rapid that I was unable to count it, but always exceedingly irregular. Respirations were shallow and superficial, increased somewhat in rapidity, but very regular. The face was somewhat flushed. There was at no time any signs of gastro-intestinal irritation, and neither diuretic nor diaphoretic effect was observed. Under symptomatic

treatment the child gradually regained her normal condition.

This case was one of unusual interest to me because the literature on the subject is scanty, and opinions in regard to the physiological action of the drug so diverse. It furnishes another illustration of the gross carelessness of some persons in leaving medicine bottles scattered about the house, and using them freely without even the precaution of looking at the label.

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*A CASE OF POISONING BY HONEY.*

To the Editor of the THERAPEUTIC GAZETTE.

SIR: Mr. D., an attorney, aged fifty-four, on July 26, 1897, shortly after his midday meal, at which he had partaken freely of honey, felt a strange feeling come over him: an incessant burning of the forehead; all sorts of objects, wheels, strings, etc., appeared to pass before the eyes; his face felt flushed, but he was pale.

I saw him about one hour after his meal. There was extreme pallor, cold skin; heart weak and irregular. He was in a dazed condition; the eyes had a dull look, and he complained that he could not see.

I gave him an emetic (ipecac), but he soon had convulsive movements of the hands, which were controlled for the time by holding them firmly. A minute following there was a convulsion of the whole body. He did not become rigid, but unconscious, limp, and exhausted. His breathing was heavy and fast. This was soon followed by free vomiting. Consciousness now began to return. He had no recollection of what transpired during the few minutes previous to vomiting, and now complained of cold and exhaustion. I gave stimulants, whiskey and aromatic spirit of ammonia in hot water, and applied heat externally. It was about seven hours before he was comfortably warm.

After seven hours the only remaining symptoms were widely dilated pupils, a tingling sensation of tip and sides of tongue, and a feeling of exhaustion.

The honey was in the comb, freshly made, and had a decidedly bitter taste. Of several boxes examined, this was the only one that presented anything wrong, and that only in taste. He ate about a quarter of a pound.

Yours truly,

C. D. VOORHEES, M.D.

LA PORTE, PA.