CUBEBS.

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Avicenna (II. 137) claims for the Cubebs the power of cleansing the urinary passages, and, with Crane and Neumann, as having the property to excite the male sexual organs and create sexual desire. In the history of the Indian Archipelago, i., 465, Atane says, that the Indians drink wine in which they have steeped Cubebs to cause sexual desire. In Europe the Cubebs were praised by Mathiolus, Sermert, Montagnus, Ettmueller, Weikard, as possessing reviving powers; they were then prescribed as "Eluctuarium Diacubebarum Schrœderi," and were given for diseases of the liver and spleen, soporous affections, weakness of memory, mucous conditions of the stomach and intestines, vertigo and flatulence, fluor albus, sterility and affections of the uterus. Weikard used a balsam externally against a paralysis of the male genitals. In 1816 they were first given as a specific for gonorrhœa in Bengal, in the hospitals; later they were ordered by physicians for absceses of the prostate gland, (externally,) for catarrh of the bladder, blennorrhœa, and atony of the large intestines. B. Brodie* gave them for weakness of digestion, intermittent fever, and for chronic rheumatism.

It was observed that small doses (gr. v to xv) increased the appetite, accelerated digestion, caused profuse secretions of a darker-colored urine, smelling of Cubebs, diminished too profuse a secretion of the mucous membranes of the urinary and sexual organs. Larger quantities caused nausea, sour eructations, colic with burning in the stomach and abdomen, at times vomiting, frequent thin stools with or without colic, seldom accompanied by tenesmus, and never with bloody mucous discharges. Inflamed and sensitive conditions of the stomach, inflammations of the urinary

* London Medical Gazette, i., 396.

and sexual organs are aggravated by such doses. In some cases the Cubebs caused burning and itching on the glans penis, and at the anus, or a pustulous exanthema and a strong desire for coitus. At present the Cubebs are given for blennorrhœa of the urethra, in gonorrhœa with profuse discharge but with little pain, in leucorrhœa, catarrh of the bladder, or in obstinate dry coryza.

In the fifth number of this Journal appeared a translation of the Pathogenesis, by Dr. Houat, and published by him in the Dispensaire Hahnemann. The 374 symptoms of this now fully introduced remedy will be found to contain many symptoms similar to medicines already known, (the author omitted Glonoine among the relations,) and some symptoms not to be found among any other known remedy. The most remarkable symptom is the 124th: "*False membranes*, thick and dark, principally in the larynx;" and, taking in connexion the following symptoms, one is struck with their similarity to the frequently occurring symptoms of Diphtheria and Croup. But, some of our friends ask, is this Pathogenesis "reliable" and "*trustworthy.*"* It seems as if the Pathogenesis carried truth with itself, and while we by no means indorse it any more than the author itself, who, no doubt, gave his productions "*honestly,*" but subject to the experiment, we take great pleasure in calling the attention of the profession to this valuable gift. Whether a Pathogenesis or characteristics by symptoms are trustworthy, whether or no a proving or an observation is reliable, cannot be decided *a priori.* True, we have a right to doubt the correctness of either, if they do not carry the impress of truth with them; but, after all, the *experiment* must decide.

Where a remedy has been well proved and some of the symptoms obtained by its provings have been verified by clinical experience, or where a characteristic symptom of a remedy has been discovered by clinical experience, and has been verified again and again, the holder or possessor of such knowledge can fearlessly publish the one or the other. And if the critic who finds something new in "*the proving*" or among the "*characteristics,*" represents such a communication as untrustworthy *a priori*, who will regard such gratuitous assumptions? And if later revelations

* Vide British Journal of Homœopathy, October, 1866, page 656, 2d line from above.

show that the *a priori* criticisms, were premature and erroneous, the critic will not have to wait long to see these very criticisms deemed notoriously "untrustworthy, and the tables turned on himself by public opinion."

In the case before us, of the Pathogenesis of Cubebs, we are not only sustained in our supposition that it is correct, but we have in fact before us already a full proof of it, a *corroboration;* and this proof comes from a source which we could least expect, from the old school side. We find in the British Journal of Homœopathy three cases, translated from the "Medical Neuigkeiten," 1866, 6, in which Croup and Croupose Angina were *empirically* treated by Copaiva and Cubebs, and reprint the report below. Copaiva had to be discontinued, and Cubebs cured the cases. We learn from these cases that Cubebs do cure some forms of Croupose Angina, and the Pathogenesis now before us will surely show us clear and unmistakable indications *when* to give Cubebs in similar diseases. And, "*a priori,*" we look forward to the revelation of some brilliant cures made by Cubebs under the guidance of this Pathogenesis, such as shall furnish new proof of the superiority of our school, and that we must not reject *a priori*, any proving or new observation, because it is new "to US."