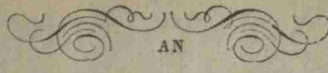


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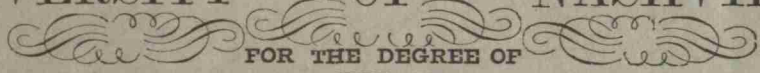
The Oxide of Silver

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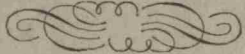
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, AND MEDICAL FACULTY

OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF NASHVILLE,



FOR THE DEGREE OF



DOCTOR OF MEDICINE.

BY

James W. Murdock

OF

Louisiana



1854

W. T. BERRY & CO,
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An Essay on the Oride of Silver. 1

It is not expected, as a general rule, that the Medical Student, is qualified by Experience to produce an Essay which shall contain any thing new to the Profession or, at least, to those from whom he has derived his knowledge of Medicine. Yet it sometimes happens that Students have ascertained, by Experiments, or from some other Source, some important, truth in Connection with their Study, which, though it may be known to a few, should be revealed to the whole Profession. To acquire a thorough knowledge of what is known relating to Medicine and to endeavor to further that Knowledge by that attention which the Subject, in all its Connections, deserves, should be the great Object of those who embark in the Study of a Profession which should be characterized for its utility dignity - and responsibility. With this great Object in view I proceed to mention the virtues of the Medicine

which forms the subject of my Thesis; in doing so however I deem it superfluous to mention the mode of preparing it, and shall proceed to enumerate the diseases in which it is peculiarly applicable and shall dwell more minutely on those which have come under my own observation—

The Oxide of Silver has been administered in different diseases for several years, but I believe had never had the importance attached to it, which it so justly merits—my brother Dr S. M. Mendoock has recently given great attention to this medicine as a remedy in the treatment of venereal affections and the relief which attended the administration of it, was far greater than any known efficacy of the remedy had warranted him to expect—

In Syphilis arising from an irritated state of the Stomach and in which there is a feeling of distention, when only a small

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quantity of food has been taken and in which
the bowels become constipated and there is a
sense of oppression, with occasional paroxysms
of chilliness, in which the patient manifests
considerable inquietude; relief may be obtained
and a cure effected by the administration
of the Acid of Silver. I have seen three
cases of this description in which many
and various remedies had been used, but
without any permanent relief, not only have
I seen, but have experienced, the happy change
which results from the use of this remedy
in dyspepsia of the above description. It is
with pleasure of no ordinary degree that I dwell
upon a remedy which relieves me of that
which renders life itself a burden. Most
of the Professors of the University of Louisville
and many eminent practitioners of the South
had prescribed for me and yet the relief in

Every instance was disappointment. My Brother
treated me for eight or ten months without
procuring other than temporary relief, until he
advised me to use the Ovis of Silius, accompany-
ing the direction with the remark that if that
remedy did not give me relief he would be forced
to admit that he could not relieve me, as
all the other remedies which he had success-
fully employed in similar cases had proved
of no avail in mine. In commencing the
use of this remedy I entertained no hope that
I would be benefited by it, but how great
was my joy in the short period of one week to
find my bowels becoming regular, my Stomach
capable of admitting considerable quantities
upon it, which before would have been death,
and a happy diminution of all the abnormal
Symptoms.

A Brother of mine was the second case in

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which I witnessed the great efficacy of
this remedy And a young lady aged
fifteen was the third. There seems to be
a great tendency to Dyspepsia, with the
peculiar train of symptoms which I have
enumerated, in my Father's family, he
himself having fallen a victim to the
disease a number of years since. In this
case there was distention of the Coals
and news of the Stomach. The most
powerful remedies were used to bring
about a proper degree of contraction, but
alas! they all failed yet I have no
doubt, but that the tone of the Stomach
would have been restored And life thereby
prolonged, if the Oxide of Silver had been
administered before the disease had pro-
gressed so far, that every remedy was
inert, for I seriously think that, in

the course of one or two years and perhaps
in much less time, no medicine would
have been of any service to me.

We sometimes employ remedies of the same
properties for the relief of conditions which are
of directly opposite character and yet these
things are solved upon physiological princi-
ples. for instance Congestion and a high
inflammatory condition may be relieved
by depletion. The cause may be the same
and yet the result is very different. Thus it
is in the two abnormal conditions, Amenorrhoea
& Dysmenorrhoea. The former may arise from
an atonic condition of the System and
the latter from a ^{condition} inflammatory of the
System and particularly the organ directly
concerned. These deviations from the normal state are
sometimes, I may say, of fleeting production of the
most serious consequences and in the treatment

of these affections, I beg leave to suggest
the Oxide of Silver. I think it will prove
to be of intrinsic value and from the
good which I have seen to result from
its use, I feel justified in commending
it to the consideration of those to whom
this is submitted. This remedy seems
to act in the first affection by imparting
vital energy to the Nerves and appen-
dages concerned and in the latter it
modifies the sub-inflammatory condi-
tion of the parts. The tendency of
this medicine appears to be the produc-
tion of a healthy action whether the
existing state of things be above or
below the natural standard. The manner
in which it exerts this peculiar influ-
ence where there exist an opposite
condition of things I am unable to say

As this is a matter I think worthy of
consideration I hope that my second
instructions will reveal the modus operandi
of this remedy in the affections
lastly mentioned to-

Whoever feels an interest in the physical
condition of mankind and adheres to
the great law of that God who wisely
directs all things must be convinced
that to multiply and apply is a
law of primary importance and that
those who endeavor to procure the fulfillment
of this injunction labor to support a Divine
Command.

It not infrequently happens that conjugal
felicity domestic peace and happiness are
interrupted on account of the usual conse-
quences of marriage being deferred in some
instances for a brief period in others for life

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In the great majority of these cases the great
desires and can be brought about by the
administration of proper remedies agents.
And the physician is the medium through
which the desired object is accomplished.
it is through him that all abnormal
conditions are expected to be obviated.
Ofentimes females are thought to be sterile
and indeed they are for the time being when concep-
tion is prevented by an irritable condition
of the Uterus, or some part of it, and the irrita-
tion may be so slight that the Subjects
would scorn to submit to Remedies generally
local - for the cure of the same and thus con-
ception may be prevented for years. In reliev-
ing this state of things and giving proper
tone to the Uterus and its appendages, I know
no remedy which will succeed so well as
The Oxide of Silver given in half grain doses

three times per day for six or eight days. This
 Remedy should not be used during Menstruation
 My Father has employed this medicine in a
 number of Cases, sufficient, at least, it would
 seem, to prove the utility of it. Some of these
 Subjects had given birth to one or two
 Children, others had been married from
 three to five years. Had never conceived and
 yet, as remarkable as it may appear, they
 all, without an exception, conceived within
 six weeks after the administration of the
 Poudre of Silva. Last Autumn I gave the
 same Remedy to a lady who had been
 wedded nearly three years - her form was
 perfect, her health good, her Catamenia
 had always appeared regularly. I supposed
 Conjugal excitation to be the chief cause
 of Misconception. The neck of the womb
 becoming irritated imparted the same

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to other portions of it. In two or three days
after menstruation I commenced giving
her the Oxide of Silver in half grain
doses and continued it three times per
die until she had taken ten grains
in the short time of three weeks she
became pregnant as the symptoms, Charac-
teristic of the early stage of pregnancy
proved.

In my brother I found a good indica-
ed for a communication showing the great
virtue of the Oxide of Silver in the treat-
ment of Syphilitic ulcers. I think
it was in the early part of last Spring
that one of the contributors to the London
Lancet, suggested this remedy as a
local application in the treatment of
this species of ulcer. My brother having
to treat an very malignant case the first

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Sumner And failing to effect to effect
a cure with the usual remedies, yellow-
wash Black-wash Sulphate of Copper
And the Nitrate of Silver, was induced to
employ the Oxide of Silver And he found
that the ulcer healed speedily under
its application. In a second case
of great size, in which the Sulphate
of Copper And Nitrate of Silver failed
to cure, he applied Nitric Acid to
one ulcer And the Oxide of Silver to
another situated in close proximity,
the former granulated slowly from the
bottom the latter granulated rapidly
from the circumference And bottom.
In a few days the latter entirely
disappeared And the one which was
treated with the Nitric Acid had
diminished only about half its orig-
inal size the patient, noting the result
of the two different applications, insisted

upon the application of the Snow Successful
one to the remaining snow, his work
was completed with out speedy cure
was the result.

In Common or Simple ulcers where
the Nitrate of Silver or Nitric Acid
would be indicated and I may say
even where there exists considerable
irritation, the Oxide of Silver is, in my
opinion far preferable. Early in October
last, I received an injury directly over
the Tibia about mid-way between the
Knee and Ankle joints. It was at first
very superficial, but from undue exercise
of the limb, together with bad treatment, it
became deep and extensive, the excessive
inflammation being subdued I endeavored
with the remedies usually employed in such
cases to excite granulation, but failed. I

then applied the Ovis of Silver and mixed
 before that I knew and knew of any description
 head so readily and rapidly. The mode in
 which it was employed both in the Simple
 and Malignant cases which I have mention-
 ed was in the form of an Ointment, compos-
 ed of ten grains of the Ovis of Silver and one
 drachm of Lard.

This preparation of Silver has been advantageously
 employed in Epilepsy. May it not be useful
 in Chorea?

In conclusion allow me to express the hope that you
 will not infer from the ardor with which I have
 dwelt on the efficacy, real or apparent, of the medi-
 cine which is the subject of my Thesis, that I
 am so wrapped up in any single Article of medi-
 cine that I regard it as a Cum. all and neglect
 others of much greater importance