

CANNABIS INDICA; A VALUABLE REMEDY IN MENORRHAGIA.—Mr. J. Brown, of Bacup, observes:

“Indian hemp has been vaunted as an anodyne and hypnotic, having the good qualities of opium without its evils. Also in dysmenorrhœa and insomnia it has not proved of much benefit. The drug has almost invariably produced some marked physiological effect, even in small doses. Text-books give the dose as ten minims and upward, but five minims is the largest dose that should be given at first. If bought from a good house, the drug is not inert or unreliable. A drug having such marked physiological action ought to have a specific use as a therapeutic agent. Indian hemp has such specific use in menorrhagia—there is no medicine which has given such good results; for this reason, it ought to take the first place as a remedy in menorrhagia, then bromide of potassium and other drugs. The *modus operandi* I cannot explain, unless it be that it diverts a larger proportion of blood to the brain, and lessens the muscular force of the heart. A few doses are sufficient; the following is the prescription: **R** tincture cannabis indicæ ℥ xxx; pulveris tragac. co. ℥ j; spiritus chlorof. ℥ j; aquam ad ℥ ij. One ounce every three hours. Four years ago I was called to see Mrs. W., aged forty, multipara. She had suffered from menorrhagia for several months. Her medical attendant had tried the ordinary remedies without success. Indian hemp was given as above. Its action was speedy and certain. Only one bottle was taken. She was afterwards treated for anæmia, due to loss of blood. Twelve months after this my patient sent for a bottle of the “green medicine,” I learned afterward that she had sent this medicine to a lady friend, who had been unsuccessfully treated by another medical man for several months for the same complaint. It proved equally successful. The fail-

ures are so few, that I venture to call it a specific in menorrhagia. The drug deserves a trial. It may occasionally fail; this, however, is not to be wondered at in a complaint due to so many different causes, and associated with anæmia and other cases of plethora."

Robert Batho, M.D., M.R.C.P., Castletown, Isle of Man, writes in reference to the same subject: "Considerable experience of its employment in menorrhagia, more especially in India, has convinced me that it is, in that country at all events, one of the most reliable means at our disposal. I feel inclined to go further, and state that it is *par excellence* the remedy for that condition, which, unfortunately, is very frequent in India.

I have ordered it, not once, but repeatedly, in such cases, and always with satisfactory results. The form used has been the tincture, and the dose ten to twenty minims, repeated once or twice in the twenty-four hours. It is so certain in its power of controlling menorrhagia, that it is a valuable aid to diagnosis in cases where it is uncertain whether an early abortion may or may not have occurred. Over the hæmorrhage attending the latter condition, it appears to exercise but little force. I can recall one case in my practice in India, where my patient had lost profusely at each period for years, until the tincture was ordered; subsequently, by commencing its use, as a matter of routine, at the commencement of each flow, the amount was reduced to the ordinary limits, with corresponding benefit to the general health. Neither in this, nor in any other instance in which I prescribed the drug, were any disagreeable physiological effects observed.

I could say a few words in its favor, as to its action in allaying irritative cough, but I prefer confining myself to a point on which experience has left me no room for doubt."—*British Medical Journal*.