At no time was there any difference in the temperature of the two limbs. This was owing no doubt to the fact, that the blood from some cause being prevented from pursuing its usual channel from the tumour down the course of the leg, (as is proven by the want of pulsation in the tibial arteries,) had before the operation formed new channels for itself, it only remaining necessary after the operation for a collateral circulation to be established from the place where the ligature was applied, to the newly established channels from the lower part of the tumour.

What encouragement does this case give to the performance of the distal operation for aneurism? Here was a case, which nature by some process had already placed in the same situation as after the distal operation, and yet the tumour increased with almost unparalleled rapidity.

No means were resorted to, to hasten absorption. The tumour is now (Dec. 15th) quite hard, and about as large as a hen's egg, and causes her no inconvenience whatever.

The aneurism on the opposite artery has increased slowly, in comparison with the rapid growth of the first. It is about as large as a walnut.

No herniary protrusion or weakness is felt in the site of the cicatrix, as I had more reason to fear than under ordinary circumstances, on account of the transverse incision through the tendon of the external oblique.

The future history of the case, I will probably not be made acquainted with, as she is about to remove from the state.

Montgomery, Ala., Dec. 15th, 1843.

Art. IX.—*Eupatorium Perfoliatum in Epidemic Influenza.* By J. F. Peebles, M. D., Petersburg, Va.

Whatever concerns that singular disease, Epidemic Influenza, of late rendered doubly interesting by its comparatively frequent recurrence, can but claim attention. Although the obscurity resting over its origin, and somewhat enveloping its intimate nature, does not extend so much to its treatment, this is by no means definitely settled.

The indications however, it may be said, are for the most part clear and definable; it is their fulfilment which the writer has found attended with embarrassment, and not always of such plain and easy accomplishment. The particular therapeutical agents most usually employed for this purpose, were found in the treatment of the recent epidemic, liable to objection. In severe cases they failed to remove the disease so speedily as it was thought it might have been removed, whilst in slighter attacks it was scarcely deemed necessary to subject the patient to so much annoyance, as their operation

necessarily occasioned. Under these circumstances the writer was induced to investigate this subject with careful attention.

As it most usually presented itself in the late epidemic, there is no disease in which the distress of the patient was so disproportioned to his actual danger. This was the result of a combination of symptoms of a varied and peculiar character, and hence the indications were singularly blended, requiring agents of an antagonistic character frequently, to meet them fully. The pain in the back and limbs, with feelings of lassitude and universal prostration; the harassing cough, dyspnœa, and severe headache,—the pain commonly over the frontal, sometimes extending over the cheek bones; a peculiar condition of the cutaneous surface, which at short intervals, and without presenting any appreciable alteration in its temperature externally, probably from a disordered sensation merely, alternated from chilliness to flushes of heat; a feeble and sometimes vacillating pulse, were symptoms which in a majority of cases existed simultaneously; all of which requiring to be duly considered, in selecting the therapeutical agents for the management of the disease. Of this group, the condition of the circulatory functions, was really the source of the most embarrassment in effecting this purpose. For, though bearing such direct similitude to the symptoms of an ordinary catarrhal affection, that it was widely different, could but be apparent to a casual observer, and the fact last mentioned, constituted the chief sources of that dissimilarity. Hence, being less phlogistic in its character, the plan of treatment commonly adopted in these affections, suggested readily to persons out of the profession, by the external resemblance between the two diseases, was unsuccessful, and in most cases wholly inapplicable to the treatment of the epidemic. The same group of symptoms when attendant on catarrhal disease, require antiphlogistic and evacuant remedies exclusively, but the condition of the pulse in influenza suggested caution, indeed in a number of cases unequivocally forbade their employment to any extent. Nor was this all; when they were tolerated and borne without mischief, they did not produce that decided benefit, resulting from their employment under other circumstances apparently similar, or that they do in catarrhal disease. In this therefore existed the peculiarity in the treatment of this epidemic. Supporting remedies were often required to be combined with evacuants. Specific in its nature, involving a disturbance of the entire system, the disease was certainly one which could not be removed by depletion merely, if indeed it was to be generally benefited by depletive measures. The pulmonary symptoms, certainly the most prominent and threatening, in the usual form of the disease, were such as did not originate in inflammatory action exclusively, nor were they to be always removed by remedies directed to the treatment of inflammation. These undoubted evidences of the specific character of the disease, should certainly receive weight in directing its treatment.

The great difficulty of combining remedies to answer the ends laid down,

without, in a large number of cases doing more than was required, by subjecting the patient to unnecessary annoyance and confinement from the influence of more potent agents, led the writer to the selection and employment of the eupatorium perfoliatum in its treatment. The article admirably blends in its operation, all the qualities which were found requisite to fulfil the indications of cure, presented by the disease, as it appeared in this region during the late epidemic. After we were led to its employment, but few cases were presented, in which the symptoms were not more speedily relieved than they had been by any course of treatment, which we had previously fallen upon; and that too in a manner more satisfactory to ourselves, and with, at the same time, less distress and inconvenience to our patients. Though useful at certain periods in all, it alone was not sufficient for the treatment of every case of the disease. When the attack was unusually severe, where the biliary secretions were disturbed, and in cases where the morbid condition of the system had extended to the alimentary canal, it was necessary to precede its employment by a mercurial cathartic, combined in the latter cases with the pulv. ipecac. compound. But in those cases in which the violence of the disease—and these were by far the greatest number—was expended on the pulmonary system accompanied with pain in the head, limbs, and back, and that peculiar condition of the skin already described, its effects were prompt and decisive, and it alone, administered as shall be directed, was sufficient to remove the disease in the most expeditious manner. Its peculiar adaptation to the treatment of other forms of the disease, or, when it occurs in particular subjects, will be further pointed out in the progress of this paper.

The herb, it is known, derived its domestic name of Boneset from its prompt manner of relieving pains in the limbs and general muscular system which attended a peculiar form of febrile disease which prevailed many years ago in the northern parts of this country. It was this fact, together with the knowledge of the remarkable combination of properties possessed by it, which led to the suggestion of its employment in epidemic influenza; and nothing could be more marked and satisfactory than the prompt manner in which it answered the expectations which had been formed of it in this respect. The pain in the back and limbs, and the lassitude of the general muscular system, subsided so soon as the system was placed under its influence; its immediate and salutary operation in this way, at once prominently exhibiting its great value in the treatment of the disease. But its curative agency was not confined to this effect alone, for blended with this prompt action on the nervous system—we can in no other way account for its speedy removal of the pains and the general muscular prostration except by referring its operation to the nervous system—the eupatorium perfoliatum united in its operation, other qualities, each one eminently adapted to fulfil some important indication in the treatment of the disease in question. Among the first of these, we shall name its diaphoretic powers. The sudorific influence of

this herb is of that peculiar character which eminently fitted it for employment under the circumstances. For, in this disease, the skin was not unfrequently imbued with perspiration. But, probably, from a peculiar condition of the cutaneous surface, the sweating was of a morbid character—a sort of passive excretion, resulting apparently from a lax condition of the skin, which was always under such circumstances pale, and morbidly sensitive. This state of the cutaneous surface, particularly its morbid sensitiveness, in no small number of cases, constituted a curious, and not a little distressing, attendant on the disease. Antimonials were found to increase the perspiratory discharge, without altering its character, and hence, at least so far as this symptom was concerned, they were unproductive of benefit. The pulv. Doveri answered this purpose better. The suppression of the secretions resulting from the opium entering into its composition, however, rendered this article objectionable, inasmuch as to counteract this unfavourable result, it was required to be exhibited in such combination, as to render it unsuitable or unnecessary in a majority of cases. Entirely exempt from this objection, the eupatorium perfoliatum not only induced a healthy and free perspiratory discharge, but promptly altered the condition of the skin, restoring its natural hue, and rendering its texture firm and healthy; and the unpleasant alternation of chilliness with flushes of heat were replaced by an agreeable glow of the general surface. So soon as this healthy diaphoresis was induced, together with the relief already mentioned as occurring, the disposition to cough subsided, and there was an immediate amelioration of all the pulmonary symptoms. The subsidence of the cough, the removal of the dyspnœa, and that painful irritation of the pulmonary organs, which in many cases seemed to have extended to the remotest air vesicles of the lungs, were more directly due to the medicine, administered after the method adopted by us, becoming a prompt and efficacious *expectorant.* Indeed, we know of no article or combination to be preferred to it, as an expectorant in the disease under consideration. The ethereal tincture of lobelia recommended by Dr. Blakiston, an English physician, is the only preparation of which we made a trial, which bears any approach to it in point of excellence in this respect; but this being the only important indication which this article is qualified to fulfil, it is greatly inferior to the boneset. Together with the properties already mentioned, this medicine has further proved itself sufficiently aperient for the treatment of most cases of epidemic influenza. After the commencement of the treatment, it was rarely found necessary to use any other cathartic, and not then, except in those cases in which the constipation of the bowels had been persistent, or where the head was unusually affected.

Its tonic property is the remaining one which we shall point out, as particularly adapting this medicine to the treatment of certain cases of epidemic influenza. It certainly is a great desideratum in the management of this disease in aged subjects, where there is such a tendency to prostration

long before any impression is made on the violence of the attack, to have a remedy which, with due evacuant powers adequate to the removal of all the symptoms, unites a tonic influence sufficient to support the general strength, and to maintain at the same time the integrity of the circulatory functions. The admirable association of its tonic with its other properties, creates in the eupatorium perfoliatum such an agent, and endows it with an advantage over all articles or combinations, in the management of the disease under these circumstances. Indeed, where the disease was treated from the first with this medicine,—the cold infusion alternated with the warm according to the circumstances of the case, and the amount of prostration present,—no case occurred where more decided stimulants or tonics were required, and we are convinced that the former preparation of this herb is the very best article of this class not only to prevent, but to overcome when existing, the prostration so frequently supervening upon this disease in old persons. Nor were its salutary powers in this way confined alone to the aged. It has never, we believe, been noticed before, and hence, whether it is universally the case or not we have no means of judging, but it is certain that the coloured population with us suffered in a peculiar manner from this disease. In almost every case, from its very commencement, it assumed a marked and curiously asthenic character, yet upon the whole it was not more formidable, nor more difficult of management, than the same disorder in the white subjects.

In these cases it seemed to expend its force upon the nervous system, producing a despondency of mind, a depression of the vascular and a prostration of the muscular systems, wholly disproportioned to all the other symptoms. It was no unusual occurrence, after a negro man had staggered into the office as though he were intoxicated, and stated his case with a gloomy presentiment of evil, to find upon examination a prostration of the pulse really startling, while the pulmonary symptoms were trifling and the bowels were free of the morbid contamination; in fact, the pain in the back and limbs, the remarkable and extreme lassitude of the muscular system, and the uneasiness about the head, being the only symptoms for which he sought relief. It was surprising how soon a few doses of the infusion of boneset, administered solely with a view to secure its tonic and aperient effects, would remove this state of things. There is yet another class of cases, which this property of the herb, from its peculiar association, renders it particularly applicable. The disease occurring in the habitually inebriate, induces a train of morbid effects in the highest degree embarrassing, and for the treatment of which we found nothing so salutary as its cold infusion, combined with the tincture or infusion of hops, according as the nature of the case required sedation.

Manner of administration.—In the severest cases, where it was determined to treat the disease with the herb alone, the patient after being covered in bed, was induced to swallow a wine-glass full of the infusion, prepared by infusing an ounce of the dried leaves in a pint of boiling water, warm

every half hour. After the fourth or fifth dose, considerable nausea, sometimes vomiting, with free diaphoresis ensued, and there was an immediate amelioration of all the symptoms. Along with the nausea, free expectoration commenced, and after the former symptom had subsided, the patient was freed from every annoyance, and remained in every respect comfortable. Sufficient to keep up the impression on the system, the infusion was now given only every third or fourth hour in the same dose. The bowels were generally opened in about six hours after the commencement of the treatment, and afterwards continued in a lax condition. Towards the evening of the second day, and particularly if the patient had been guilty of imprudent exposure, the symptoms frequently returned, and it was necessary to repeat the course adopted at first. But generally the medicine, continued as directed, kept the symptoms completely in check, and the patient was out on the fourth day. In cases where the treatment was commenced with calomel, &c. the infusion, to secure its diaphoretic and expectorant effects, was introduced on the second day in wine-glassful doses every second hour. To correct the debilitating effects of the disease, frequently remaining after all its acute and more violent symptoms had subsided, a wine-glass full of the cold infusion was directed three times a day.

The treatment of the disease in old persons, or in other cases where there was a marked tendency to prostration, was commenced in the same manner. As soon as the effects already mentioned as occurring were induced, the cold substituted for the warm infusion was directed in the same dose every second hour, to be continued, gradually lessening the period throughout the disease, unless the violent symptoms returned, when it was to be discontinued until the same course was repeated with the warm infusion, and then resumed.

From the foregoing exposition of the properties and mode of action of the eupatorium perfoliatum, we feel convinced that it will be awarded, that its introduction is an acquisition of some value to the therapeutical means of managing the curious disease under consideration.

Not the least of our reasons for believing so, is, that whilst it allows the patient treated by it, to pass out of the disease as speedily and as perfectly as any other remedy or course of treatment, it leaves him with less impairment of his general health, and causes fewer interruptions to the natural healthy functions of the body. In short, the universality of the disease when it prevails, finds an exact counterpart in the cheapness, as well as the simplicity of the remedy.