

## THE THOMSONIAN REMEDIES, TREATMENT OF DISEASE, AND THE FAMOUS THOMSONIAN "COURSE OF MEDICATION"

The Materia Medica of the early followers of Samuel Thomson consisted of botanical products and combinations thereof. The aim was to exclude all poisons, in which list lobelia was not by them included. Their remedies, therefore, excluded such energetics as podophyllum, sanguinaria, rhus, etc., which became important agents with Beach and his followers, the Eclectics. Whilst the Thomsonians rejected mineral salts and the inorganics, these substances were conservatively employed in Eclecticism. These facts have not been generally understood, many physicians and others, who should know better, maintaining that Eclectics used only botanical remedies.

In order that the Thomsonian Materia Medica may be authoritatively recorded in our Bulletin, we reproduce from The Lobelia Advocate, 1838, an editorial commenting on this subject, followed by a complete list of the plants used by Thomson and his followers, which also is reproduced by us in full, in the terms employed in the original.

### THOMSONIAN MATERIA MEDICA.

Many false and wholly erroneous notions have heretofore existed, and still do, to a considerable extent, with regard to the articles used by Thomsonian practitioners as remedial agents, both as regards their medicinal properties and the number used.

It is believed by many honest, well-meaning individuals, (those, of course, who are wholly ignorant of Thomsonianism,) that the articles used in the Thomsonian Materia Medica, are of the most deleterious and poisonous nature—that Thomsonian practitioners use but one or two articles *in all*, and that the same articles are given in all cases, whatever may be the form of disease; that steam, cayenne, and lobelia, constitute the Materia Medica of the Thomsonian system of medical practice, and that they are very dangerous, and neither of them can be used without great danger to the patient. Now we do not censure folks who thus believe and talk, because we believe they do it ignorantly, yet we do most sincerely pity their ignorance and credulity, for believing the vague and foolish stories of those who are prejudiced and interested, for we lay it down as an indisputable truth, that none but the ignorant, (that is, ignorant of Thomsonism,) interested and prejudiced, ever speak against the Botanic practice, and for the especial benefit of such as are in the habit of talking thus ignorantly and foolishly, we shall make the three following declarations, viz: 1st. Thomsonian physicians use in their ordinary practice of medicine a greater number of distinct

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and separate substances, than the mineralites do. 2d. Thomsonian physicians make and use in their ordinary course of practice a greater number of mixtures from their greater number of simples, than the mineralites do. 3d. There is no article or plant ever recommended by Dr. Samuel Thomson as a remedial agent—there is none contained in his *Materia Medica*, or used by those who bear his name, or practice upon his system, which contains a particle of narcotine or poison, and which does not harmonize with the laws of life, and aid nature in her efforts to overcome the disease and restore the patient—the exaggerations, misrepresentations, false reports, and downright lies of the enemies of the system to the contrary notwithstanding. And in order that the public may be enabled to judge for themselves as to the facts in this matter, and see who is right, we subjoin a list of all the principal articles (that is, plants,) used by the Botanic practitioners, and we earnestly solicit the public, one and all, to examine for themselves, and as soon as any person, ("scientific" M. D.'s not excepted) shall have discovered any poison or narcotic in the list, we shall thank them to inform us of their discovery, for we say decidedly, and without fear of contradiction, that there is no article used by Dr. Thomson or his followers, which might not be eaten by spoonfuls like food, and produce no other effects than nausea, vomiting, or purging.

The following is a list of plants:

(Common)	(Technical)
1. Lobelia	Lobelia Inflata
2. Cayenne	Capsicum Annum
3. Bayberry	Myrica Cerifera
4. Pond Lily	Nymphia Odorata
5. Hemlock	Abies
6. Sumach	Rhus Glabrum
7. Witch Hazel	Hamamelis Virginica
8. Sweet Briar	Rubus Strigosus
9. Poplar	Populus
10. Squaw Weed	Erigeron Purpureum
11. Balmony	Chelone Glabra
12. Barberry	Berberis Vulgaris
13. Peach Kernels	Amygdalus Persica
14. Bitter Root	Apocynum Androsemfolium
15. Ohio Kercuma	Frasera Verticillata
16. Yellow Root	Hydrastis Canadensis
17. Cherry Kernels	Prunes Virginiana
18. Valerian	Cypripedium Pubescens
19. Myrrh	Myrrha
20. Ginger	Zingiber Amonum
21. Black Pepper	Piper Nigrum
22. Camphor	Camphora
23. Turpentine	Terebinthinae
24. Peppermint	Mentha Peperita
25. Spear Mint	Mentha Veridis
26. Summer Savory	Saturciae Hortensis
27. Pennyroyal	Hedeoma Pulegiordes
28. Hoarhound	Marrubium Vulgare
29. Elecampane	Inula Helenium



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(Common)	(Technical)
30. Mayweed	Anthemis Cotula
31. Wormwood	Artimisea Absymthium
32. Tansy	Tanacetum Vulgare
33. Chamomile	Anthemis Nobilis
34. Mullen	Verbascum Thapsus
35. Burdock	Articum Lappa
36. Featherfew	Matricaria Vulgaris
37. Black Birch	Betula Lenta
38. Bitter Sweet	Celastrus Scandens
39. Skunk Cabbage	Ictodes Fœtida
40. Wake Robbin	Arum Triphyllum
41. Boneset	Eupuorium Perfoliatum
42. Evan Root	Geum Virginianum
43. Clivers	Galium Verum at Aparine
44. Balsam Fir	Penies Balsamea
45. Slippery Elm	Ulmas Fulva
46. Va. Snake Root	Aristolochia Serpentaria
47. Mustard	Sinapis
48. Horse Radish	Cochleria Armoracia
49. Butternut	Juglans Cinerea
50. Blue Vervain	Verbena Hastata
51. White Vervain	Verbena Urticifolia
52. Sweet Golden Rod	Solidago Odora
53. Pipsissey	Pyrola Umbellata
54. Bitter Thistle	Cnicus Offincinalis
55. Yellow Dock	Rumex Crispus
56. Lovely Thistle	Carduus Benedictus
57. Prickley Ash	Xanthoxylon
58. Wild Lettuce	Pyrola Rotundifolia
59. Unicorn Root	Aletris Farinosa
60. Gold Thread	Coptis Trifolia
61. Archangel	Lycopus Virginicus
62. Balm of Gilead	Populus Candicans
63. Ginseng	Panax Quinquefolia
64. Meadow Fern	Myrica Gale
65. Red Clover	Trifolium Pratense

There are a few other unimportant plants used and recommended by Dr. Thomson, yet the above are the principal.

In connection with the foregoing list of remedies comes in proper sequence the opinions and theories Thomson held concerning disease and its cure. This includes descriptions of his "steaming" processes and his famous patented "Courses of medicine."