

{ Blancard's  
Iodide of iron ~~~~~

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**BLANCARD'S IODIDE OF IRON;**  
**ITS PLACE IN MODERN THERAPEUTICS;**  
**INDICATIONS FOR ITS EMPLOYMENT.**

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The iodide of iron is one of those rare medicaments concerning whose curative powers all physicians are in full agreement; it has withstood the test of time. In the cases in which it is indicated, its action is direct and decided; and, since the year 1850, when M. Blancard gave it purity, stability and easily assimilated properties, it has taken the highest rank as the most reliable and effective of pharmaceutical preparations.

Known and approved throughout the world of medicine, it is regarded as one of the few reliable arms of precision always at the disposition of the physician. Nothing has approached it in usefulness as a remedy for the largest class of ailments known to the race—those which are consequent upon DIATHETIC and

HEREDITARY, OR CONSTITUTIONAL troubles ; and those which occur as SEQUELAE TO ACUTE MALADIES, OR present themselves in the debilitated conditions of CONVALESCENCE.

Recent modern discoveries, while they have not added to the effect of the iodide of iron as a medicine, have possibly explained the felicitous nature of its action in certain cases. Perhaps also they have suggested its wider use on etiological grounds. As to its cause of action, certain therapeutists say it is by reason of the iron it contains ; others insist that it is on account of its iodine ; and still others claim that the combination heightens the action of each of the constituent parts, while the entire preparation has also a clearly defined action peculiar to itself. The last theory is probably correct, since we know that the ingestion, separately, of the components does not give the specific effects of the combined medicament.

Whatever theory of disease we may adopt, however, or whatever explanations of the action of medicines may be advanced, the fact remains that the iodide of iron is a curative remedy. It has been such for many years. And it was curing disease while the researches for the "why," were going on. It will continue to cure while the discoverers in medicine continue to discover and the searchers for alkaloids continue their pharmacological researches.

If, as Broussais said, the best physician is the one who cures, so also the best medicine is the one which cures. Such a medicine is the iodide of iron ; it is a remedy for the use of the practical physician—the only true doctor, the general practitioner of medicine.

Of the general therapeutic methods used in medicine, none holds a higher position than that known as "alterative treatment." All antidotes, according to many authorities, are alteratives. Concerning this view of the matter, Dr. Hartshorne says, (*Pract. Med.* pg. 122), "Agents which tend with constancy to increase the rate of metamorphosis of tissue in the body are few. \* \* \* Iodide of iron may afford an example of this medication in its simplest form ; its object is to favor the rapid removal of the old tissue, and THE FORMATION OF GOOD NEW STRUCTURE in its place."

The iodide of iron in fact PROMOTES ABSORPTION, and is a RECONSTITUENT as well as a PURIFIER OF THE BLOOD. This is why the remedy has often had a remarkable effect where others have failed. It is worth bearing in mind that in a majority of the cases where iron is indicated, the preparation of the iodide will best meet the desired end.

## INDICATIONS

FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF BLANCARD'S IODIDE OF IRON PILLS.

The indications for the use of the iodide of iron are very many from the fact, already stated, of its great value in all of the cachexiæ, those morbid, degenerative conditions which are the sad consequences of nearly all acute maladies, and which we meet with on every hand. Indeed, the highest claim which can be made for any medicine is that which is justly due to the iodide of iron, for it is a recuperative, reconstituting and sustaining medicament in these cachetic conditions following most of the acute, and resting in all of the chronic forms of disease.

These facts are well known to the medical profession. They have been known for many years. But the indications for the use of Blancard's preparations have naturally increased with time, not only from the fact that the development of civilization has brought, if not new diseases, new forms of disease, but because such discoveries in modern medicine as have shown a unity or connection between certain diseases, have suggested the still wider uses of the medicament.

It is from these considerations that it seems proper, while briefly recalling some of the more obvious and important of the well known indications for the use of Blancard's preparation, to state some of the more recent suggestions for its use, as recorded in the later works of recognized authorities. These references must necessarily be brief, but physicians will appreciate the fact that instead of making general statements concerning the value of the remedy it has been thought proper and desirable in this paper to quote the exact language and give the precise source of the statements presented. In short, the chemist and manufacturer who gave, many years ago, this medicament to the medical profession, and who now feels that in reality it needs no statement from him as to its value as a pharmaceutical preparation, prefers to let accredited physicians say what is to be said, in thus briefly presenting the former endorsements of the preparation as such, side by side with the confirmatory and the new testimony, added and verified by clinical experiences.

In the most prevalent of the cachexiæ, ANÆMIA, the testimony to the value of Blancard's iodide of iron pills is overwhelming, though little more than the briefest of references

can here be made to it. "In nearly all of the forms of anæmia," says Stillé, (*Natl. Disp.*, pg. 701, 1887), "iron is food." It supplies an express, substantial want of the economy, and its combination with iodine saves it from its sometimes inert action. The SOLUBILITY AND EASE OF ABSORPTION of the Blancard preparation place it in such form that the system cannot avoid receiving it. This is one reason why it will act in anæmia even when, according to the same authority, chlorosis is not present; it being well known that the chlorotic diathesis hastens the action of iron, in anæmia from mixed causes. As to the choice of the iron preparations for use in anæmia, Hartshorne says, (*Prac. Med.*, pg. 383) "I have found that of the preparations of iron, numerous as they are, the most satisfactory results were from the iodide." Professor Loomis says, (*Prac. Med.* pg. 885, 1885), "Iron is the one drug that best combats anæmia." Also Dr. J. Mitchell Bruce (*Quain's Dict. Med.* pg. 40, 1887) states that "Iron is the sovereign remedy for aglobulism; \* \* \* the French *dragées ferrugineuses* (Blancard's pills) may be given." Also Dr. Bastian (*loc. cit.* pg. 1473) uses this preparation in paraplegia with local caries, where the patient is anæmic. Indeed, this remedy, in England, as in America, where it has for many years been in the pharmacopœia ("*Pil. Ferri Iodidi*, syn. *P. de Blancard*"), is the prime favorite with physicians for anæmic cases. It should be said in connection with this fact, that while the universal esteem in which Mr. Blancard's preparation was held led to its early adoption into the pharmacopœias, it is open to doubt as to whether it should be prescribed as a purely pharmacopœial preparation. The official work adopts the formula, but it cannot possibly lead the druggist to adopt, in its entirety, the method of its proper manufacture. No druggist can make these pills with all of the care and precautions which are necessary to their activity, their perfect solubility and their stable properties. From a merely commercial point of view it could not pay him to institute the tests and standards exacted by Mr. Blancard in his own laboratory. And it must furthermore be stated that the negative results which have sometimes been given with the iodide of iron have arisen, in all of the many cases investigated, from the imperfections of manufacture at which we have hinted. These observations are not intended to reflect upon pharmacists, who, in general, are a hard-working and conscientious body of men; but the pharmacists themselves say that medicaments requiring extended and delicate manipulations should

be sold as preparations for whose integrity the chemist-manufacturer should be held responsible.

In CHLOROSIS the value of the iodide of iron can hardly be overstated. The condition being one of aglobulism, its indications are those of anæmia. Treatment is easier and cure far more rapid than in the latter disease, though watching is necessary; for as justly stated by Dr. Bruce (*Quain's Dict., Med.* pg. 238, 1887), "disorders of the sexual functions are the most frequent exciting causes of aglobulism."

In SCROFULOSIS the power of Mr. Blancard's preparation shows itself with great distinctness. Concerning the value of the iodide of iron in these cases there is a remarkable consensus of medical opinion. "The majority of experienced physicians," says Professor Austin Flint, *Principles and Practice*, pg. 311, "hold that the chalybeates are useful here, and this is in accordance with my own observations; \* \* \* preparations with iodine are undoubtedly useful in cases of scrofulosis." In scrofulous or tuberculous inflammation of the lymphatic glands, the effect of the remedy is very distinctly marked. "It is not desirable," says Dr. F. T. Roberts (*Quain*, pg. 909, 1887), "to allow chronic adenitis to continue, as serious consequences may ensue; it should be subjected to proper treatment without delay; preparations of iron are very serviceable especially the iodide." Also, (*loc. cit.* pg. 910), "General treatment is of essential consequence in the treatment of scrofulous disease of glands; preparations of iron, especially the iodide, are indicated." See also, Dr. Hartshorne, (*Ess. Pract. Med.* pg. 380). Again, in scrofulous CARRIES OF THE VERTEBRÆ associated with PARAPLEGIA, a disease which is said to be more common than formerly, Dr. Bastain (*Quain*, pg. 1473), recommends the iodide of iron in conjunction with cod liver oil; (see also, *Hartshorne*, pg. 382). In RACHITIS or RICKETS we have too, a form of this cachexia in which the iodide of iron is regarded as a remedy of the highest importance.

MALARIAL CACHEXIA, or chronic malarial infection, may exist as a *sequela* of any form of acute malarial disease, and in such a condition the iodide of iron works marvellous cures. It is also of service where, in such conditions, there are salient points of morbid change. Thus Dr. Loomis says, (*Pract. Med.*, pg. 855). "In those cases of malaria in which the spleen and liver are very much enlarged, when no febrile excitement is present, *iodide of iron, combined with cod-liver oil*, will be found of great service." The italics are Prof. Loomis's. In the treatment of malarial cachexia, no matter what form (owing to

diathetic or other causes) it may assume, too much reliance must not be placed on cinchona. This drug is frequently called a specific, and it certainly acts beneficially *as far as its curative effect extends*. But it is in the *sequelae* of malaria, the morbid conditions which remain after the acute malady has subsided, that the offices of the physician become of the most telling consequence; and it is here that the *iodide of iron is indispensable* to the completion of the cure. "CHRONIC INTERMITTENT" says Hartshorne (*Ess. Pract. Med.* pg. 315), relapses in spite of cinchona, and here the great remedy is iron; it has never disappointed me." But it is not necessary to multiply examples; Blancard's Iodide of Iron has, for many years, done more effective and permanent work in this direction than any other medical preparation; and it is a pleasure to the manufacturing house to have it thus widely and emphatically recognized by the great body of physicians.

In SYPHILITIC CACHEXIA hereditary or acquired; and in syphilis in all stages occurring primarily in similarly diathetic soil, the use of the iodide is of the highest importance. It acts here as a promoter of nutrition and a "reconstituent," while at the same time it neutralizes all toxic influences and arrests the progress of those morbid degenerations which so often become transformed into destructive and incurable lesions. This triple action of the iodide of iron, in which it shows the power of iodine and of iron as well as that of the iodide of iron itself—which, in such cases, no doubt acts partly if not wholly by catalysis—is one of the most remarkable points about this medicament; and it is doubtless through a recognition of this action that such writers as Dr. Arthur Cooper (*Quain's Dict. Med.* pg. 1583, 1887), specially recommend the iodide as a *general remedy in syphilis*. In inherited syphilis, in children or adults, the iodide of iron is also one of the most important of remedies (*loc. cit.* pg. 1584); and all children of syphilitic parentage, or either of whose parents has had syphilis, should be subjected to treatment by the ferric iodide; and this should be done whether or not the signs of syphilis have been perceived in them; for while the importance of the medicament is fully demonstrated after the lesion, it is also of the highest value as a prophylactic in the syphilitic diathesis. Many observations have been reported of the giving of Blancard's iodide of iron for prolonged periods in the cachexia following secondary syphilis in strumous patients who could not bear the proto-iodide of mercury; and in these the advent of tertiary syphilis was prevented. In other



words the ferric iodide of Blancard acts in these cases as it does in malarial cachexia; *it completes the cure.*

In PHTHISIS, *as in all wasting diseases* the iodide of iron has a high value on account of its tonic, alterative and reconstituent properties. Yet the usefulness in phthisis of some of the preparations of iron has been questioned. It is conceivable indeed, that the giving of large quantities of crude combinations of iron might tend to induce a sthenic condition, thus creating an undue excitement of organic action which would menace advanced lesions; and the same observation would apply to the giving of an excess of alcohol. But the ferric iodide of Blancard has no such operation. It induces, not a condition of sthenia, but a positive systemic strength gained by the arrestation of morbid processes and by aiding the assimilative powers of nature. It does not, in fact, act as an excitant, but as a reconstituent, commencing with the blood. It therefore tends to heal lesions while it strengthens their resisting power. Those who do not use Blancard's iodide of iron in phthisis because crude preparations of iron may tend to excitation, *will* use the iodide when they perceive the effect to be gained from it.

Iodide of Iron is to all strumous affections, from tuberculosis down the list, the particular medicament which modern therapeutics cannot afford to lose. The weight of authority is with it, as is also the experience of years of practical test. It is nearly half a century since Dupasquier, who made many experiments in the Lyons hospitals with the ferrous iodide, wrote as follows, (*Gazette Medicale*, pg. 829, 1842), concerning his success with it in PHTHISIS PULMONALIS: "This new medicament, which I have introduced into my prescriptions, exercises a powerful influence on the pulmonary organs; it generally produces a prompt and notable amelioration in the symptoms of phthisis, and this we could not expect from any of the usual remedies employed against this malady."

Concerning TUBERCULOSIS he wrote, in the same journal: "After taking the pills for a few days a prompt amelioration will be observed, accompanied by a great decrease in the expectoration, relief to the cough and oppression, the modification and finally the suppression of perspiration, falling of the pulse, reduction of heat and fever, restored strength and appetite, &c. Sometimes these phenomena occur simultaneously, in other instances they succeed one another."

In nephritic affections, so-called, such as BRIGHT'S DISEASE OF THE KIDNEYS and DIABETES MELLITUS, which in their

chronic conditions, are properly classed with the cachexiæ, the iodide of iron has the highest value. Professor Loomis says (*Pract. Med.*, pg. 568, 1885), "Iron and cod-liver oil are the two great remedies in this disease;" and Dr. Loomis says further, in speaking of the amyloid form of Bright's (*log. cit.* pg. 579), "The form of iodine which I have found most serviceable to this class of patients is the *pil. ferri iodidi*; one three times a day with food." So also Dr. Hartshorne, (*Ess. Pract. Med.*, pg. 230), points out the fact that in these cases the iodide of iron agrees better with the patient than do other iron preparations, and further (*log. cit.* pg. 122), "In Bright's disease I know of no treatment so advantageous as that which unites ALTERATIVES (that is, liquefacients of tissue) with those RESTORERS of blood *par excellence*, iron and animal food; iodide of iron with cod-liver oil may afford an example of this sort of medication." The italics are Dr. Hartshorne's. This is very high testimony, and with the additional clinical experience of practitioners, should go far to place the iodide of iron for chronic Bright's disease on a sure foundation in the United States, where this malady is increasing so largely.

IN DIABETES MELLITUS the testimony is also conclusive as to the value of this kind of medication, (see Flint, *Pract. of Med.* 848), and its use is recommended in other degenerative disorders. See particularly (*log. cit.* pg. 566), where Professor Flint verifies the opinions of Frehrichs and others as to the value of iodide of iron in *amyloid or scrofulous enlargement of the liver*.

OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS, so commonly found in all parts of the United States, Professor Flint says (*Principles of Med.* pg. 1049-50), "It occurs in persons of all ages and in all classes of society. Feeble persons are most likely to be attacked, but it is observed in those having previous good health and vigor. It is prone to affect the children of consumptives; it attacks the offspring of gouty or rheumatic persons whose health is impaired and whose nervous energy is exhausted by the anxieties of business; it fixes upon the girl just arriving at puberty in whom the uterine functions are all performed; it invades the stiffening articulations of women at the menopause; it shows itself during the debility which follows miscarriage, protracted labor or flooding; it is a frequent attendant upon venereal disease, upon the cachexiæ of syphilis and gonorrhœa; and it is a common sequela of over-long suckling, of excessive venery, of severe and long continued mental exercise, and of mental distress and bodily exhaustion. \* \* \* the

first and great object of treatment is the improvement of the general health; *tonic remedies long continued, nutritious diet and iodine in the form of the iodide of iron are useful here, and are especially indicated* if, as usual, anæmia be present."

It will be observed that in all cases of wasting, degeneration and morbid change, the use of the iodide of iron is distinctly advised. Even in FURUNCULUS, "however obstinately the crops may appear after a period of exhaustion", this medicament, according to Ziemssen, acts almost magically; so too in various obstinate SKIN DISEASES, where, for instance PAPULÆ appear, which are dependent upon constitutional alterations, (see *Hartshorne*, pg. 394); or in LUPUS (*loq. cit.* 406).

In the treatment of SYPHILITIC ERUPTIONS also, the real object is to impress the diathesis, and here the iodide of iron (*loq. cit.* pg. 413) is most useful as an alterative after the use of purely syphilitic remedies. In a considerable portion of cases, the iodide of iron alone will do the work, which is of course much better for the patient.

DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM are most advantageously treated with Blancard's ferric iodide, for say Stillé and Maisch (*Natl. Disp.* pg. 700, 1887), "In nervous diseases the condition of the blood is impaired and the restoration of this fluid to its normal state is an essential element of the cure." In CHOREA Dr. Broadbent (*Quain's Dict. Med.* pg. 248, 1887), uses the combined remedies, iron and iodine; and in similar cases, Hartshorne (*Prac. Med.* pg. 273), refers to the importance of the iodide of iron in chronic affections. In HYSTERIA also, he finds it (*loq. cit.* 277), of great value in conjunction with cod-liver oil. For the "NEURALGIC STATE" the iodide of iron is the most effective of medicaments, and Dr. Hartshorne states that "the cases of neuralgia which will not be benefitted by it are decidedly exceptional."

ASTHMA, WHOOPING COUGH, RETENTION AND INCONTINENCE OF URINE and SEMINAL EMISSIONS are also amenable, to cure by the iodide of iron "when their presence is dependent upon an exhausted condition of the system." (See Stillé and Maisch, *Nat. Disp.* pg. 701, 1887).

In all of the DISORDERS OF MENSTRUATION the iodide of iron has proved of the highest value; in this, all of the authorities agree. "Scanty as well as excessive menstruation," says Stillé, "is appropriately treated by iron, for either may be due to a deficiency of normal blood." This is so excellent a state-

ment of the truth in the matter that nothing further remains to be said.

Many other diseases due to IMPOVERISHMENT OF THE BLOOD whatever the causes, as also some of the zymoses, are best treated by iodide of iron. Thus for many years our older practitioners have used it in HERPES, CHLOROSIS, SCROFULA, LEUCORRHOEA, LUPLA, and HYDRARTHURUS, until non-medical people have learned to believe that Blancard's *Unalterable Iodide of Iron Pills* are a specific in what they call "RINGWORM," "GREEN SICKNESS" KING'S EVIL" "WHITES" "WENS" AND "WHITE SWELLINGS." In several of the diseases of the RESPIRATORY ORGANS the iodide of iron has been proved, over and over again, to have an exceptional value. The uses of iron in combination is considered important in BRONCHITIS, (see Hartshorne's *Ess. Pract. Med.* pg. 150) and Dr. Quain uses in that malady, the preparations of iodine and iron. The importance of the iodide of iron in DISEASES OF THE BRONCHIAL GLANDS, is very distinctly stated by Dr. Quain (*Dict. of Med.* pg. 194, 1887). "In cases of morbid gland-enlargement treatment has proved very effective. \* \* \* Many such cases have yielded to the use of iodide of iron in the form of pills or syrup." Of the uses of this medicament in PLEURISY—after the acute symptoms have subsided—Professor Loomis says (*Pract. Med.* pg. 150, 1885), "If the patient presents the signs of anæmia, the syrup of the iodide of iron should be given in teaspoonful doses three or four times each day." And concerning the treatment of SUB-ACUTE PLEURISY, Dr. Loomis makes this very important statement, (*loc. cit.* pg. 157) : "THE REMEDIAL AGENT WHICH SEEMS TO ME TO HAVE THE GREATEST POWER IN PROMOTING THE ABSORPTION OF AN EFFUSION IS THE IODIDE OF IRON."

In many DISEASES OF THE PHARYNX the iodide of iron has proved invaluable. In CHRONIC TONSILLITIS for instance, Dr. Loomis uses (in conjunction with local applications), the preparations of iodine and iron for internal administration (*Pract. Med.* pg. 221, 1885.)

In DYSPEPSIA the iodide of iron often gives excellent results, particularly when that affection—so often a result of anxious and hurried business habits—is associated with anæmia. "Respecting the use of iron in dyspepsia," says Dr. Stillé (*Natl. Disp.* pg. 701, 1887,) "the medicine acts chiefly by improving the blood, and thereby increasing the secretion of the gastric juice and the muscular power of the stomach." Dr. Hartshorne also states that in dyspepsia (*Ess. Pract. Med.*

192), "Iodide of iron, in anæmia cases, may be given." There seems also a consensus of medical opinion as to the value of iodide of iron in dyspepsia where faulty nutrition arises from defective metabolism. In other troubles of the alimentary and secretory systems, this medicament is often useful. Thus, according to Dr. Loomis, (*Pract. Med.* pg. 298, 1885), "Iodide of iron will be found especially valuable in AMYLOID CHANGES IN THE INTESTINES;" the same treatment (*loc. cit.* pg. 369), is recommended for AMYLOID CHANGES IN THE LIVER.

In the so-called "diseases of civilization" the ferric iodide of Blancard has proved signally effective. In the most prominent of these affections, which we call NEURASTHENIA—the *debilitas nervosa* of medical writers—and which consists essentially in debility or impaired activity of the nerves, an impoverished condition of the blood is always present. The organs of nutrition have become tired of supplying substance to be wasted in the feverish excitements and undue anxieties of social and business life. The French physicians call a form of neurasthenia, *surmenage*, meaning jaded, wearied and over-riden with the burdens, real or imagined, of modern education. French writers of distinction regard *surmenage intellectuel* as a fruitful cause of anæmia. The young of both sexes are placed in schools where physical development is sacrificed to intellectual culture. A recent writer justly observes that these young people "deprived of exercise, air and light, and a prey to nervous erethism induced by exaggerated mental labor, soon offer a weak resistance to most of the anæmia complications. When they become grown they often retain the morbid impressions of youth, and when the pleasures of life and the pressure of affairs fall upon them, the system breaks down under the strain. Trouble of this kind in both sexes could easily have been avoided by remedying the defective nutrition and supplying the vital energies in augmenting the red globules of the blood. This might easily have been done by a proper use of the ferric iodide. We do not in fact, know of a better means of combating the evil results of *surmenage* than the use of Blancard's preparation of the iodide of iron."

The definition of NEURASTHENIA as given by the American authorities, develops some differences as to the exact nature of the affection, but all agree that, from whatever medical standpoint it may be regarded, the treatment is the same, and this always calls for alterative and reconstituent medicaments. Of these the iodide of iron has justly taken the lead.

As defined by Rosenthal, NEURASTHENIA SPINALIS is a func-

tional weakness of the spinal cord, or a depressed form of spinal irritation. It is commonly known as *nervous debility*, whose seat, according to Rolando, Luys, and others, is in the cerebellum. Other authorities claim that it proceeds from an anæmic condition of the spinal cord. The symptoms are thus described by Dr. Loomis (*Pract. Med.* pg. 1049): "These patients are weak, easily fatigued, and prostrated by slight muscular exertion. They are languid and despondent. There is aching in the limbs, the sleep is broken, they are always tired and subjects of nervous debility. The sexual powers are enfeebled. During the excitement or after alcoholic stimulants, neurasthenic patients are able to perform a large amount of mental labor, but afterward they are greatly prostrated. The emotions are easily excited, and they often imagine that they are the subjects of some grave organic disease." This description is simply a succinct statement of neurasthenia as it is seen and described every day by the general practitioner. The indication is, primarily, the iodide of iron. In some cases physicians have found a mild nervine necessary. Some practitioners, with Dr. Loomis, give strychnine and the hypophosphites with the ferrous preparation. But the prime medicine for this condition is undoubtedly the ferrous iodide. Dr. Bastian (*Quain*, pg. 1028-29), finds that certain of these troubles exist in patients having "a neurotic habit of body" and some of the "transmitted neuroses;" but the treatment he advises is the same, iodine and iron, or their combinations.

Finally, the TONIC AND ALTERATIVE PROPERTIES OF FERROUS IODIDE have very recently received the highest praise from the French authorities in medicine: "Iodide of iron" according to Dr. Delmis (*Progrès Med.*) "belongs to those preparations of iron which possess the best 'tonianaleptic' properties, combining the strengthening iron and the alterative iodine effects. Its efficacy is seen in chlorosis and anæmia, and it is of the highest value in tuberculosis, scrofulosis and syphilis. Iodide of iron is easily soluble and soon passes into the blood, where it is rapidly split up and eliminated. In the urine the iodine appears quickly as sodium iodide; the iron, as iron oxide, is excreted more slowly. It is excreted as iodide of iron by the saliva, the milk, the sweat, and the bronchial mucus."

## BLANCARD'S IODIDE OF IRON PILLS.

The iodide of iron was first introduced into therapeutics in 1824, and was fully tested by Pierquin, Magendie, Piédagnel,

Ricord and Andral; and, later, by Bouchardat, Trousseau, Orfila, Miahle, Hebert, Foucart and others in European hospitals and private practice. But, while all agreed as to the remarkable power of the medicament in cases which had hitherto defied treatment, the unstable character of the composition, its liability to decomposition when exposed to the air or moisture, and its disagreeable taste, were serious drawbacks to its general use.

These difficulties were happily overcome in the year 1850 by Mr. Blancard, who, by an entirely new pharmaceutical process succeeded in perfectly protecting the pure salt under the form of a pill, by this means affording to the profession a *perfect remedy devoid of taste and unalterable*. Thus, nearly forty years ago, this great curative agent was given to the world in a form which made it easily available, while the method of preparation insured its freedom from the irritative properties which are always to be found in badly prepared iodide of iron. The high reputation also, of the manufacturing chemist, tended still further to win the confidence of prescribers, until finally, the preparation was received everywhere and recognized as STANDARD.

The endorsements of this preparation in England, as also in America from the time of its introduction by Dr. Samuel Jackson, are too well known to physicians to need repetition here. But it may not be out of place to present, briefly, some of the endorsements of the medical profession in France.

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### FRENCH ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.

(*Sitting of August 13th, 1870.*)

Professors GUIBORT and LECANU, reporters.

*Extract.*—“This process, which is very different to those generally adopted in pharmacy, seems to have been well conceived. By it the Ferrous Iodide, is covered firstly in substance eminently capable of absorbing the oxygen of the air in its stead, and susceptible of analogous action on the animal economy; and, secondly, with another substance, which is scarcely or not at all hygrometric, and which is moulded perfectly and without the slightest fissure against the sides of the pill, not, however, augmenting its size.

“The Pills that were submitted to us, and which we now show to you, and those which we have seen manufactured, seem to satisfy all practical exigencies by the regularity of their shape, the smallness of their size, the polish of their surface, and above all, their power of resisting the deteriorating effects of external influences.

“In a word, we consider that Blancard's process fulfills perfectly its ob-

ject, namely, the preservation of ferrous iodide within the pills, by means of special manipulation.

"Consequently we have the honour of proposing, gentlemen, that you should decide the *process for the preservation* of Ferrous Iodide Pills, invented by M. Blancard, offers great advantages and shall be published in the *Bulletin* of our labours, &c.—*Adopted.*"—*Bulletin de l'Académie de Médecine*, 1850, p. 1046.

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### DR. BOUGHARDAT,

*Professor to the Faculty of Medicine of Paris, &c., says:*

"I have already prescribed, with advantage, the pills prepared according to M. Blancard's method; his object the perfect preservation of Ferrous Iodide, is completely attained: this excellent medicament will be prescribed more frequently than it used to be."—*Annuaire de Thérapeutique*, 1851, p. 199. "M. Dupasquier has demonstrated that Ferrous Iodide was a precious agent in cases of tubercular diseases; he also insisted on the point that it was very subject to alteration, and that special precautions were necessary in its preparation and distribution. I was also impressed by the same inconveniences, and had adopted some available precautions, but in this matter M. Blancard has been far more successful."—*Nouveau Formulaire Magistral*, 1853, p. 374.

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### PROFESSOR ORFILA,

*Of the Paris Medical Faculty, &c., wrote the following:*

"To preserve Ferrous Iodide Pills indefinitely, they are rolled in iron powder, so as to prevent their oxidation while they are being prepared; then they are soaked in a sort of varnish mixed with balsam of tolu, dissolved in ether, from which the benzoic acid has been withdrawn by previous digestion in water. This method (the *Blancard process*) is based on the volatile qualities of ether and the non-solubility, when thus surrounded, of the substance which it is desired to protect."—*Éléments de Chimie*, 1851, ii., p. 488.

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### PROFESSOR TROUSSEAU,

*Paris Faculty of Medicine, &c., says:*

"It is important that we should be able to obtain pills of ferrous iodide, which cannot be deteriorated by the action of the air or of damp, which have no smell or flavor of iron or iodide, and can be kept for an indefinite time. M. Blancard has succeeded in arriving at this result," &c., &c.—*Traité de Thérapeutique*, 1855, vol. i., p. 6.

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### M. MIALHE,

*Professor to the Faculty of Medicine of Paris, and Chemist to H. M. Napoleon III., states:*

"Of all methods presented up to this day for administering ferrous iodide in its pure condition, the best is the system invented by M. Blancard."—*Chimie Appliquée à la Physiologie et à la Thérapeutique*, 1856, p. 319.



**M. QUEVENNE,**

*Chief Chemist to the Hopital de la Charité, writes:*

"The happy effects of Ferrous Iodide on obstinate cases of chlorosis, on scrofula, in certain cases of chronic syphilis, and, perhaps, even in phthisis have been placed in evidence by Pierquin, Ricord, Piédagnel, Bouchardat, Dupasquier; and we may now count on the constant and sure action of this medicament, formerly so difficult to preserve, for M. Blancard has been able to insure its immutability by his ingenious method."—*Mémoire sur l'action Physiologique et Thérapeutique des Ferrugineux*, 1854, p. 97.

**M. FERMOND,**

*Chief Chemist to the Hospice de la Salpêtrière, writes:*

"Blancard's Pills are not merely an excellent medicament which can be kept with the greatest security, but in the method of covering them we have a new process which may render the greatest service to therapeutic science," &c.—*Globe Industriel*, 1855, p. 390: Account of the Paris Universal Exhibition.

**M. HEBERT,**

*Chief Chemist to the Bicêtre Hospital, states:*

"Among the various preparations which we can recommend is M. Blancard's Ferrous Iodide Pills, ingeniously covered with a thin layer of balsamic and resinous varnish, and inclosed in flasks containing, under the guise of a seal, a fragment of silver leaf, which, being a re-active agent, serves to prove that the iodine has not lost any of its virtues, and consequently demonstrates the unalterable superiority of this product."—*Gazette hebdomadaire de Médecine et de Chirurgie*, 1855, p. 636: Account of the Paris Universal Exhibition.

**DR. FOUGART,**

*Ex-Chief of the Clinical School of the Paris Faculty of Medicine, said:*

"And since we are speaking of the outer coating of medicaments, do not let us forget to mention M. Blancard's Ferrous Iodide Pills. This chemist conceived the happy idea of covering them with an envelope of translucent and odorous balsam of tolu. This covering preserves the iodide from the contact with the air, by which it would be so promptly decomposed, and maintains intact, and for a long time, all its qualities. A thin seal of silver attached to the cork will testify to the smallest alteration in the pills, and thus renders efficient control possible."—*Gazette des Hôpitaux*, 1856, p. 502: Account of Paris Universal Exhibition.

**DR. BOUCHARDAT,**

*Professor to Faculty of Medicine of Paris.*

"It is very difficult to preserve Ferrous Iodide. Many happy efforts have been made to assure the preservation of this precious agent; but no method has proved so thoroughly successful as that proposed by M. Blancard, and which was adopted and inserted in the Pharmacopœia."—*Nouveau Formulaire Magistral*, 1875, p. 420.

## NOTICES IN MEDICAL AND CHEMICAL NEWSPAPERS.

*La Gazette Médicale* (17th April, 1850), *l'Union Médicale* (15th and 22nd August, 1850), *la Gazette des Hôpitaux* (15th March, 1853, and 10th June, 1854), *le Journal de Pharmacie* (October, 1850, p. 250), *l'Abeille Médicale* (5th November, 1856), *le Répertoire de Chimie et de Pharmacie*, *l'Officine*, published by Dorvault, *le Traité de Pharmacie*, de Soubeiran, *le Manuel de Pharmacie*, de Deschamps, d'Avallon; and finally, all the special works of pharmacy and medicine, all the pharmacopœias, have reproduced in their columns descriptions of our method for the preservation of ferrous iodide in pills.

## BLANCARD'S UNALTERABLE

## PILLS AND SYRUP OF THE IODIDE OF IRON

are so thoroughly well known that it seems hardly necessary to repeat the formulæ, yet they are given below as of possible value for reference, although, as stated in the *Jour. de St. Petersburg*, and in the *Moniteur Universel*, as long ago as 1860:

*The Fabrication of Blancard's Pills requires great ability which is only obtained by an exclusive, long and continual practice.*

Each Pill comprises, among other principles, 0 gramme, 05 of Ferrous Iodide and 0 gramme, 01 of finely divided iron affixed to the surface, the whole enveloped in a balsamic and resinous varnish which weighs about 3 milligrammes.

The Ferrous Iodide Syrup is used for the same complaints as the Pill, and is more suitable to children and to persons who are not able to swallow pills. This syrup is prepared by a new method which preserves all its virtues, and contains  $\frac{1}{200}$  per cent. of pure Ferrous Iodide—that is to say, 1 decigramme (2 grains) of iron salts in each 20 grammes of syrup, the equivalent of one table-spoonful.

The doses of both are affixed to the packages containing them.

Like all *Reputable Medicinal Preparations*, Blancard's pills of the iodide of iron *Have Been Counterfeited*. Physicians therefore are warned to examine the signature of each package, which reads as follows:

Chemist, 40 Rue Bonaparte, Paris.

Sole Agents for the United States,

E. FOUGERA & CO., No. 30 NORTH WILLIAM STREET,  
NEW YORK.



