Helleborus fœtidus

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mended in dropsies,[i] and some cutaneous diseases.[k] The watery extract of this root, made after the manner directed in the pharmacopœias, is one of the best and safest preparations of it,[l] when designed for a cathartic, as it contains both the purgative and diuretic parts of the Hellebore; it may be given in a dose from ten grains to a scruple, or more. A tincture of this drug is also ordered in the pharmacopœias, which is preferred for the purposes of an alterative and deobstruent; of which a tea-spoonful twice a day may be considered a common dose.

[i] By Avicenna, Gesner, Klein, Milman, and Bacher whose famous *tonic pills* are thus prepared: ℞ Ext. Helleb. Nig. Myrrhæ Solutæ aa ʒj pulv. Card. bened. ʒiij M. F. f. a. Massa aëre sicco exsiccanda, donec formandis pilulis apta sit, singul. ad gran. semiss. [k] In the lepra Græcorum. Vide Aretæus Oper. ed. Boerh. p. 136. Schmidel Diss. de lepra in Haller's collect. Disp. pract. T. 6. p. 83. And Hildanus mentions the case of a girl who was cured of an obstinate scabies of the face by this extract. l. c. [l] The irritating power of its active matter being considerably abated by the boiling. Lewis's M. M.

HELLEBORUS FOETIDUS. FETID HELLEBORE, Or, BEAR's-FOOT.

SYNONYMA. HELLEBORASTER. *Pharm. Lond.* Helleborus Niger Fœtidus. *Bauh. Pin.* 185. Helleboraster maximus flore & semine prægnans. *Label.* p. 679. Helleboraster maximus. *Gerard. Herb.* p. 977. Helleborus maximus sive Consiligo. *Park.* t. 212. Helleborus caule ramoso, multifloro, foliis multipartitis, serratis, stipulis ovato-lanceolatis, coloratis. *Haller's Stirp. Helv.* p. 1193. Elleborus niger sylvestris adulterinus etiam hyeme virens. *J. Bauh.* 3. p. 880. Veratrum nigrum 3. *Dodon. Pempt.* 382. GREAT BLACK HELLEBORE, or Bear's-Foot. *Setterwort, Raii Synopsis,* p. 271. *Withering's Bot. Arran.* 582. *Relhan's Flor. Cant.* p. 218.

Class Polyandria. *Order* Polygynia. *L. Gen. Plant.* 702.

Ess. Gen. Ch. *Cal.* ∞. *Petala* 5 s. plura. *Nectaria* bilabiata, tubulata. *Caps.* polyspermæ, erectiusculæ.

Sp. Ch. H. caule multifloro folioso, foliis pedatis.

THE root is small, but beset with a prodigious number of slender dark

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mended in dropſies,[i] and ſome cutaneous diſeaſes.[k] The watery extract of this root, made after the manner directed in the pharmacopœias, is one of the beſt and ſafeſt preparations of it,[l] when deſigned for a cathartic, as it contains both the purgative and diuretic parts of the Hellebore; it may be given in a doſe from ten grains to a ſcruple, or more. A tincture of this drug is alſo ordered in the pharmacopœias, which is preferred for the purpoſes of an alterative and deobſtruent; of which a tea-ſpoonful twice a day may be conſidered a common doſe.

[i] By Avicenna, Geſner, Klein, Milman, and Bacher whoſe famous *tonic pills* are thus prepared: ℞ Ext. Helleb. Nig. Myrrhæ Solutæ aa ʒj pulv. Card. bened. ʒiij M. F. ſ. a. Maſſa aëre ſicco exſiccanda, donec formandis pilulis apta ſit, ſingul. ad gran. ſemiſs. [k] In the lepra Græcorum. Vide Aretæus Oper. ed. Boerh. p. 136. Schmidel Diſſ. de lepra in Haller's collect. Diſp. pract. T. 6. p. 83. And Hildanus mentions the caſe of a girl who was cured of an obſtinate ſcabies of the face by this extract. l. c. [l] The irritating power of its active matter being conſiderably abated by the boiling. Lewis's M. M.

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SYNONYMA. HELLEBORASTER. *Pharm. Lond.* Helleborus Niger Fœtidus. *Bauh. Pin.* 185. Helleboraſter maximus flore & ſemine prægnans. *Lobel.* p. 679. Helleboraſter maximus. *Gerard. Herb.* p. 977. Helleborus maximus ſive Conſiligo. *Park.* t. 212. Helleborus caule ramoſo, multifloro, foliis multipartitis, ſerratis, ſtipulis ovato-lanceolatis, coloratis. *Haller's Stirp. Helv.* p. 1193. Elleborus niger ſylveſtris adulterinus etiam hyeme virens. *J. Bauh.* 3. p. 880. Veratrum nigrum 3. *Dodon. Pempt.* 382. GREAT BLACK HELLEBORE, or Bear's-Foot. *Setterwort, Raii Synopſis,* p. 271. *Withering's Bot. Arran.* 582. *Relhan's Flor. Cant.* p. 218.

Claſs Polyandria. *Order* Polygynia. *L. Gen. Plant.* 702.

Eſſ. Gen. Ch. Cal. o. *Petala* 5 ſ. plura. *Nectaria* bilabiata, tubulata. *Caps.* polyſpermæ, erectiuſculæ.

Sp. Ch. H. caule multifloro folioſo, foliis pedatis.

THE root is ſmall, but beſet with a prodigious number of ſlender dark

dark coloured fibres ;[a] the ſtem riſes to the height of a foot and a half, or more, towards the bottom it is round, ſtrong, firm, naked, and marked with alternate cicatrices, the veſtiges of the former leaves ; at the top it divides and ſubdivides into branches, producing many flowers, and is garniſhed with ſcaly leaves, or bracteæ ; the leaves are numerous, and ſtand upon long footſtalks, ſurrounding the middle of the ſtem ; they are divided like the Helleborus niger into ſimple leaves, which are commonly eight or nine, long, narrow, lanceolated, ſerrated, and of a dark green colour ; the ſcaly leaves, placed at the ramifications of the flower ſtem, are ſmooth, trifid, alternate, and often purpliſh, but thoſe near the flowers are oval and pointed ; the flowers are numerous, terminal, pendent, of a roundiſh ſhape, and ſtand upon peduncles, forming a ſort of umbel ; the petals are five, oval, concave, perſiſtent, of a pale green colour, and their margins are uſually tinged with purple ; the ſtamina are the length of the petals ; the antheræ are white ; the germina three, hairy, and ſhaped ſimilarly to thoſe of the Helleborus niger. This plant grows wild in many parts of England, and flowers about February.

The Helleborus niger, though conſtantly uſed in medicine ſince the time of Hippocrates, was the only ſpecies of Hellebore [b] known in the Materia Medica of our pharmacopœias, till the late introduction of this plant by the London College, probably upon the authority of Dr. Biſſet, who recommends the leaves as poſſeſſing extraordinary anthelminthic powers. The ſmell of the recent plant is extremely fetid, and the taſte is bitter, and remarkably acrid, inſomuch, that when chewed, it excoriates the mouth and fauces ; it commonly operates as a cathartic, ſometimes as an emetic, and in large doſes proves highly deleterious.[c] The leaves, the only part noticed by the College, have been long domeſtically employed in this country for their vermifuge effects, and are thus ſpoken of by Gerard : —" The leaves of baſtard Hellebor, dried in an oven, after the bread is drawne out, and the pouder thereof taken in a figge or raiſin, or ſtrawed

[a] Gerard's deſcription we find very juſt. " The root conſiſteth of many ſmall black ſtrings, involved or wrapped one within another very intricately." Johnſon's Gerard, 977.——[b] It muſt be obſerved, that the Heleborus Albus of the ſhops, is a Veratrum.

[c] Vide Threlkeld's Iriſh Herbal ; and in the Oxford Magazine for March 1769, p. 99. fatal caſes are related by John Cook of Oxford.

upon

upon a piece of bread ſpread with honey, and eaten, killeth worms in children exceedingly."[d]—Biſſet ſays, "The great baſtard black Hellebore, or Bear's-Foot, is by far the moſt powerful vermifuge for long round worms of any I have yet experienced. The anthelmintic virtue of this plant is well known to the vulgar in the Dutchy of Cleveland, Yorkſhire, who generally give it to their children when they ſuſpect them to have worms. The decoction of about a dram of the green leaves, or about fifteen grains of the dried leaves in powder, is the uſual doſe adminiſtered to children betwixt four and ſeven years of age; a full or ſufficient doſe generally proves more or leſs emetic, and often looſens the belly a little. It is uſually repeated on two, and ſometimes three ſucceſſive mornings. The ſecond doſe has commonly a greater effect than the firſt, and never fails to expel round worms by ſtool, if there be any lodged in the alimentary tube."

"The juice of the green leaves of the Bear's-Foot, made into a ſyrup with coarſe ſugar, is almoſt the only vermifuge I have uſed againſt round worms for three years paſt. Before preſſing out the juice, I moiſten the bruiſed leaves, which are a little ſucculent, with ſome vinegar, which is a corrector of this medicine, and prevents it from inducing great ſickneſs, or much vomiting. Of this ſyrup I give one tea-ſpoonful at bed-time, and one or two in the morning, on two or three ſucceſſive days, to children betwixt two and ſix years of age; increaſing or diminiſhing the doſe a little, according to the ſtrength of the patient." [e] When this does not open the body, an equal quantity of tincture of rhubarb is directed to be added.

[d] Gerard, l. c. [e] An Eſſay on the Medical Conſtitution of Great Britain, p. 235. and p. 339. Dr. B. ſpeaks of this plant as uſeful alſo in ſome aſthmatic and hypochondriacal diſorders.

We have tried the anthelminthic effects of this plant upon a girl of twenty years of age, (a patient in the Middleſex Diſpenſary) with conſiderable advantage.

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