

DOSES.

In prescribing a medicine, the following circumstances should always be kept in view:—AGE, SEX, TEMPERAMENT, HABIT, CLIMATE, STATE OF STOMACH, and IDIOSYNCRACY.

AGE.

For an adult, suppose the dose to be ONE or 1 drachm.	
Under 1 year, will require only . 1-12th	5 grains.
2 1-8th	8 grains.
3 1-6th	10 grains.
4 1-4th	15 grains.
7 1-3d	1 scruple.
14 half	half drachm.
20 2-3ds	2 scruples.
Above 21 The full dose one	1 drachm.
65 The inverse gradation of the above.	

SEX. Women require smaller doses than men, and the state of the uterine system must never be overlooked.

TEMPERAMENT. Stimulants and purgatives more readily affect the sanguine than the phlegmatic, and consequently the former require smaller doses.

HABITS. The knowledge of these is essential; for those in the habitual use of stimulants and narcotics require larger doses to affect them when labouring under disease, whilst those who have habituated themselves to the use of saline purgatives are more easily affected by these remedies.

CLIMATE. Medicines act differently on the same individual in summer and in winter, and in different climates.

STATE OF STOMACH, and IDIOSYNCRACY. The least active remedies operate very violently on some individuals, owing to a peculiarity of stomach, or rather disposition of body, unconnected with temperament. This state can be discovered only by accident or time; but when it is known, it should always be attended to by the practitioner.

In prescribing, the practitioner should always so regulate the intervals between the doses, that the next dose may be taken before the effect produced by the first is altogether effaced; for by not attending

to this circumstance, the cure is always commencing but never proceeding. It should, however, also be kept in mind that medicines, such as the mercurial salts, arsenic, &c., are apt to accumulate in the system; and danger may thence arise if the doses too rapidly succeed to each other. The action also of some remedies, elaterium and digitalis, for example, continues long after the remedy is left off; and therefore much caution is requisite in avoiding too powerful an effect, by a repetition of them even in diminished doses. (DR. A. T. THOMSON.)

ERRATUM.

In DECOCTUM SARSAPARILLÆ COMPOSITUM, for "3ij of bark of mezereon" read "3ij."