

of Dragons' bones, were long used as medicine in Europe. A live Dragon was discovered in Sussex in 1614.*

It is not so long since all kinds of nastiness, such as powdered Mummy and album græcum were regularly used in English medicine, as now by Chinese doctors. Sir Thomas Browne, in his "Pseudodoxia Epidemica," published in 1646, although he explodes many false notions in vogue at his day, as to the Unicorn, yet gravely discusses the power, as antidotes to poisons, of Unicorns, Elks', and Deers' horns, and their effect on epilepsy when taken as medicine.†

In 1593, a committee of Doctors of Medicine of Augsburg, after a careful examination of a specimen of the very rare drug, the Unicorn's horn (Narwhal's tusk in this instance), in order to confirm their conclusion that the horn was real Monoceros horn and not a forgery, gave an infusion of some of it to a dog poisoned with arsenic, and on the recovery of the animal were thoroughly convinced of the authenticity of the specimen. Their report, duly signed, commences, "Quin etiam visum est nobis, ad experientiam, rerum magistram tanquam κριτήριον descendere."‡ In the work in which this experiment is recorded, follows an account of another, in which a dram of nux vomica was rendered harmless to a dog, by the action of 12 grains of the precious horn, whilst an exactly similar dog died in half an hour, from the same dose without the antidote.

My friend, Dr. J. F. Payne, has pointed out to me, that Unicorn's horn, and the skull of a man who has died by a violent death, appear as medicines in the Official Pharmacopœia of the College of Physicians of London, of 1678. Unicorn's horn, human fat and human skulls, dogs' dung, toads, vipers and worms, are retained in the same Pharmacopœia for 1724. A Committee revised the Pharmacopœia in 1742. They still retained in the list, centipedes, vipers, and lizards. The use of grated human skull as medicine, by uninstructed persons, survived in England as late as 1858 at least.§

* "True and Wonderful, a Discourse relating to a strange and monstrous Serpent or Dragon lately discovered and yet living, to the great annoyance and divers slaughters both of men and cattell by his strong and violent poison. In Sussex, two miles from Horsham, in a wood called St. Leonard's Forest, and thirtie miles from London, this present month of August, 1614." Printed at London, by John Trundle. In this book a picture of the Dragon is given. It is in the form of a large lizard with protruded barbed tongue and rudimentary wings. The dead victims are strewed in front. The Dragon was nine feet in length. Its principal haunt was at a place called Faygate.

† Sir T. Browne's Works, edited by Wilkin, Vol. II. p. 503. London, Pickering, 1836.

‡ "Museum Wormianum seu Historia Rerum Rariorum," pp. 286-287. Olao Worm, Med. Doct. Amstelodami, 1655.

§ Rev. T. F. Thiselton Dyer, "English Folk Lore." London, 1878.