

Indian tobacco to those who wish to give up true tobacco. The FDA has allowed the sale of pills containing lobeline as a smoking deterrent ("Washington Post", January 11, 1982).

Poultices and teas of the whole plant are folk remedies for breast cancer.<sup>4</sup> The embrocation prepared from the plant is a folk remedy for cancer, while the powdered plant, with elm bark, is said to cure felons.<sup>4</sup> Seeds are used as remedy for asthma. Seeds in vinegar are emetic; used for such skin ailments as poison ivy, erysipelas, salt-rheum, and in spasmodic afflictions such as chorea, convulsions, cramps, epilepsy, hysteria, spasms, and tetanus. A few drops of the tincture is said to relieve earache.<sup>28</sup> Oil of lobelia said to be valuable in tetanus. Useful as an expectorant in bronchitis. Has been recommended in asthma, bronchitis, croup, hepatitis, hernia, hydrophobia, meningitis, nephritis, neuralgia, periostitis, peritonitis, phrenitis, pleurisy, pneumonia, spasms, tetanus, and whooping cough. The herb is considered antiasthmatic, antispasmodic, emetic, expectorant, nervine, sialogogue, and sudorific.<sup>27</sup> Homeopaths recommend the tincture for alcoholism, alopecia, amenorrhea, angina pectoris, asthma, cardialgia, cough, croup, deafness, debility, diarrhea, dysmenorrhea, dyspepsia, emphysema, faintness, gallstones, gastralgia, hangover, hayfever, heart ailments, hemorrhoidal discharge, hysteria, meningeal headache, morning sickness, morphinism, nausea, palpitations, pleurisy, pregnancy, psoriasis, seborrhea, shoulder pain, urethral stricture, vaginitis, wens, and whooping cough.<sup>30</sup>

Contains several dangerous alkaloids, from 0.36 to 2.25% lobeline, 8-10-diethyl lobelidol, 8-ethyl norlobelol-I, isolobinanidine, isolobinine, lelobanidines I, II, lobelanidine, lobelanine, lobeline, lobinalidine, lobinaline, lobinanidine, lobinine, 8-methyl-10-ethyl-lobelidol, 8-methyl-10-phenyl-lobelidol, norlelobanidine, norlobelanidine, and norlobelanine. HCN tests were negative. Caoutchouc, resin, fat, inflatin, and wax have also been identified.

**Toxicity** — "Toxic, in large doses may cause medullary paralysis; can be fatal."<sup>17</sup> In excess, may produce great depression, nausea, cold sweats, and possibly death.<sup>2</sup> Hardin and Arena<sup>34</sup> list the symptoms of poisoning, nausea, progressive vomiting, exhaustion and weakness, prostration, stupor, tremors, convulsions, coma, and death. There's an old story of Sam Thompson who fatally poisoned one of his patients, Ezra Lovett, by overadministration of lobelia. He was tried for murder but released because no one should have been dumb enough to take him seriously.<sup>19</sup> Few things mentioned by Jethro Kloss in his "Back to Eden" seem more dangerous to me personally (I have chewed fresh lobelia on many occasions) than some of his lobelia recommendations" . . . very beneficial if given in connection with other measures, as an enema of catnip infusion morning and evening. The enema should be given even if the patient is delirious. It will relieve the brain."<sup>44</sup> Kloss devotes more than 25 pages to lobelia, describing it as "the most powerful relaxant known among herbs that have no harmful effects." Both Tierra<sup>28</sup> and Kloss<sup>44</sup> recommend some rather dangerous herbs as enemas, a practice I cannot recommend, especially with poisonous herbs or herbs of dubious salubrity. Remember the warning: *Death has resulted from improper use of this drug as a home remedy.*

**To the physician** — They recommend "gastric lavage or emesis; artificial respiration; atropine 2 mg IM as needed."