

The absence of reference to certain remedies which have been mentioned by some as especially useful in the treatment of this neurosis may be briefly noted. Belladonna has been supposed to have a special value. We once used it to the extent of dry mouth and disturbed vision during the opiate withdrawal, but have quite abandoned it, for the simple reason that we found, on trial, patients did fully as well without it, and the freedom from its peculiar effect certainly added to their comfort. Whatever its antagonistic influence in acute opium taking we do not believe it possesses any such virtue in the chronic form.

Quinine in large doses, from the outset, or grs. II. to IV., increasing with the opiate reduction, has been thought to have special value. We have failed to note it, though as a tonic it is well adapted to all cases, and in some patients, 20 gr. doses as an anodyne or soporific act well.

Strychnine is another valued tonic, especially in a very gradual opiate decrease, or at weekly or fortnightly reductions. It has no other claim.

Hydrocyanic acid dilute, aconite and veratrum viride have been suggested. Why, we fail to understand.

Jamaica dogwood has been commended as an opiate substitute, and Morse lauds it extravagantly. He, however, is an enthusiast, and, as such, goes quite too far.

Regarding its use, he says; "coca cures the opium habit, Jamaica dogwood does more than this, it is prophylactic of this disorder. By its use the baneful habit is forbidden the system. This, we think, is nonsense, and have no hesitation in declaring our belief that it is a most mistaken opinion.

And, again, "As an hypnotic opium is not of greater worth," and, "as an anodyne, opium is its only peer." Our experience is entirely contrary to any such assertions. We have made frequent trial of it, the results were uneven. In a few cases the minority, as an anodyne, it seemed efficient. As a hypnotic, it always failed. Morse puts the dose at "fld. ext.: dose min. v. xv." Our ill result, certainly, was not due to the limited quantity, for we usually gave it in *two drachm* doses. More recent trials have proved utter failures. One as an anodyne in neuralgia, four one drachm doses, half hour interval, no relief whatever. Another, as a soporific: six one drachm doses, same interval, no sleep. It is a nauseous drug, and the aversion to continuing it

may sometimes account for its failure. Our patients, too, may be peculiar, but, be that as it may, we have little faith in its value, and now seldom employ it.

Avena sativa has been largely lauded. We have given it again and again, in doses large and small, in water hot and cold, at intervals short and long, and always found it *worthless, absolutely good for nothing*. Bottle after bottle has been left with us by those who made trial of it in vain, and their experience accords with many who have written us, some of whom have taken the "drug" in *ounce* doses several times daily, and used *pounds* of it in the trial, without good!!! Let no one be beguiled into the belief that oats fills the "long felt want." Correspondence has furnished material for a paper which will, we think, quite disprove its vaunted virtue.

Hyoscyamia is a powerful drug, and in some cases may be of service. We once used it, but the need for it now seldom arises. Its employment should be limited to patients in good general condition, in whom the opiate disusing is attended with unusual insomnia and motor activity. In such instances its good effect is sometimes surprising, bringing quiet and sleep with a promptness and power almost startling. We use Merck's amorphous dose 1-12 to 1-16 of a grain hypodermically. This in these patients may be deemed the usual dose. With some, however, this causes a mild delirium without sleep, and in such cases the dose must be increased. Regarding its safety, Dr. John C. Shaw, superintendent of the King's Co. Insane Asylum, has assured us that it is largely given in that institution with as little fear of ill effects as would attend the use of morphia.

The new alkaloid of Indian hemp, tannæ of cannabin, commended by German authority, proved an entire failure in our hands. In ordinary insomnia, however, it may act well.

The latest claimant for professional favor as a soporific is paraldehyde. Dujardin Beaumetz lauds it, and claims special value in these cases. Our experience does not warrant such statement. In full doses, 4 to 8 grammes, 60 to 120 minims. It sometimes brings sleep; unlike chloral, in the early nights of the opium abstinence, it does not excite. In most cases both are inferior to Indian hemp. It is best given in one half to one ounce of syrup flavored with peppermint, ginger or vanilla, and then added to a wineglassful or two of ice water.