

cond to decompose what cannot thus be got rid of. The first may be effected by emetics and the stomach pump: I should be inclined to rely most on the latter. The second will *perhaps* be best effected by the alkaline earths, although I should rather suspect the activity of chromate of lime."

Immediately before taking the poison, he had taken a large mess of pottage, with which the poison had become mixed; otherwise such a dose would probably have been speedily fatal, from the shock to the nervous system.

Mr. Taylor mentions two other cases of poisoning from bichromate of potass; one fatal in twelve, the other in *five* hours. In the first there had been neither vomiting nor purging; in the second, vomiting only.

"With respect to the treatment of the acute stage of poisoning, the removal of the salt from the alimentary canal by emetics, or the free use of the stomach-pump, is the principal object. A mixture of carbonate of magnesia, or of lime in linseed-tea, might be exhibited with benefit. Brown sugar, dissolved in water at 102°, tends to decompose the chromic acid, and to reduce it to the less irritating state of oxide of chromium. Chemical antidotes can, however, be of little benefit, unless administered within a few minutes after the poison has been swallowed."

16.—Poisoning of a child seven years old from eating *green* ornamental confectionary. The green colouring matter was *Scheele's green*, or arsenite of copper.

"The symptoms were similar to those which have been observed in numerous other cases of poisoning by confectionary among children. Notwithstanding the perfect insolubility of this poison in water, it is clear that this does not prevent its rapid absorption, when it has entered the stomach; and this fact should teach caution in drawing an inference respecting the *inertness* of a metallic salt, merely because water does not dissolve it. The symptoms of poisoning with arsenic appeared in a few minutes. The thirst, burning sensation in the throat and the redness of the conjunctivæ were special symptoms, indicative of the action of the poison."

"\* \* \* \* \* The sale of this powerful poison for use in confectionary should be immediately prohibited by law. There is scarcely a year passes without numerous accidents being reported to have occurred from this pernicious practice."

17.—A case of poisoning from eating some flowers, the petals of the *Laburnum* (*cytisis*) . . . . The symptoms came on in fifteen minutes, and vomiting supervened; an emetic was given which effectually cleared the stomach of the flowers. The symptoms gradually abated, and the child soon recovered. The stomach seems to have been the only part affected.

Another case of poisoning from laburnum flowers is referred to in which the nervous system was principally affected, the symptoms being those of great prostration, laborious breathing, twitchings of the muscles of the face with efforts to vomit. These were all relieved by the flowers being expelled by an emetic. Other similar cases are on record. "Cytisine, the supposed active principle of the laburnum, has been detected in the seeds—whether this exists in the flowers has not been ascertained." Every part of the tree seems highly poisonous.

[N.B.—The *cytisis* appears to be a genus almost unknown on the continent of North America. Pursh describes the *cytisis rhombifolius* as found in Louisiana, but it does not seem to be noticed by later botanists. The *Laburnum* will not stand the cold of our winters without great care.]