

phine so manufactured is used illicitly. The habitual use of morphine is steadily becoming a national scourge. Our Chinese population is smaller than it was twenty years ago, still we are importing more than twice the amount of smoking opium than was imported then. Similar conditions exist in England, the country which, for her own commercial gain, against the entreaties and remonstrances of China, fastened the opium habit upon the Orient, and which now finds itself becoming a victim of the same curse and its chickens coming home to roose.—*New York State Journal of Medicine*.

The Treatment of Tabes.

This paper is devoted to the value of the mercurial treatment of *tabes dorsalis*. The prophylactic action of mercury is strongly emphasised. It is true that many have asserted that the mercurial treatment of syphilis predisposes to tabes, but there is very little evidence in support of this, and Fournier's statistics disprove it, as a considerable proportion of his cases of tabes were never treated by mercury, and of the others the proportion diminished with the increased duration of the mercurial treatment.

The author believes that occasionally complete cure of tabes may be achieved by rigorous mercurial treatment, and cites a few cases in support of his belief; but these are not critically selected and many of them are certainly open to doubt. But if complete cure is rare, it is certainly not uncommon to see the disease at least arrested by mercurial treatment; the author asserts that in none of a dozen cases treated by him in this way during the past six to eight years has the disease progressed or new symptoms appeared, while several of the patients have improved.

Finally, it is pointed out that, in some cases the shooting pains and paresthenia are favorably influenced by anti-syphilitic treatment, though in others the administration of mercury seems to increase or bring on the pains.—*Milan-Progress Med.—Med. Chronicle*.

Treatment of Bronchopneumonic Catarrh.

A. Ferrata and A. Golonelli, of the Medical Clinic of the University, Parma, report upon the results of styracol therapy in bronchopneumonic affections, which were observed in the clinic of the University of Parma during three years. It can be stated with certainty that styracol, which is a guaiacol preparation, shows a decided influence upon the mucous membranes of the bronchi. After the use of styracol the night-sweats will