

Nepenthe—The Standard Anodyne and Opiate.

Pereira says: "Opium is the most valuable remedy of the *Materia Medica*. For other medicines we have one or more substitutes; for opium none—at least in the large majority of cases in which its peculiar and beneficial effects are required."

The dictum of the great pharmacologist made more than half a century ago, still holds good. At a recent annual meeting of the British Medical Association, one of the most eminent physicians of the present day, after reviewing the action and utility of the numerous hypnotics and analgesics lately introduced, said, "When sleeplessness is due to pain, there can be no doubt that no other hypnotic approaches opium in value, and in such cases it has always appeared to me that the possible evils consequent on the administration of opium are minimized.

"After opium, though at a long interval, comes chloral, which undoubtedly at times relieves pain, and below chloral in efficacy come the other hypnotics.

In cardiac affections, accompanied by sleeplessness, opium stands out prominently as the best soporific, especially when given in the form of subcutaneous injections."

The ordinary preparations of opium and its alkaloids produce many unpleasant symptoms—such as nausea, headache and constipation—which are a great restriction to the employment of the drug, and in numerous instances render its administration wholly inadmissible.

The originators of the preparation known as "Nepenthe" have, by a carefully elaborated pharmaceutical process, eliminated all constituents which give rise to these disagreeable after effects, whilst retaining in the fullest degree the unrivalled sleep-producing and pain-allaying properties of the drug.

That this result has been successfully achieved is proved by the fact that, although originally introduced to the medical profession in Great Britain many years ago, Nepenthe still holds the first position as the sedative and hypnotic *par excellence*, and is constantly and increasingly prescribed by physicians in all parts of the world.

The *Lancet* Analytical Report on Nepenthe: "Nepenthe, or Anodyne Tincture, prepared by Messrs. Ferris & Co., Bristol.—This preparation really consists, as stated, solely of opium, resembling somewhat the liquid extract of the British Pharmacopeia. It is claimed for it that it does not produce headache, stupor, giddiness, depression of spirits, diminution of nervous energy, prostration of strength, or constipation; it is doubtless less stimulating than those preparations of opium made with the solid and crude drug, and further commendation of Nepenthe is its uniformity of strength."