

what higher circles, combines in destroying hundreds by the consequent Delirium tremens.

Although drunkenness abounded in the army during the campaigns of William the First, the Duke of Marlborough, the Duke of Cumberland, and George the Second, and "our men" drank deeply, as well as "swore terribly in Flanders," we hear nothing of the disease in the works of contemporary medical writers; yet we may presume that many cases must have occurred, and passed undistinguished from other affections of the brain. At the siege of Quebec, I believe, there is no record of its occurrence amongst the besiegers; although they were so intemperate that it was necessary for General Wolfe to direct in orders that so many ~~other~~ men should be paraded for a particular duty.*

Indeed, until about the beginning of the present century, little was known of Delirium tremens, as a distinct and definite disease; and it continued to be confounded with cerebral maladies of a very different character, and demanding different and opposite treatment. And we may well imagine how often fatal results must have ensued flowing in this asthenic complaint. In the early Peninsular campaigns of the Duke of Wellington, it was often slurred over in the returns of Medical Officers as "Ebriositas," "Dyspepsia," "Phrenitis," or "Mania;" whilst the soldiers, with much propriety and discrimination, called the disease "the horrors."

Dr. Blake, and one or two other authors, assert that the cessation of stimulating drink is the immediate cause of the disease. Judging from an experience derived from several hundred cases, and the known opinions of several medical friends, I am inclined to believe that this is quite erroneous; and that the number of instances of Delirium tremens arising from continued stimulation, compared with those resulting from its cessation, is at least twenty to one.

Sots, or muddlers, who generally keep clear of absolute drunkenness, are especially predisposed to the disease, when they exceed a little in their potations, and approach too close to full intoxication.

In the few cases of traumatic Delirium tremens that have come under my notice, there was reason to believe that a tendency to contract the disease existed, arising from previous habits of intemperance; or, in the more sounding language of a work of great merit, "in whose constitutions the *chromstatic diathesis* had been established by frequent excesses."†

* The writer has seen an order book of General Wolfe, during the siege of Quebec, containing several such orders. But none of this kind immediately preceded the mounting of the heights of Abraham, when the excitement of the coming fight appears to have extinguished all desire for drink. This is exactly what took place on the eve of the great battles in the Peninsula.

†Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine, including italics.