

them as by Europeans are sulphur, acetate of copper, castor oil, gamboge, aloes, rhubarb, aconite, veratrum, colchicum, camphor, musk and opium. They have sternutatories, sialagogues and anthelmintics analogous to ours. Further, they pretend to possess a number of substances capable of preventing drunkenness (*Betonica officinalis*, *Hovenia dulcis*, *Chrysanthemum album*, nutmeg and borax), and others exercising an influence upon the lactic secretion, either by suspending it (sprouted barley) or increasing it (*Silene? Alisma plantago*).

One thing is very remarkable, that surgical anæsthesia, general and local, has long been used in China. The great surgeon, Houa-To, who advocated hydropathy, used a species of *Atropa* described in the 'Pun-Tsaou,' which produced an insensibility sufficient to permit him to perform important operations upon the abdomen. The *Datura alba* has similar properties. Besides these, the *Azalea procumbens*, which they often associate with andromeda and henbane as a narcotic, produces, when mixed with powdered aconite root, a local anæsthesia which is utilized for small operations.

Chinese medical men have recognized that there is an antagonism between certain substances; that they are incompatible in the same formula, and that they may be used reciprocally as antidotes. Thus, it is recommended to avoid the association of ta-ky (a species of *Carduus*) with *Glycyrrhiza*, *Chamædaphne* and *Helminthocorton*; wasp stings, and the bites of scorpions, and even of venomous serpents, are recommended to be treated by the *Bidens parviflora*; *Nelumbo* is to be administered to those poisoned by crabs, and the toxic effects of fungi averted by alum or the root of *Cichorium*, and those of aconite by *Libanotis*. An efficacious antidote to arsenic is said to exist in the *Phaseolus angulatus*, which would lead to the supposition that this species, belonging to a harmless genus, possesses exceptionally a pharmaco-dynamic activity comparable to that of the Calabar bean, and superior to that of another Leguminous plant, the *Cytisus Laburnum*, the toxic properties of which are perhaps analogous to those of the exotic *Phaseolus*.

Some of the observations of the Chinese show considerable sagacity, such as the favorable effects of sprouted barley in digestive disorders, the dispersive action exercised by nitre and sal ammoniac upon opacities of the cornea; the immunity from goitre enjoyed by persons drinking water preserved in leaden vessels, a circumstance which appears to point to the preparations of lead as preventive of that disease. Moreover, some of the substances vaunted as remedies in the East probably deserve testing by experiment and clinical observation. Such are the *Anemarrhena asphodeloides* employed for the same purposes as squills; the *Pardanthus chinensis*, to which is attributed various and remarkable properties; the *Pupalia geniculata*, the acrid root of which is a sialagogue, and employed in