

vasomotor systems ; and the nervous disorders produced by its use, different cases and under different circumstances, such as age, climate, susceptibility, temperament, and general constitutional conditions, are such as are due to overstimulation and depression, the result of the reaction following overstimulation of the various nerve-centres, and may be grouped as follows :

"Insomnia and restlessness, partly through its stimulating action on the brain-cells and partly through stimulation of the pulse and respiration, as a subsidence of respiration is necessary to sleep.

"Headache, vertigo, ringing in the ears, flashes of light, mental dulness and confusion, apprehension of evil, with exhaustion of mind and disinclination to mental exertion.

"Increased and irregular action of the heart, increased respiration, muscular tremor, 'nervousness,' disinclination to physical exertion, hyperesthesia, paresthesia, heat and flushings of the body."—*The Dietetic and Hygienic Gazette*.

### EXPERT TESTIMONY.

Dallas Sanders, of the Philadelphia Bar, read by invitation, before the Philadelphia County Medical Society, May 25th, 1898, a paper upon this subject, in which he said :

"No clearly definite rule is to be found in the books as to what constitutes an expert. According to the 'Century Dictionary,' an expert witness is 'in law, a person who, by virtue of special acquired knowledge or experience on a subject presumably not within the knowledge of men generally, may testify in a court of justice to matters of opinion thereon, as distinguished from ordinary witnesses, who can in general testify only to facts.' Justice Sharswood said in 1869, in *The Ardesco Oil Company vs. Gilson*, 63 Pa., 146, that a court would not allow the

opinion of the witness, not a doctor, as to the effect of an injury to the plaintiff's health, to be admitted as evidence. *Water Co. vs. Stewartson*, 96 Pa., 436. It is proper, however, for a physician, after he has described the injuries found on the body of the deceased, to state what, in his opinion, caused her death and how the injuries were inflicted. *Commonwealth vs. Crossmire*, 156 Pa., 304.

"The opinion of a witness who neither knows nor can know more about the subject matter than the jury, and who must draw his deductions from facts already in the possession of the jury, is not admissible. Were it otherwise, the opinions of the jurors upon the most obvious facts might be always shaped for them by testimony of so-called experts, and thus would a case be constantly liable to be determined, not by the opinions and judgment of the jury, but by the opinion and judgment of the witnesses. *Dineoski vs. Coal Co.*, 157 Pa., 273.

"Before a doctor was asked to give his professional opinion as to whether a fractured limb had been skilfully or unskilfully treated, he had testified that he had graduated at a medical college and had subsequently served as a surgeon for three years in the army, and that he had examined and treated the plaintiff's injured limb. The court held that he was competent to testify as an expert. *Olmsted & Bailey vs. Gere*, 200 Pa., 127.

"A witness called to testify as to the chemical purity of certain whiskey stated that his profession was that of an attorney-at-law—he had practiced it for forty years, and had never been a practising chemist. It was decided that he was not qualified as an expert. *Hass vs. Marshall*, S. C. May 22nd, 1888, C. P. of York County.

"Witnesses, except experts, who are produced in court and examined, are not allowed to give their opinions or their beliefs. They are merely produced in court to testify as to the facts that have come under their