

These two elements of treatment—the opium and the quietude—will be sure to moderate if not arrest the passages. The practitioner on his next visit to the patient, at the expiration of three or four hours, will find him better, and ought, with a cheerful countenance, to encourage his patient and assure him that his case is under control. The relief that the patient now experiences, and the hopeful assurance of his physician, will calm that anxiety which was a large cause of the bowel complaint.

Should there remain a tendency to purgation still, the same dose may, or rather ought to be repeated, which, with a persistence of repose, moderate warmth, and a few hours of sleep, will produce some twelve or more hours' suspension of the complaint. Should the practitioner, after this interval of relief, judge proper to move the bowels gently, with a view of discharging any of the diarrhœic matter that he may suppose has remained, he may do so by means of a small dose of castor-oil, or a little compound tincture of rhubarb. When this has operated to his satisfaction, he may repeat the anodyne already prescribed, in order to completely calm the intestinal relaxation. There are few cases that will not readily yield to this soothing treatment. No irritating laxative—such as salts, magnesia, senna, or any included under the