

fortnight, "spreeing," as the phrase goes, among the ship carpenters and other pleasure-loving folks in whom the neighbourhood abounds. On the 14th January he felt indisposed, but not very severely, and kept to the house, trusting that the uneasy sensation would pass away. As he felt much worse next day medical assistance was sought from a physician who has kindly supplied me with the following particulars of the case:

*Case I.*—The messenger asked for medicine for a man who had lately been drinking and was then suffering from the symptoms that usually follow excesses of this kind, but chiefly complained of the vomiting. Bismuth was then prescribed, with milk and lime water, but no improvement having taken place, the doctor saw him on the following day (16th) and found him presenting the symptoms of a smart febricular attack, with incessant vomiting and pain referred to the epigastrium. Headache was present, but not very severe. All these symptoms were in perfect accordance with the previous history, and supported the diagnosis of an excess in drinking. The milk and bismuth were continued with the addition of a mustard poultice to the epigastrium. On the 17th the vomiting was relieved and the headache had gone, but a new and strange symptom had appeared—bleeding from the gums and from the respiratory mucous membrane. The blood expectorated was fresh and there was no physical sign of anything being wrong with the lung. A careful examination failed to elicit anything that could account for the mucous hæmorrhage except that during his maritime experience, which included a voyage of seventeen months' duration, the patient had suffered from a scorbutic attack. Constipation, which had previously existed, was checked by a purgative.

So far there had been nothing to excite apprehension or foreshadow the rapidly approaching catastrophe. But on the 17th January a startling change had taken place in the patient's condition. He was passing blood freely from all the mucous membranes, from two old cicatrices now broken down, from a recent scratch upon the face, and from one ear, the cuticle of which had begun to peel off in consequence of a recent frost-bite. The surface of the body was covered with ecchymotic spots, which were largest and best marked upon the limbs; those on the body being smaller and brighter in color. On the tongue these spots assumed the appearance of blood-blisters, which constituted the only elevation of surface that could be seen anywhere. The pulse was rapid, very soft and feeble, and the whole appearance was that of a man rapidly sinking from some form of malignant blood-poisoning. A consultation was held. Beef-tea and brandy were