

bedroom adjoining, and returned, to the no small astonishment of his friends, naked and dancing wildly about, and attempting to jump out of the window. I was sent for, and upon questioning him, found that he had been eating camphor, as described above. I found him in a state of great excitement, almost amounting to phrenzy, his pulse 180 and small—conjunctiva injected—pupil not much dilated, scarcely sensible to light—countenance pale and haggard—breathing hurried, and at times greatly laboured—a frequent desire to make water, with some pain in the course of the spermatic vessels—urine quite clear, but having, as well as the perspiration, a very strong odour of camphor—a clammy sweat breaking out over the body. Drachm doses of vinum opii, which happened to be at hand, were administered every fifteen minutes. After the third dose there was a tendency to vomiting, which was freely encouraged by giving tepid water and vinegar. Some of the camphor was thrown up with the contents of the stomach. After the vomiting, drowsiness came on; but as the pulse was still very small, and the respiration hurried, it was thought advisable to keep him awake, and keep up the administration of the vin. opii. in doses of ʒss. every twenty minutes. After a few doses the pulse became fuller and less frequent—the countenance much less anxious—the respiration less hurried, and he was allowed to fall into a sleep, in which he continued for about three hours, starting at intervals, but becoming gradually composed. When he awoke, he had but a very confused idea of what had occurred; recollected something about camphor, and asked “What have I been doing? Have I been making a fool of myself?” &c. There was very little headache or stupor after the opium, but the stomach and bladder were irritable for a few days. These and all other unpleasant symptoms gradually disappeared after the use of a few bottles of Caledonia water. For some days he complained that he could not take his usual glass of wine at dinner, without feeling the effect upon his head; this would probably arise from the action of the camphor on his brain, as well as upon the other organs of the body. He described the sensation while under the influence of the camphor as most exhilarating, but gradually becoming oppressive. From the quantity of camphor taken, I have very little doubt this might have proved a fatal case, but for the timely use of the opium; and as wine is recommended in these cases; perhaps the vinum opii. is one of the best forms for its administration.

POISONING BY CORROSIVE SUBLIMATE.

To the Editors of the British American Journal of Medical and Physical Science.

The subjoined memoranda of a case of poisoning with the bichloride of mercury, I transmit to you for publication, if you consider them worthy of it, in the hope that they may prove beneficial to any brother practitioner, should a similar case ever occur to him. The unusual features of this instance, are the shortness of time that elapsed from the reception of the poison into the stomach, to the fatal termination, and the total absence of circumstances to lead to the suspicion of poison at the first appearance of the symptoms.

THEOPHILUS MACK, M. D.

St. Catherines, May 7, 1846.

Upon my return from the Country on the afternoon of the 1st April ult., I found a messenger from Samuel Stinson, Innkeeper of this Town, who stated Stinson was suffering extreme agony from having swallowed that morning two ounces of Epsom salts, which he had purchased at a grocers, and requesting my immediate attendance. I accompanied the messenger to Stinson's house.

The patient was about forty years of age, dark complexion, slightly intemperate in his habits, had been married seventeen years, with issue, and had previously never been affected with any serious disease. He told me that his bowels had been relaxed, and gave me this as a reason for having taken the salts. He expressed his conviction of approaching dissolution, and desired that the salts should be examined. He was constantly moaning, and complained of burning heat at the scrobiculus and stomach and pharynx, his face was flushed, expressive of intense suffering, and swollen, his voice was husky, deglutition painful, constant vomiting of bloody mucus with other contents of the stomach. He had slimy evacuations mixed with blood, and finally dysenteric; complained of dysuria, and the catheter produced a scanty discharge of bloody urine; pain on pressing epigastrium; extremities cold; clammy diaphoresis; pulse small, senses perfect, and heart's impulse weak. Staff Surgeon J. Mair, M. D., who was in attendance, informed me that at 10 o'clock, A. M., he found the patient as I have described, and upon inquiring the cause of his illness he had been told that it was consequent upon taking, a short time before, two ounces of epsom salts mixed with beer, and a portion of the salts were shewn to him and Dr. Carson who had also been sent for. Tasting and inspecting these they had considered them pure Crystals of the ordinary Sulphate of Magnesia of commerce; they had then administered cautiously, from the impression that the medicine might have produced severe symptoms from having been swallowed imperfectly dissolved in beer; chalk was then given as an antidote