

majority of cases it is only in a well-regulated institution, under experienced physicians and skilled attendants, that a satisfactory measure of success can be attained. Under these latter circumstances the majority of all cases of narcotic addiction that are free from serious organic disease are curable. And this desirable end can be reached without inflicting upon these helpless and pitiable objects of our care that painful ordeal inseparable from a less skillful line of treatment, put into practise by those who do not understand, and who consequently mismanage, such cases.

Whilst the phenomena presented in narcotic addiction vary with the special narcotic used, each of which have characteristics of their own, the general lines of treatment, with slight variations, found to be most successful with one form of addiction will also prove satisfactory with others; therefore, as opium and its derivatives is the drug most commonly met with, and perhaps the most difficult to combat, the successful treatment of this neurosis may be deemed typical of other forms of narcotic addiction.

There is no specific for the treatment of this disease. There have been, from time to time, many drugs vaunted for this purpose, the majority of which are mere substitutes. Many of them may appear to act for a time, but all fall far short of the object desired, with the probability that their use will produce complications worse than the original malady. Substitution is not curing disease. it is simply multiplying the evils to be encountered and causing a double addiction where only a single one previously existed.

THE LEVANSTINE METHOD.

Amongst the earlier attempts at treatment of the opium neurosis was that of sudden and absolute deprivation of the drug, known as the "Levanstine method." The only way in which this barbarous and unscientific mode of treatment can be carried out is, by placing the patient in a padded room with no furniture whatever, and having a trustworthy attendant constantly with him, day and night. He is now deprived of all opiate and given such nourishment and stimulants as he can retain. Here he remains undergoing, for days and weeks, from lack of his accustomed drug, untold tortures which bring him into the "valley of the shadow of death" from which, if he emerges alive, it will be rather in spite of the treatment than on account of it. Under any circumstance he will be upon his exit but a shadow of his former self, a physical and mental wreck, which it will take months to restore; and, peradventure, his nervous system will present a scar which will be indelible during the remainder of his unfortunate life.