

Such are again Pereira's remarks, and let us now see furthermore what Stillé says, and in this matter he quotes from Fleming's thesis in which the symptoms are detailed in accordance with four different degrees of doses\*—among the most prominent of which are nausea, numbness, tingling, feeling of distention of the lips and tongue, tingling at the tips of the fingers and lips, muscular weakness with indisposition for exertion either mental or corporeal, diminution of force and frequency in both pulse and respiration, lethargy; the patient feeling as if dying from loss of blood; countenance becomes pale and sunken and the prostration increases, "consciousness usually remains." But in extreme cases the patient becomes blind, deaf, and speechless; muscular tremors or convulsions supervene, and death takes place by syncope.

Dr. Geoghegan † published an interesting case of poisoning by the root of the aconite, in the Dublin Journal of the Medical Sciences, in which the unfortunate man, who had partaken of greens in which the root of aconite was intentionally mixed by his wife, complained of a "sensation of swelling of the face," a general feeling of numbness and cramping of the skin, followed by "restlessness, dimness of vision, and stupor amounting to insensibility." About an hour after the meal he was found by a neighbor speechless, frothing at the nose and mouth, hands and jaws clenched, appearing occasionally as if dead (syncope) and again reviving,"—"vomiting" came on with "slight purging."

I do not think it necessary to multiply authorities to demonstrate that the symptoms of poisoning by digitalis and aconite are quite specific in each case, and so characteristic as to render it a matter of surprise that the two drugs should be confounded. In poisoning by digitalis, the peculiar symptoms of numbness of the extremities, or pricking, or tingling, are entirely absent, as well are those of the same peculiar character in the face, head, and throat. And when these facts are coupled with the declaration of Mr. Sturton, jun., himself, ‡ as well as that of Mr. Sturton, sen., in regard to the height of the tincture of digitalis § in the bottle which contained it, I think there can be little doubt but that aconite, not digitalis, was the cause of death.

\* Stillé's Therapeutics, vol. 2, p. 355.

† Dublin Journal of Medical Science, vol. 19, p. 404.

‡ "Young Sturton did not think digitalis was the cause of his error; he thought it might be aconite." *Evidence of Dr. Marsden*. It appears there was a small bottle of tr. aconite on the counter, but whether Fleming's tincture or not, does not appear. In all probability it was not Fleming's tincture, as the symptoms would have developed themselves sooner.

§ "I am quite satisfied that no tincture has gone out of that bottle for the last three months, and this opinion is deduced from the appearance of the film at the margin of the liquid in the bottle."—*Evidence of S. Sturton*.