

entertained. In more than one-half of the cases coming under my own observation, arsenic has proved quite useless; not only so, but in many of them its administration has been followed by various untoward symptoms, as loss of appetite, epigastric discomfort, and painful superficial erosions in the mouth. These injurious effects were not coincidences in at least most of the cases, as they always followed the administration of the drug and ceased on its withdrawal.

The variable course of the disease when left to itself is well illustrated in the case of a man of 40 under my care four years ago. He had been steadily growing worse during his stay in the hospital, until he could scarcely be roused to take even water. Blood-stained saliva flowed from his mouth, wetting and staining his pillow cover. I had occasion to be absent for four days, and on my return I found that he had not only regained full consciousness, but also sufficient strength to return home, a distance of 100 miles. He improved so much as to be able to work at his trade of stonemason all the following summer. He relapsed during the winter and died in the following spring. Had this man come under observation when in the extremely low state, and could have been given arsenic freely, the almost inevitable inference would have been that his improvement resulted from the effects of the medicine. But he was able to take neither arsenic nor any other drug.

I may cite another case, that of a physician, a fellow student of my own, showing that an unfavourable change may be equally marked. He had been ailing for three years, sometimes better and sometimes worse. He could not bear 10 minims of Fowler's solution daily for a week without having aphthous patches in the mouth and distress in the epigastrium. In November of the third year of his illness his blood contained over 5,000,000 red corpuscles of nearly normal character per cmm., and he felt himself quite recovered. He resumed his practice, but in a week found himself quite unequal to it. He declined rapidly and died six weeks later.

I have another physician under observation at present whose history is even more remarkable as showing an unprecedented interval of apparent recovery. I treated him in 1889 for a very severe manifestation of pernicious anaemia, from which he recovered so as to be in excellent health, and has been in active practice until March last, a period of eighteen years. He felt himself ailing slightly for the last two years, during which he gradually lost ground. His first attack was a typical one. He took arsenic very freely, and to it possibly, but not necessarily,