

in all his life." He was delighted, talked incessantly, and declared himself, mentally, the peer of Spurgeon; physically, equal to Samson. The stimulant effect continued two hours, followed by lassitude and sleep. The cocaine was given at irregular increasing intervals for two weeks, when an effort was made to quit. Two days later he left for a summer resort, and was lost sight of. The next heard of him was through the town druggist, who remarked that he thought Mr. — must be "getting a corner on cocaine," as he had ordered his entire supply and the address of his wholesale house. He was written to, and urged to place himself under proper medical care, but no more was heard of him for two months, when the doctor was sent for, told he had been brought back, and given this history. On starting for his summer trip he procured a supply of cocaine and began taking it himself several times a day. In a few days he talked and acted strangely, slept little, appetite failed, and he grew worse daily. An effort was made to withhold it, or substitute morphia, but he resisted both, and raved like a madman. He had always been kind and even-tempered, but now became irritable and abusive; had hallucinations and homicidal delusions; would leap from bed, rush to the window, raise sash, and gesticulate wildly at a fancied foe. Calmed, he would be quiet for a time, and then break out in the loudest abuse of some friend present, declaring him in league with the devil for his harm.

The doctor was warned as to entering his room; and proceeding with care, the patient was found in fighting form, with a long-necked bottle, ready for battle. Addressed kindly, his suspicions were disarmed, he abandoned his hostile attitude, apologized, and declared himself quite mistaken. "His condition was pitiful indeed. Constant vigil and loss of sleep had made him a wreck. He was pale, thin, and haggard; ate nothing and slept none; was a prey to distorted fancy—a victim of unrest."

Under proper treatment he partially recovered, and was placed in sanitarium care. Six weeks afterwards he was discharged, but in a bad mental condition—morose and melancholic. He soon became violent and threaten-

ing, and was again taken to an asylum, where he now is, improved and improving.

My experience with a number of cocaine cases makes to me two things certain—there is a pernicious power, *per se*, in this drug, and it finds in the opium habitue a peculiar condition that specially favors its ill effects, making it for such patients, as has well been said, the "devil's own device" to still further enslave.

And this opinion is that of others, for it is the testimony, without exception so far as I know, of those who have had to do with this disease, that, as an intoxicant, cocaine is more dangerous than alcohol or opium, and that inebriety resulting from its use is more marked and unyielding than any other form.

Dr. Shrady,—editorial, *Medical Record*, November 28th, 1885,—says: "To some persons nothing is more fascinating than indulgence in cocaine. It relieves the sense of exhaustion, dispels mental depression, and produces a delicious sense of exhilaration and well-being. The after-effects are at first slight, almost imperceptible, but continual indulgence finally creates a craving which must be satisfied; the individual then becomes nervous, tremulous, sleepless, without appetite, and he is at last reduced to a condition of pitiable neurasthenia."

Dr. Alex. B. Shaw, Physician to St. Vincent Asylum for the Insane, St. Louis, asserts: "Once a man flies to cocaine for relief from 'cares that annoy,' he generally continues with such rapid strides towards such complete subjugation to its bewitching thralldom as but few will ever be rescued from by any power of will which they may be able to bring to their aid."

Dr. Everts writes: "It is not only an antidote to opium poisoning—or, more properly speaking, the organic demand for such drug effects as have been acquired by use—but is itself a fascinating and dangerous intoxicant, the effects of which may be more difficult to counteract and renounce than are those of opium or its derivatives."

Dr. Hughes declares it "a remedy to be used with extreme caution and prudence internally, and the large doses reported as having been given are not ordinarily safe. It will bear watching. It crazes and kills quicker