

ence of ozone in the atmosphere, and the prevalence of most forms of malarious disease (and also the cholera poison) bear an inverse ratio to each other; and that this will be found to be the case both as respects point of time and locality.

Electricity, in mild currents at first, carefully increased to suit the susceptibilities of the patient, will be found to be an admirable soothing agent in the low, muttering delirium, headache, and nervous excitability of patients endowed with a highly delicate and sensitive organization.

Spongings with Acetic Acid, especially over the head, spinal region, and great trunks of nerves, possess a singular efficacy in this disease, which hitherto has been unexplained.

Alcohol may be necessary to the Pharmaceutist, and indeed is, for there is no menstruum which can well supply its place, although extreme men have gone so far as to propose a substitution of aqueous solutions for tinctures, and emulsions for solutions of gums in spirits. Dr. Attfield, London, advocates the substitution of Aqueous Solutions for tinctures in several instances. I hold, however, that alcohol, in the form of alcoholic beverages, should never be prescribed where they can be substituted by other less dangerous and more effective remedies, because of the seductive and dangerous character which attaches to them. This rule I observe in practice.

The various kinds of alcoholic beverages in use at present, occasions each its own peculiar appearance of the skin. Thus, brandy flushes the face; beer induces a livid hue; rum reddens the nose; gin produces paleness; whiskey—which is only alcohol and water—does neither; and the wines act differently: some causing redness of face and papular eruptions on skin, others causing paleness, and some, the light wines, doing neither. All this may be explained by the nature of their combinations. Brandy, for instance, is spiced with aromatics, which being stimulant, cause redness of surface, in expulsion. Gin is medicated with diuretics, and are carried off by the kidneys, and drawing away from circulation of skin cause paleness. The various kinds of malt liquors occasion at first a dark flush of crimson, becoming finally livid, and eventually inducing a general puffy or dropsical condition. And all this, some would have us believe, promotes health, and is conducive to longevity, a connection which is difficult to appreciate.

There are, however, good offices which alcohol is capable of performing as a therapeutic agent, destructive as it undoubtedly is as a toxicant: when carefully restricted within the limits of its stimulating action, and when administered only in cases

where there is no acute, organic, or wasting disease present to contra-indicate it, and where the system may be considered capable of taking care of itself when once aroused into action. It is possessed of three distinct degrees of action, according to the strength and frequency of the dose, (it being a cumulative poison) and the degree of susceptibility of the patient. Thus it is (1) a stimulant, (2) an anæsthetic (3) a narcotic.

As a stimulant, alcohol must be ranked with Opium and Haschish or Cannabis Indica; drugs which are capable of producing mental excitement. When a dose is administered by way of experiment it is found to disturb the mind, in five to seven minutes; in ten to fifteen minutes there is hilarity of spirits and talkativeness, which may continue for twenty minutes, when it is gradually succeeded by a dreaminess, which passes gradually into drowsiness and stupor if the dose has been large, or into returning consciousness and clearness of intellect if the dose has been limited. In consequence of its varying influence and the rapidity with which one condition passes into another or that succeeding, it is vastly inferior as a stimulant to ammonia, either in the form of carbonate, muriate, aromatic spirits or the liqr. ammon. acet.—all of which act as pure stimulants, and unattended with any sedative, treacherous intoxicant, or dangerous narcotic action; while as an anæsthetic or pain destroyer, it is inferior to chloroform.

A spirituous liquor has been prepared from tea or theine, which is called Robur, a Latin term denoting strength. It is claimed for this spirit that it possesses all the stimulating qualities of ardent spirits, without the after depressing or anæsthetic and narcotic properties. Should this prove to be the case it will be a God-send for the advocates of spirits, although it may not prove all that it is claimed to be, and even so, a worse evil may attach to its use, as in the case of *Absinthia*.

It is quite clear however that, in order that alcohol may be rationally prescribed, (when its use has been decided upon) it is absolutely necessary that certain conditions should be observed. *First*, the nature and percentage of alcohol contained in the beverage (or mixture) must be known, which at present is rarely the case, and it must also be known to be free from adulteration; * *2nd*, the exact condition of the

* The strength of alcoholic beverages, or the percentage of alcohol which they contain, may be determined in four ways. *First*, by the use of *Sikes' Hydrometer*, which, for testing the strength of alcoholic liquids, is graduated to indicate the number of parts of pure alcohol in a hundred parts of