

REMARKS.

Having had large experience in Delirium tremens in different parts of the world, during long service; transmitted many cases of it to the Director General of the Army Medical Department; and, at his desire, a few years ago, having prepared for his information an elaborate report on the disease, with a digest of the reports of sixteen medical officers under my superintendance in the Nova Scotia Command, I trust I may, without presumption, append here a few observations.

Delirium tremens, as madness from habitual intemperance in intoxicating drink is now generally called—following the designation first applied to it by Dr. Sutton—appears to be quite a modern disease, as far as relates to its distinct diagnosis and proper treatment. It no doubt existed, but was confounded with other cerebral maladies, even so late as a hundred years ago; and was unknown and undistinguished from them in ancient times. No description of it as a specific disease, is to be found in the works of Hippocrates, Celsus, Galen, or any other Greek or Latin medical writer; and the Arabian school is also silent regarding it. And though a modern writer, Dr. Blake, is of opinion that, as the Father of Medicine, and others of the early Greek Physicians, have described its most prominent symptoms, they must have seen cases of the malady, the general professional belief is that this is a mistake; and that the passages cited from their works, in confirmation of Dr. Blake's idea, refer to phrenitis or mania.

There is, perhaps, a good reason for the silence of the ancients respecting this disease, to which modern medical writers do not attach as much weight as it deserves. Delirium tremens is rarely found in wine-drinking countries, where the wine is drunk pure and unmixed with brandy, and, in all probability, owes its existence to the discovery of alcohol. It is not strange, therefore, that we hear nothing of a complaint which may not have afflicted men for their sins in early Greece and Rome.

At the present time the disease is chiefly to be found in spirit-drinking, or opium-eating regions. In France Italy, Spain and Portugal it is seldom met, except in the large seaports, where the population is vitiated, and taught to require a stronger stimulus than common wine. The Germans are great beer and wine-bibbers, but they rarely muddle in weak beer or washy wine, to the extent of contracting this drunken madness. In Sweden, where spirits are drunk largely, Delirium tremens is a common disease, as well as a miniature species not found elsewhere. In more temperate Norway, Denmark, and European as well as Asiatic Russia, it is also met, but more rarely. And in Canada, and the other British American Provinces, the abundance and cheapness of the worst kind of deleterious spirits offer inducements to intemperance that soldiers and laborers cannot withstand; which with bad brandy, in some-