

A CASE OF ACONITE POISONING.—Under the care of *Dr. G. F. Schreiber*, West Brooklyn.—I was called in haste, June 18th, 1874, to see E. B., a labourer, aged 36 years, who had taken two teaspoonfuls of tr. aconite root an hour before, 9 a.m. He had taken it, he said, to overcome the nervousness and insomnia consequent upon a drunken spree. He was having convulsive attacks, coming on at short intervals; had vomited some, and complained of dryness of the throat, coldness and tingling of the extremities, and muscular weakness. The pulse was almost imperceptible, countenance pale and pinched, and skin shriveled and covered with cold, clammy perspiration. I ordered a draught of warm water and mustard, which produced emesis; the matter vomited had the odour of aconite quite strong. I sent for *Dr. R. M. Lackey*, and asked him to bring with him a Kidder's battery. I had hot bricks applied to the extremities, and body as well, and directed the occasional use of friction with dry warm flannel. While awaiting the arrival of counsel and the battery, he had another vomiting spell, after which he fell back in a state of muscular rigidity, eyes staring, respiration suspended, and to all appearance about to expire. Just then the doctor arrived with the battery, which was hastily set going, and one pole applied to the nape of the neck and the other over the region of the heart. He was at once relieved of the spasm, respiration became more regular, and he complained of pain from the current. He begged to be allowed to sleep, which was denied him, and he was kept well roused up by the frequent use of the current,

interrupted in such a way as to produce considerable shocks. At 12 o'clock m. the pulse was slightly perceptible, and he was more sensitive to the current. An enema of warm water and salt was administered, and a copious fluid evacuation was produced, having the odour of aconite. In making another attempt to raise up he again fell back and seemed about to expire, when a good, lively shock from the battery started him breathing again. Improvement from this time was decided, so that by 3 p.m. he was regarded as out of danger. He slept well the following night and was up the next day, but complained of tenderness over the stomach. No after-treatment was required, as his nervousness had disappeared, and he recuperated rapidly. The treatment in this case, as will be seen, was mainly by the faradic current, which seemed to counteract the tendency of the poison to produce paralysis of the heart. The point of greatest interest in the case is the fact that the patient has never tasted a drop of intoxicating drink since, and from being a confirmed drunkard and generally worthless fellow, has become a sober, industrious man; and this is the greatest and most decided curative effect I have yet observed from the internal use of aconite.—*Medical Press.*

### Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

#### BIRTHS.

On the 17th inst., the wife of W. T. Aikins, M.D., of a daughter.

At 206 Simcoe Street, on the 25th inst., the wife of Dr. Temple, of a son.

#### MARRIAGE.

On Thursday, May 25th, at Christ Church, R.E., by the Rev. B. B. Ussher, Albert Angus Macdonald, M.D., of Guelph, to Frances Elizabeth, eldest daughter of George L. Beardmore, of Toronto.

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