

This being admitted by the profession, it is prescribed in preference to the heavier or ethylic spirit, and with better results. Without doubt, the lighter the alcohol, the less injurious the action; methylic alcohol being the lightest, we can put it down as the safest for administration. But it is not without potency, as the phenomena it produces will sufficiently demonstrate.

They are developed in four distinct stages:—Excitement of the nervous organization inaugurates the first stage; the pulse and breathing are quickened, the surface is flushed, the pupils dilated, and then ensues a sense of languor, the muscles falling prostrate, the movements being irregular.

The second stage is ushered in by increased muscular prostration, respiration labored, accompanied by a sighing movement, followed by increased prostration, rolling over of the body, and other signs of intoxication.

The third stage is demonstrated by entire intoxication, insensibility to pain, unconsciousness, voluntary muscular power being entirely absent. The breathing is embarrassed and blowing, but the heart and lungs retain their functions, and therefore recovery will take place if the conditions are favorable to it. Reflex action is still present.

The only phenomena which is very marked, is the reduction of the animal temperature, which begins in the first stage, till in the third the loss of heat becomes actually dangerous.

Considering that the third degree is reached, and the administration continued, the last stage is ushered in by death.

The action of this spirit somewhat resembles chloroform and ether in its ultimate action, but the recovery from the two last is much more rapid.

Butylic alcohol is one of the heavier substances of this group. Applied to the lips and tongue in a pure state, it creates a burning sensation of great intensity, followed by a numbness of the part where the fluid is applied. The knowledge of this latter effect has given rise to its use for the relief of pain.

There are four distinct stages of action of butylic alcohol, but the period required for producing these stages is greatly prolonged. They are similar to those of methylic spirit. But in the