

ceased gradually, and the child sank into a troubled sleep, interrupted by startings, twitchings of the muscles, &c., which did not entirely cease for upwards of twenty-four hours. The dilatation of the pupil continued for several days.

I watched the child carefully for some time for the purpose of noting whether any attempt at desquamation would take place. On the fourth day numerous vesicles appeared on various parts of the body, resembling those of varicella. After remaining out for about two days they dried up, leaving scales which peeled off along with portions of the surrounding cuticle. The thick epidermis of the hands and feet, however, showed no sign of desquamation. There was hoarseness and considerable irritation of the fauces for some days, probably partly due to the local action of the mustard, which we had some difficulty in compelling the child to swallow. In ten days the child was as well as ever.

In thinking over the foregoing case, the following reflections have suggested themselves,—1st, there is undoubtedly a considerable analogy between the actions upon the system of these solanacæ and of the poison of scarlatina, and although the resemblance fails in many particulars, yet it is almost as well marked as that between the operation of vaccine virus and of small pox; 2d, as there is no doubt of the prophylactic power of vaccinia, so we may fairly hope that the use of these solanacæ may exert at least some influence in warding off or in modifying that terrible scourge—scarlatina; 3d, the case now narrated goes far to prove that hyoscyamus would prove quite as effectual as a preventative of scarlatina as belladonna, and on account of its mildness as compared with the latter, its use would not be attended with the same risk. It may be a question, however, whether the dose of hyoscyamus would not require to be so much larger than that of belladonna as to render its use quite as hazardous. This objection would seem to be strengthened by the great similarity which exists in the composition of the active principles of the three most prominent members of the family of solanacæ, a similarity so strong as to give rise to the opinion entertained until lately that they are identical. The question, however, can only be settled by actual experiment and observation.

In concluding this hasty and imperfect sketch, I would remark that no effort should be spared on the part of any member of our profession in contributing, however feebly, to the discovery of a prevention of scarlatina, nor should any motive of timidity deter from making public any fact which might further the end in view. By the discovery of Jenner one dreaded disease has been stripped of most of its terrors; let us therefore strive and hope that another enemy to our race equally fatal may be in like manner subdued.