

of the drug. Very much depends on the condition of the stomach, and it is well known that patients who can take plenty of nourishment stand the deprivation much better than others. Weir Mitchell has recently practiced the plan of systematic feeding before starting the actual treatment, which is begun as soon as the digestion is in good order. Of substitutes for the morphia, when the diminution in the dose is felt, the hyosin hydrobromate and cannabis indica are probably the most serviceable. Nitro-glycerine has been strongly recommended by Jennings, who, in a recent number of *l'Encephale*, has insisted on the value of massage, electricity, and Granville's *percuteur*. A somewhat modified Weir-Mitchell method is applicable to a large number of morphia habitués. Seclusion and careful watching are in most cases essential, and if communication with the outside world be not entirely cut off, there is very great danger of deception. The devices resorted to are almost incredible, and, as a rule, not the slightest reliance can be placed on the patients' statements.

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In the *American Journal of Medical Science* for October, Professor Fraser of Edinburgh urges the use of the nitrites in asthma, on the ground that they relax the spasm of the bronchial muscles. If during an asthmatic seizure the presence of whistling râles is determined, and the patient inhales nitrite of amyl, in a few minutes the relaxation of the bronchial muscles will be followed by disappearance of the râles and greater ease in breathing. This makes a very interesting experiment, which I had an opportunity of verifying on three occasions in a patient in the Philadelphia Hospital. Certainly it is a strong point in favor of the view that the piping râles are due chiefly to spasm of the unstriped fibres of the bronchi. Fraser has found nitro-glycerine and nitrite of sodium very beneficial in asthmatic attacks, and they would probably have a more enduring effect than the nitrite of amyl.

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Rarely has a more graceful—and truthful—estimate of our profession been put on record than in the opening sentences of the dedication of Robert Louis Stevenson's recent volumes of