

ART. X.—*Notes of Three Cases of Poisoning.* By A. GRANT, M. D., attending Physician General Protestant Hospital, (Ottawa.)

Opium being one of the agents most frequently used as a means of destroying life, and the following case being an illustration of recovery from a large quantity of that drug, I have thought proper to furnish the subjoined report, which adds one more to those extraordinary instances where life, amidst circumstances the most adverse, has been preserved.

Mrs. ———, aged 30, florid complexion, robust habit of body, and generally in the enjoyment of health.

*August 5th, 1858.*—From some circumstances, rather mysterious, this party procured *two ounces of laudanum*, and in the presence of her servant, poured the contents of the bottle into a small vessel, then added about two table-spoonsful of cold water. Both being actively mixed, she swallowed the whole and quietly composed herself in bed. The servant, not knowing the strength of medicine or what might result from such a quantity, left the room to perform the ordinary duties of the house.

Three hours and a half having elapsed, the husband, who had been from home returned, and shortly afterwards discovered what had taken place in his absence. Upon entering the room, found her sleeping in an unusual manner, and being alarmed attempted to arouse her. After much difficulty, succeeded in obtaining the information that she had taken a bottle of laudanum, this interrogatory being instantaneously followed by relapse into a profound sleep. No motion of body, skin pale, cold, and bathed in perspiration, breathing slow but silent, and the eyes closed as if in natural sleep.

The husband being a man of sound judgment, administered milk in large quantities until copious emesis was produced. Upon my arrival an hour afterwards, obtained the above history. At this period patient could be aroused without much difficulty, but again slumbered away as usual. Skin warm and still covered with sensible perspiration, pupils much contracted, and the conjunctival mucous membrane congested. Pulse small and quick, but regular, tongue dry, and lips somewhat parched, respiration silent but accelerated. Ordered R. Pulv. Ipecac gr. xii, Ant. Tart. gr. ½; Aquæ puræ ℥i instantér. A few moments having passed, vomiting again set in and continued about two hours. Applied a mustard cataplasm to the calf of each leg and ice water to the head.

9 P. M., six hours afterwards, could now be aroused with ease, skin hot and moist, pupils moderately dilated, vomiting continues at short intervals. Patient ordered to be made walk during the entire night, and to have ice water constantly applied to the head, and occasional drink.