

mic. His dull unimpressive, sunken, lusterless eye becomes for a time clear, sparkling and restless; the pale haggard features become flushed as in youth and the muscular system is restrung, so that the tremulous hand becomes steady and the tottering gait firm and assured. These contrasts are diagnostic of the opium habit, together with a peculiar expression of countenance, although the patient will generally deny that he ever takes opium. The amount that patients take daily, differs very much. Patients generally write me that they are taking from three to twelve grains daily. I have known of a very few cases who took one drachm of morphia by the mouth daily, but these are rare. Coleridge took upon one occasion one quart of laudanum in twenty-four hours while De Quincey took at the highest about 480 grains of opium daily. My experience with patients suffering from the habit has been that most of them assert that pain in some part of the body first led them to take opium and was the origin of their habit, and that subsequently, the suffering, the sinking, the wretchedness and misery which attended abstinence from it induced them to continue indulgence in the drug.

The psychical effect of opium is very interesting. A professional gentleman under my care a few years ago, acknowledged to me that he voluntarily sought opium to impart calmness and indifference in the midst of domestic unhappiness and perfectly succeeded but he acquired the fearful, irresistible craving for morphia which it was very difficult to eradicate. He soothed his heartache, but he nearly ruined his brain.

While the majority of my patients have been insidiously led into the morphia habit by taking it primarily for the relief of pain and have almost unknown to themselves become victims of the drug, I have known of more than one patient who, I am satisfied, took opium primarily to mitigate mental suffering; others take it to get up an increased vivacity or brilliancy, while some literary persons, as was the case with De Quincey, imagine that they get a restorative and creative power from its use. The habitual use of opium seems to produce a peculiar type of psycho-sensory insanity, leaving the intellectual centres of the brain comparatively untouched. The patients' views of right and wrong are perverted, and while he or she may go on with routine duties, either in public or private life,