

Having thus noticed briefly the characteristics of exaltant influence, we proceed to that of a diametrically opposite character. It is evident that the characteristic phenomena of depressant action must be the reverse of those of exaltant. Depressant influence according to this natural law, must first take effect on the more susceptible capillary dilating centres, and consequently depress their force below that of their antagonists, the sympathetic force thus being in the ascendant contracts the capillaries, and produces pallidity and contracted pupils but as soon as the depressing influence reaches the sympathetic and sends down the contracting innervation below that of the dilating the capillaries expand, the skin is reddened and the pupil expanded. We select belladonna as a representative of the depressant class, symptoms, 1st stage: pupils contracted, pulse small and quick, skin cool and pale, mental calmness, sensibility lessened, organic functions inactive. The sympathetic centres becoming depressed in turn usher in a 2nd, stage: pupils dilated, pulse slow and full, great desire to sleep, skin flushed, insensible to pain, profuse perspiration, and finally convulsions, profound insensibility and death from entire exhaustion of innervation.

That the influences of opium and belladonna are in direct opposition is further proved by the discovery, that they mutually counteract each other. In like manner, belladonna counteracts alcoholic exaltation. A certain therapist of this place occasionally partakes too freely, comes home and takes a large dose of belladonna, and in half an hour is perfectly sober.

In short, exaltants first dilate the capillaries and thereby expand the pupils, then contract the capillaries and thereby close in and contract the pupils, while depressants first contract the capillaries and thereby diminish the size of the pupils, then dilate the capillaries and thereby expand the pupils. The size of the pupils always correspond with the condition of the vessels, an explanation of this concurrent action will be given hereafter

It is evident from the symptoms in the forming stage of disease that all morbid influences act as direct depressants. Among the premonitory manifestations are paleness, languor, listlessness, indisposition to active exertion, with universal perversion of function, and finally a chill. The calorific process of insensible combustion being carried on principally in the capillaries it inevitably follows that the partial occlusion of these vessels must reduce the temperature. Exaltants then, are the only agents capable of counteracting morbid influences, to act in conjunction with disease in reducing still lower the nervous forces, is to