

*Smoking of opium* is not very prevalent in India, but in some of the large towns it is practised. Either they smoke *chandu*, which is a watery extract of opium from which the oily matters have been removed by heat, or *madat*, which is also a watery extract pounded up with charred guava or vine leaves. The former method is practised by the better class, the latter by the lowest classes.

*Pure morphia* is little used by natives, but the Bengalee baboos of Calcutta have found it out, and many of them take this most insidious drug in doses of five to fifteen grains daily. As regards large doses of morphia, a Maharajah who died lately at a good old age, used to take twenty-six grains daily, and was a good sportsman and a first-class shot.

(3) As a *prophylactic*, opium is very largely used in India, as well as in other countries, and there seems no doubt that it does act in this way against malaria, rheumatism, dysentery, and cholera. As to the exact way in which it acts on the system in exerting its protective power one can only theorize, but the belief is well nigh universal in the East that an opium eater is less apt to suffer from these diseases than one who does not so indulge. This belief is not confined to the East, for opium is largely used in the ten districts of England for this very purpose, as stated by Dr. Lauder Brunton. In the *British Medical Journal* for July, 1881, Dr. Murrell draws attention to this fact, and points out that phthisis is very uncommon amongst these opium eaters.

Dr. Crombie wrote as follows:

"During sporadic outbreaks of cholera amongst the people of Burrobazar, the victims are those who are either abstemious in their habits or are bhang eaters and ganja smokers. The opium eaters who often closely attend upon patients, are not affected by the disease. A few months ago a party of twenty men, of all ages, one morning started from No. 9 Hanspooker Lane to Kalighat, to visit the goddess, and returned during the night. They prepared one kind of food, and all of them ate it. Early next morning nine of the party got cholera, and succumbed to it, whilst the rest escaped. On enquiry it was found that those who escaped were habitual opium eaters. But opium eaters, during the last epidemic of influenza, suffered most severely, and some succumbed to the disease."

During the Poojah season people come to Calcutta from the Terai of Jalpaiguri and Sotatia for treatment of Terai fever and enlarged spleen. The history they give of their illness is interesting. They say that because they have not listened to the advice of opium eaters they are destined to suffer and to die prematurely, for in the Terai the opium eaters are the healthiest of men.