

was pursued. Effervescing sodaic draughts, with small doses of anti-monial wine, were exhibited from time to time, and appeared decidedly beneficial by promoting the restoration of secretion, and thus aiding in the depuration of the blood of the deadly narcotic which was circulating with its living elements. At first the mucous membrane of the tongue and mouth generally, as well as the skin, was dry; but both moistened as recovery progressed. The urinary fluid was also rather deficient. Another advantage which the medicinal combination, above mentioned, seemed to afford, was in keeping under a salutary level a tendency to inordinate vascular excitement of the arterial system generally, which was shewn not so much in the entailment of increased frequency in the rate of its circulation, as in the super-addition of an augmented degree of relative power; but of this I shall speak again. The only other remedial expedient had recourse to was the application of a sinapism to the nucha, and its subsequent repetition. No true antidote has yet been discovered for cannabis, and, admitting the possession of such an agent, its use was precluded in the present, and I believe would also be in the majority of cases, in consequence of the long time that passes away before the letheon brings out its effects; for whatever may be the utility of an antidote when opposed to its bane in the gastric cavity, it becomes powerless once absorption has been effected, and even though it might be supposed capable of overtaking the poison, while in transit through the system, its virtues would be rendered nugatory by the controlling influence of vital functions, which are directly averse to all chemical combinations or decompositions ensuing within the vessels, during life, between inorganic substances, introduced from without, that are not amenable to assimilation. Nevertheless the contrary has been vainly supposed by some writers.

Few facts are more remarkable than the astonishing influence which apparently indifferent substances, in trifling quantities, are capable of exercising over the intellect and feelings of man: like the creature of a passing fancy, his happiness may owe its existence to the most improbable sources. "It may be purchased for a penny and carried in the waistcoat pocket." The wretch, whose hopeless life is a burden, may procure from his deceptive stimulus, a joy that the dull realities of existence never could have afforded. Nor is the example of this kind of sustenance confined to a few,—the outcasts of despair,—as it might be supposed. Indian hemp forms but one of the five great narcotics which have become articles of national consumption, and it is far from being the most extensively used, yet on it alone depend between two and three hundred millions of human beings for their pleasure. The condition of mind it