

## THREE-GRAIN DOSES OF MORPHIA.

A painful cause of death has occurred at Corower, in the interior of the colony of Victoria, after the administration of two three-grain doses of acetate of morphia, on the prescription of a medical man in a case of alleged delirium tremens. Four grains divided into four doses had previously been prescribed, one dose to be taken hourly till sleep was produced. All this was taken without the slightest effect. The next day the doctor, emboldened probably by the failure of grain doses and the nature of the case, prescribed the following mixture: 18 grains of acetate of morphia, 3 drachms of tincture of cardamoms, 2 drachms of spirit of chloroform, with sufficient water to make a six-ounce mixture; two tablespoonfuls every two hours. After two doses he slept heavily, and died. It was found that a little more than the proper quantity of two doses had been taken out of the bottle, so that, instead of six grains, the patient had probably got seven or eight of morphia. We will only make two remarks on this case. The advance from one grain to three of morphia was an error. The patient had better have "raged" for three days than get sleep on three grains of morphia. Secondly, such medicines ought to be supplied only in single, or at most in two doses. A mixture with eighteen grains of morphia in it is not heroic merely, but terrific. And no chemist should dispense such a mixture without a personal interview with the prescriber of it, and an explicit understanding with, not the patient, but the person who is to administer it.—*The Lancet*.

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Cholera is reported to have appeared at Dantzic and Culm in Prussia.

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## BLEACHED TINCTURE OF IODINE.

It is said that the sulphite of soda will discolor iodine and yet increase its effect. The *Med. Press and Circular* gives a formula for the combination, viz.: Tincture of Iodine; Glycerine, pure, aa. ʒj; Sulphite of Soda, ʒj; M. Rub the salt to a powder in a small mortar, and add the glycerine gradually; then pour in the tincture, and triturate gently until a solution is effected and the mixture assumes an amber color.

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Ninety-four cases of cholera are reported from Buda, in Hungary, twenty-seven proving fatal. Twenty-nine soldiers were taken ill simultaneously, and five of them died.