

their own experience afterwards proved to them the correctness of Dr. Taylor's assertions and further experience disclosed a far more extensive amount of suffering from this cause than had been previously supposed. Thus, Dr. Hinds, Dr. Halley, and Dr. Saunders Bruton experienced these effects in their own persons or families, and on removal of the obnoxious paper soon recovered health, and then became active supporters of Dr. Taylor's views.

In 1879 Mr. Jabez Hogg, author of a popular work on the microscope, presided over a committee of inquiry appointed by the Medical Society of London. He states in an interesting brochure on the subject published in the "Journal of Science" for last September [a reprint of which our friend, Mr. E. Murphy, has presented to the library], as follows:

"In a few weeks, no less than fifty-four cases of poisoning from arsenical wall papers were reported to the committee, twenty-four of these being from the families of medical men! And the difference in the symptoms described, showed how difficult is the diagnosis of such cases where poison is not suspected, as different individuals show different degrees of susceptibility and varying symptoms, one person complaining of chronic sore throat, another of inflamed eyes, and a third of nervous prostration. Some are immediately relieved on a change of atmosphere, and the symptoms only recur on returning to the vitiated room. Others suffer from nasal catarrh chiefly and get chilled in the open air.

ANECDOTE OF THE QUEEN AT OSBORNE.

Mr. Hogg relates the following anecdote of the famous water color artist, Mr. E. H. Corbould, as an illustration of the "highly susceptible" class of patients:

Mr. Corbould was executing a special work for the Queen at Osborne, and took rooms at an hotel near the palace. His bedroom was damp and the green wall paper much discolored, and he suffered, after passing two nights there, from what he thought a very severe cold in his head. "Her Majesty, on hearing of his illness, gave instructions to an attendant to see to his removal to Victoria Cottage, close to Osborne, and to see that there was a good fire in his bedroom and plenty of wraps. He found, accordingly, on his arrival, a warm room, a cheerful fire, and every comfort." After partaking of a little hot brandy and water, he gladly crept into bed, but in a few minutes felt a chill and was glad to pile on another blanket, but in vain, his teeth fairly chattered, sleep was out of the question. He then betought himself of his well-lined Spanish cloak and made an effort to reach it; to his horror he could not move either arms or legs, he was

paralyzed! He tried to get out of bed, which produced a painful cramp of the bowels, which was immediately followed by sickness, soon after which he lost consciousness, and remembered no more of what had occurred. At 8 p.m. next morning, he was awakened by a loud knocking at the door, and was scarcely able to say "Come in," and ask for a cup of tea. In a few minutes the servant returned with the tea, and pulled up the blind, he then opened his eyes, and seeing the brilliant green of the bedroom paper, exclaimed, "I am poisoned," to the great consternation and surprise of the servant. He explained that he did not refer to the tea, but to the paper, and she left him, wondering still more. On attempting to get out of bed, his legs gave way under him, but he staggered to the window and inhaled the fresh air, which soon restored him, and he was able to walk up to the Castle. By the time he arrived every disagreeable symptom had vanished.

The Queen was waiting for him, and remarked that he was late, on which he admitted his illness, described his attack, and stated that he had been poisoned by the wallpaper in his bedroom.

Her Majesty expressed great sympathy, and at once commanded an attendant to have a piece of the paper stripped from the wall and brought to her. This was submitted to chemical analysis and found to be "highly arsenical."

"This interesting case," says Mr. Hogg, "shows the extraordinary susceptibility of some persons to arsenical poisoning from this source. The remarkable activity of the toxic agent may have been greatly promoted by the temperature of the room and by the fact of its having been now occupied for the first time since repapering and painting.

The poison doubtless entered the circulation through the lungs in a gaseous form [hydrogen arsenide], thus producing anasthisia, arrest of the heart's action and paralysis of the nervous centres.

In some cases coma and death has ensued from the same cause.

In the greater number of cases arsenical poisoning takes place slowly and insidiously; it begins with headache, dry cough, oppressed breathing, giddiness and sleeplessness; the limbs are painful, feeble, trembling and benumbed.

In other instances it attacks the surface of the body, causing chronic skin disease, or the fingers and arms are covered with painful sores.

In an establishment where a hundred young girls were constantly employed making artificial flowers and leaves, the greater number of them suffered from eruptions and painful cracking of the skin