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COCAINE AND ITS RATIONAL ANTIDOTE.*

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In the majority of cases in which cocaine is used some excitement either pleasant or unpleasant is manifested. The pulse becomes rapid, the breathing quick and deep, followed by headache, dryness of the throat, pallor of the face, nausea and coldness of the extremities, accompanied by a tingling sensation; the skin becomes clammy, and often great beads of perspiration form; the eyes grow glassy and the pupils dilate. When a large amount of the drug has been ingested, convulsions, either tonic or clonic, may occur, or collapse may follow. Death is due to gradual cessation of respiration.

Cocaine is a stimulant to the central nervous system. It increases cerebral activity and endurance of fatigue. For generations the natives of Peru and Bolivia ate cocoa leaves as a stimulant, and their soldiers were provided with them to chew when making forced marches. Scientific experiments prove that more work can be done after taking cocaine. The heart's action is accelerated by cocaine, owing to the direction of the drug on the cardiac muscle and stimulation of the cardiac sympathetic.

Paralysis of the vagus, as in belladonna poisoning, cannot account for the increased activity, for stimulation of the vagus in a case of cocaine poisoning slows the heart, showing that the latter nerve has not been deprived of its function. At first, the blood

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