

faculty be induced to pay any attention to her health. Why should she? She felt no pain, and she could discover in herself no indications of disease. A slight cold would account for her cough—her appetite was as usual—her spirits were undiminished—and to convince her that a fatal disease was already fastening upon her, was to convince her against the evidence of her own senses.

Still, however, the destroyer was gaining ground, but so silently, so stealthily, that no alarm was excited; indeed, he seemed to fascinate the object of his wiles as the serpent does the harmless bird that it decoys to destruction, beguiling her with the mock roses and lilies under which he lay concealed, till she should yield unhesitatingly to his deadly embrace.

Among all the diseases that prey upon human life, none are so false and deceitful as consumption. It singles out the fairest and most delicate part of the creation for its victims, and, alas! too often foils all the exertions and ingenuity of man to arrest its progress. Inflammations, fevers, and a host of other maladies, attack us openly, and with a degree of boldness that at once puts us on our guard; but consumption is a concealed enemy, that silently and unexpectedly gets possession of the citadel, and slowly carries on the work of destruction at the very seat of life.

But I am wandering from my subject, and fain would I leave the rest untold. Though short, it is full of melancholy—though the fate of thousands, it is not the less replete with painful interest; for who can behold one so young, so intellectual, and so lovely, decked with false roses as for her bridal, and calmly and unconcernedly descending step by step to the gloomy mansion, and not be moved? Suffice it to say, no human efforts could delay the fatal moment; but her lovely spirit shone brightly to the very last, and when its frail tenement was no longer worthy to retain it, it was gently released almost without a struggle or a moan.—*Rules for Invigorating the Constitution.*