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## ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

### THE PROGNOSIS OF DRUG HABITS, WITH SOME REFERENCE TO TREATMENT.

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Certainly no apology for once and again directing the attention of the practitioner of medicine to this subject need be made further than that the beneficent spirit of modern medicine considers it a stern duty to throw the fullest rays of its kindly light into places where disease has robbed life of its hope and existence of its every pleasure. This duty appears more urgent when scientific facts, incontrovertible evidence can be produced which go to establish the fact, that where hitherto nothing but dread and fear and hopelessness were felt, that no really scientific basis exists for these conditions.

An examination of medical literature happily shows, during later years, a more hopeful feeling with reference to the prognosis of all drug addictions than prevailed in the earlier parts of the century. Still some of the more prominent writers on general medicine—authors of text books, etc.—give such limited space to this all-important subject and dismiss it with an air of such hopelessness or with such statements, as “relapses frequently occur”; or that cures are difficult and rare, that an extended experience so utterly at variance with these statements, justifies and warrants the widest publicity.

In addition, I would emphasize especially the following facts: (1) that the therapeutics of the treatment of morphinism, alcoholism, cocaineism, etc., is not obscure, secret or necessarily difficult, but on the contrary, simplicity itself. (2) The very large proportion of medical men, litterateurs, ministers and nurses, who have become victims of this and other drug addictions, and whose mental attitude, depressed enough at best, and who lack all physical and moral stamina because of disease itself, are the very ones having such erroneous views held before them by their authorities. They can scarcely help feeling how useless a struggle against so insidious and powerful a foe would be, and sink into the very “Slough of