

terrified family as to the innocuity of the medicine to which so much mischief had been attributed. In due time the toxical effects subsided, the green vision disappeared, and the poor patient, comforted by a second look at the mirror, and by the reappearance of her accustomed tint of complexion, recovered from her panic, morally persuaded, however, that she had narrowly escaped death by poisoning. Similar results have been observed in the tropics as consequent upon bites by serpents, really innocuous, but supposed by the sufferers to be venomous.—*London Lancet*.

CASE OF POISONING BY ACONITE—SUCCESSFUL USE OF NUX VOMICA AS AN ANTIDOTE.

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April 19th, 1861, I was called to see a colored boy, 5 years of age, a son of Mr. Lewis, Pine St., this city, who had taken, as I subsequently learned, a preparation of the tincture of aconite and simple syrup, a mixture I had some time previously prescribed for a member of the family. He was seen with the bottle, "tasting" it; how much had really been taken could not be definitely ascertained, but, from his condition, it was manifest he had swallowed a destructive dose. The first intimation that anything was wrong was given about an hour and a half before I saw him, when he complained of his throat, walked unsteadily, and articulated with difficulty. I found him comatose, the eyes half closed, expressionless, the pupils insensible to light, though not much dilated. The pulse was feeble and irregular, respiration requiring artificial aid to support it, and the muscles and ligaments so much relaxed that he could neither stand up nor sit unless supported. His respiration finally degenerated to a gasp, occurring five or six times the minute, then he would convulsively straighten out in the lap of his attendant, throw his head and shoulders back, and his hands over his head, as if, mechanically, to get a longer and fuller inspiration, then relax into the same state as before.

No time was lost in getting his feet into hot water, sinapisms on the soles of the feet, calves, and over the abdomen and chest. I failed in my attempts to get an emetic dose of mustard into the stomach, from its bulk and difficult deglutition. Ipecac and antimony being the least bulky of anything at hand, I forced down a double dose; soon after I irritated the fauces with a feather. Fifteen minutes passing, and no signs of vomiting having appeared, I repeated the dose, and irritated the throat as before. No retching occurred from this at the expiration of half an hour from the first dose, the respiration grew more difficult, and the pulse became imperceptible at the wrist. He was sinking, evidently, and the emetics were aiding the poison instead of the patient, as the muscular fibres of the stomach were rendered insensible to expulsive stimuli by the depressing influence of the poison, and the difficult respiration and deglutition were referable to the operation of the same cause upon the diaphragm and pharynx. The case now appeared desperate, unless these tissues could be excited, and nux vomica was manifestly capable of producing this effect, as its full therapeutic action was the exact opposite of that now dominant from the poison. Impressed with this idea, I gave him three drops of the tincture of nux vomica; I then placed my finger upon the wrist and awaited the result. My pleasure can be well imagined when, in a few minutes, I felt the heart's impulse returning with accelerated vigor as the tincture became more and more absorbed, and the respirations were correspondingly improved in steadiness and depth. At the end of twenty minutes I repeated the dose, soon after tickling the fauces with the feather. Retching was soon induced, and vigorous emesis followed. After this operation, young ebony opened his eyes, and after satisfying himself that matters were progressing circumspectly, he coolly lay back in the lap of his attendant, with a quiet and steady respiration and pulse. I remained half an hour longer, when I considered him safe, and left him, with directions to take three drops once in three hours during the night, allowing him to sleep during the intervals if the breathing continued