

prostration was extreme. In my efforts to think of something that would relieve her, I recollected having read that small doses of the tincture of nuxvomica had been found useful in the vomiting of pregnancy; so I immediately decided to try strychnia, and, for this purpose, made a solution of the following strength:

R—Liquoris Strychniæ (U. S. P.) M xx
Aquæ Puræ ꝑiv.—M

Of this I gave her a teaspoonful every 2 hours, commencing in the evening. I saw her next morning and she was appreciably better; I allowed her to continue the medicine, and in the evening following, the vomiting had nearly ceased, although slight nausea still remained; she passed a good night, however, and the next morning was quite relieved.

During the administration of the strychnia, here referred to, I gave her two enemata of starch and laudanum, both of which were retained, and, no doubt, contributed their quota towards the almost miraculous relief which she experienced.

She continued taking the same sized doses at intervals of four hours for several days after, and had no return of the distressing nausea and vomiting; and was remaining very comfortable when I last heard from her.

It is but just to say that I did not give the oxalate of cerium, as I could not obtain the remedy till after she had begun to take the strychnia, and it was working so admirably that I withheld the cerium, although I had put up a number of one grain powders for her.

Of course like all other occurrences in our uncertain science the cessation of this lady's sufferings might have been only a coincidence—the *vis medicatrix naturæ* performing the cure, while the strychnia was being given:—but so sudden was the change after the administration of the medicine, that I cannot but think that it was the chief agent in accomplishing it.

The dose of strychnia seems very minute, but it was large enough, and very far from being homœopathic. A fluid ounce of liq. strychn. contains 4 grains of the salt, hence a grain is represented by 120 minims (ꝑii.) of the solution. Twenty minims of this contains $\frac{1}{6}$ of a grain, which, being divided into 32 doses, gave the $\frac{1}{192}$ part of a grain; this being administered every 2 hours

amounted to $\frac{1}{192}$ of a grain in the 24 hours, a quantity which I have found useful in many varieties of nervous disease.

A solution of the strength given her is most intensely bitter, and patients taking it will not complain that there is no medicine in it. Perhaps even a smaller dose than this might be sufficient. This remedy is certainly very efficacious in the cases to which it is adapted; namely, those when the nerves from chronic irritation seem to have lost their normal power, and are manifesting their force by irregular and abnormal bursts of reflex action, as well as in those cases where the nervous forces are entirely in abeyance.

Another case in which I have lately used it with most excellent effects, was vomiting dependent on disease of the heart—mitral insufficiency. The patient suffered constant and distressing nausea, and a feeling of fulness and distension of the stomach, the consequence of the general capillary engorgement of the mucous membrane.

There had been several opinions given respecting this patient, and various remedies recommended; but, as they all failed to relieve this particular symptom, I again resorted to the strychnia. I ordered grs. $\frac{1}{128}$ every two hours, in a wineglassful of ice-cold water.

The relief was so marked that it was observable by all the attendants and family, the patient being enabled to take food in a short time after it was commenced. Although the patient died of his heart affection, yet the strychnia gave him so much relief that he regularly asked for it when ever he felt the nausea returning.

Strychnia in a certain class of cases is a remedial agent of great potency; but it must be used with caution. I have seen alarming effects produced by gr. $\frac{1}{8}$ given every 4 hours to a girl 10 years of age: the effects being manifest after the 6th dose had been taken. I prefer very small doses, say from gr. $\frac{1}{128}$ to gr. $\frac{1}{256}$, given frequently; as by this means a sufficient quantity of the remedy is absorbed during a given time, to exert its peculiar powers on the system, while not a sufficient amount can be obtained from any single dose to become dangerous.

The danger of strychnia does not seem to depend so much on the quantity introduced into the system as it does upon the suddenness with which that quantity has been taken up by the system.