

suppose, by a blister which was applied to the back of my neck), I was convinced that I was entering on a state of suffering, which, though at the time not insupportable, would be ever becoming more painful. Ages passed away, through which I was still rushing on with a feeling of helpless despair.

"At length I knew I was lying in bed ill. In vain I tried, again and again, to recollect the cause of my illness; my imagination suggested many explanations, but the true cause never once crossed my mind. At last the pain in my neck arrested my attention, and all at once I seemed to recollect that I had been shot in the back of my head, and thought I must be now in a state of delirium. It appeared to have happened a long while ago,—many years. I seemed to fall asleep occasionally, and was much puzzled that I always awoke in the day-time, apparently about the same hour. These intervals of sleep or complete unconsciousness could not in reality have lasted many minutes, but to me they seemed days. I cannot describe the painful earnestness with which I struggled to recover my recollection of what had really happened. About three hours from the time I first became affected, I began dimly and imperfectly to recognize objects around me; they became gradually more and more distinct, and at length I was myself again, but with bewildered feelings as if I had just risen from the dead.

"So far as my experience goes, the sensations arising from the use of *Cannabis Indica* are most frightful, and nothing should induce me to repeat the experiment."

NOTES.—The length of time that intervened between the ingestion of the dose and the manifestation of the symptoms is important to observe. The circumstances were not such as to explain it. The substance was taken upon an empty stomach, four hours or more after breakfast, and the symptoms did not supervene till sitting down to dinner, two hours or more afterwards. In the meanwhile he had continued his usual avocation, and had engaged his mind with its pursuits. Indeed, he had, so to speak, forgotten his recent experiment till reminded of it by the dangerous consequences that suddenly, though remotely, appeared. Generally the symptoms are late in occurrence in poisoning by cannabis, seldom succeeding before an hour has elapsed from its administration. But the retardation here was unusually protracted. In consequence, when called upon to treat him, the ordinary indication of provoking emesis—which it is desirable to fulfil in most cases of toxication—did not suggest itself for practice. The substance I conceived had already been removed from the stomach, and was then more likely to be in process of excretion than of absorption. Accordingly an opposite line of treatment