

stomach, the numbness of extremities, and the failure of all else to afford relief. An idea, I say, forced itself upon my attention, and here it is. I desired to give her relief, and I was determined to find it. I cared little where it came from. There was a distinct homoeopathicity between her symptoms and arsenic, when given in small doses, and I gave arsenious acid in the strength of one grain to two ounces of alcohol. Dose—ten or fifteen minims, every four hours. The first dose relieved her, and before the bottle was nearly finished no trace or symptom of a relapse had followed. The medical gentleman who saw the case with me, met me subsequently. His first question was, "What did you give that woman? It positively is wonderful." I saw her last week, nearly two months after I first administered the dose; and the woman is getting fat, healthy-looking, and full of spirits. I had not seen Dr. Leared's article at that time. It was possible I might never have seen it or heard of it, and had I not, accidentally, had some very rough ideas of the Homoeopathic laws, and being liberally disposed, that poor creature might have been suffering yet, or dead. Why should so many of our profession be so illiberal and exclusive? Why turn up their noses when such and such a homoeopathic or eclectic drug is mentioned? Or, worse still, why cry down a body and yet use their drugs, as Podophyllin, Leptandrin, &c.? Why not grasp eagerly at anything which has gained for itself repute, and forget who discovered it (if necessary)? Let us be too anxious for our patients' well-fare, and too little solicitous as to the source from whence the means of cure originated. Are not as acute and deeply thinking minds to be found in any other path than Allopathy? Have the systems of Hydropathy and Homeopathy lived and grown into a hugh fabric, and yet are unable to claim a sound stick to rest on? Must we read eagerly, and believe religiously, all we meet with in our medical authors, accept their *ipse dixit*, with their too frequent obscurities and theories, and teach our students so? Still, at the same time, tell them that the result of the labors of other men, their painful mental toil, and the equally successful results in practice, all go for nothing; all must be looked upon as fanciful pictures, drawn by too lively an imagination, and in short, and simply, because a different theory guides them; because they cannot see everything as clearly from our stand point as we think we can; and, lastly, because we have enlisted under the banner of Galen, Hippocrates and Esculapius, and therefore were intended to fight against disease in general, but more particularly against the disciples of Hahnemann and Prissnitz, the leaders of Homeopathy and

Hydropathic systems. For my part, Mr. Editor, I care not from what system I take my medicines. All I aim at is the alleviation of my patients' sufferings. Can we imagine an illiberal M.D., who had been relieved from some excruciating agony by means of an Eclectic or Homeopathic drug, without his being aware of it, anxious to relapse at once into torture when told the source of the agent? I trow not. I was, indeed, delighted to meet so liberal a sentiment as I have quoted in the foot-note given at the early part of this paper, and sincerely hope it may thaw out the illiberal and narrow-minded opinions which so large a portion of my Allopathic brethren seem inclined to cherish.

#### A CASE OF POISONING BY STRAMONIUM, AND NOVEL WAY RESORTED TO, TO PRODUCE VOMITING.

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On the evening of the 20th September I was sent for to see a man, J. P., aged 40, who the messenger stated had taken a tea-cupful of herb tea, made from an herb sent by a friend of his and recommended as a cure for asthma, to which he was subject. About five minutes after he had taken it he became "wild, and did't know any one." When I got to the house (in about ten minutes) I found him seated in a chair, leaning forward on his knees, shivering, staring wildly, countenance bathed in perspiration, pupils largely dilated, talking vaguely, and perfectly unconscious of surrounding objects, pulse 90 and full, hands and arms convulsed, every few moments legs unable to support his body, and dragged after him when we tried to get him to walk.

On examination of the herb it proved to be *Datura Stramonii*. The first thing to be done was an emetic. Mixed half a drachm sul. zinci in one ounce water, and tried to get him to swallow it, but he either could not or would not, although we held him and forced it into his mouth, holding his nose at the same time. As there was no stomach pump to be got, I took a No. 12 Gum Elastic Catheter, forced open his mouth, passed it down the oesophagus, and having ready a solution of sul zinc I took it into my mouth and squirted through the catheter into the stomach. In about twenty minutes he vomited freely, throwing up a quantity of stuff smelling strongly of "the herb tea." He remained in a state of stupor, with the convulsive movement of the arms, for about twelve hours, then fell asleep for six hours, and awoke scantly