

I injected half a grain of morphia into his arm, and within forty minutes the symptoms were relieved, and he fell asleep. I visited him occasionally throughout that day, and he appeared comfortable; the purging and vomiting having entirely ceased. I saw him again the next day. He was much better, the stomach and bowels were still quiet; but being a very old man whose constitution had been shattered by dissipation, and having been allowed to suffer for twelve hours before any relief had been sought for, he gradually sank from exhaustion.

I might enumerate several other cases, but let the above suffice to draw the the attention of the profession to this very important subject.

In all these cases I used the "sulphate of morphia" in solution, prepared as follows

R̄ morph. sulph. grs. xxx ij.
Acid sulph. gtts. ij.
Aquæ ℥ ij. M.

Consequently every 3 contains grs. ij. and xv m. half a grain, the usual dose employed.

The instrument used, was made by Teiman of New York, after the plan suggested by Dr. Alexander Wood, and consisted of gutta-percha, with capacity to hold half a drachm, having four graduations upon the piston; the nozzle a hollow, sharp-pointed needle being made of platinum.

The power, of morphia, as an anodyne, anti-phlogistic, and anti-spasmodic, is undoubted, when a certain quantity is directly introduced into the circulation, its effect is prompt and decisive; and as an antidote to cholera, I believe, will be found perfectly reliable.

In neuralgia, some objections may be raised to the exhibition of morphia, because of the nausea, and vomiting which sometimes follow its use; but in gastritis, or cholera, when these symptoms are always present, and distress the patient so much, it certainly cannot aggravate, but, according to my experience, invariably arrested them when administered hypodermically, and when proper precautions were taken to keep the patient in the recumbent posture, with the head upon a level with the long axis of the body until its effects had passed off.

I hope that the facts, as above related, will prove interesting to my professional brethren, and beneficial to suffering humanity.

I have omitted to state that, in over forty cases where I have used the hypodermic needle, there has been no local irritation, requiring treatment at the seat of puncture; and therefore no fears need be entertained in that direction.

J. R., M.D.

74 Caroline Street, Toronto, March 5th, 1866.