

of every species.
 h the carnivora
 is respect similar
 kill a dog, but
 required to kill a
 said to eat the

, it walked about
 ime it had spas-
 t out as props to
 d respiration was
 of the chest. In
 nd breathed with
 action again com-
 hen death super-

tissue of the fore
 cted for about ten
 ontractions of the
 ous case and death
 cid and not rigid.
 e of toast, it flew,
 $\frac{1}{4}$ of a grain more,
 e minutes when it
 ing as though the
 as usual, but just
 a while it flew for
 ot appear to come
 d on the back, and
 rds again, and the
 hen died. It had
 nt of rigidity after
 smodic fixedness of

x Vomica may be
 rigidity and convul-
 xia and death.
 e of Nux Vomica.
 it has been found
 undoubtedly a very
 e attacks of ague,

and of strengthening the coats of the bowels and preventing constipation.

II. The effects of the alkaloid in the second degree precisely resemble those of *Nux Vomica*—although a less quantity of the latter is required to cause spasmodic action than of the former, if we be guided by the proportion of *Strychnia* which is supposed to exist in it. The pulse does not appear to be much affected, although it is said to be increased during the convulsive attacks.

III. The third degree of operation is similar in both, each producing tetanus, asphyxia and death. The lower jaw in the inferior animals does not appear to be so violently closed, as accounts of fatal cases in the human subject would lead us to suspect. It is closed no doubt when there is a general spasm of all the muscles; but when it has a local action, merely, the jaws appear in general to be under the control of the will, because they are opened and closed in the ineffectual efforts to respire, taking in a mouthful of air and trying to force it into the lungs when the respiratory muscles fail to act. The similarity in the physiological effects between *Strychnine* and *Nux Vomica* were very well exemplified in the fatal case of John Parsons Cook, which happened in 1856, his symptoms being similar to those described by Pariera: he was unable to turn in bed without bringing on violent paroxysms, or to be handled or even spoken to, without a dread of the fatal spasms coming on. He had to keep perfectly still.

POST MORTEM APPEARANCES.—After death in the human subject the body remains very rigid—this was one of the prominent symptoms in Cooke's case. It also existed in the case of a young woman poisoned with *Nux Vomica*, reported by Mr. Ollier. That this does not occur in the lower animals is generally admitted, which shows that it must affect their muscular systems differently. Venous congestion is observed in all these cases which may be expected as a result of obstructed circulation through the lungs. Occasionally there is a slight redness or inflammation of the alimentary canal, and at times softening of the brain and spinal cord, but these are not very fully substantiated.

MODUS OPERANDI.—When *Strychnia* is introduced beneath the skin it is a local irritant, although it produces its constitutional effects by absorption or nervous influence. In one of the animals experimented on I found a large space inflamed where I had put $\frac{1}{8}$ of a grain of *Strychnia* 2 to 3 days previously. When the alkaloid was introduced I moved the skin over the subjacent muscles so that it might be diffused across their surface without being wounded by the knife. I subsequently found that the inflammatory action was only excited where