

daughter, æt. 26 years, a very delicate girl, having had several attacks of pneumonia; the younger, æt. 19 years, was in the enjoyment of very good health. On the evening of November 13th, 1882, the father and daughters were attending choir practice at a neighboring church, leaving their mother at home, who, in their absence, busied herself in preparing some herb-tea for all to partake of, as they were suffering from severe colds. The herbs were supposed to be only those they were constantly in the habit of using, viz., smartweed and mullin leaves. On returning home at 10 p.m., the father and daughters drank freely of the infusion, the mother only tasting it, as there was scarcely enough for all. The father went immediately to bed, the others remained up for a time. In a few moments all began to complain of dryness and burning sensation in the throat and mouth; soon the elder daughter grew dizzy, began laughing and acted like one intoxicated, then became delirious; the father and young girl complained of sickness, nausea, dizziness and strange feelings, and by the time the mother got a neighbor aroused and in the house, all were insensible.

I arrived at 11.30 p.m., found Mr. T. lying in bed in a state of coma, breathing very heavily, tongue extremely dry and swollen, unable to swallow, entirely unconscious, no sensation whatever, at intervals a convulsive movement passed over his frame. The sisters were in adjoining sitting-room, lying on beds hastily spread on the floor by the neighbors. Both were unconscious and swallowed with great difficulty anything given them. They retained some sensation. They had severe convulsions at intervals. In all three cases the countenances were of a dusky hue; the pupils of the eyes were dilated to the full; scarcely any of the iris could be distinguished, also strong external strabismus. From the marked mydriasis, together with the other symptoms present, it was evident the poison was one of the solanaceæ, and I was fully convinced that it was either belladonna or its alkaloid, an opinion, I think, pretty fully corroborated by the facts afterwards ascertained. The stupor exhibited by all the patients was most profound, in fact the whole nervous system was prostrated and paralyzed. Sharp emetics were given to the girls, but the elder one did not vomit as freely as her sister. I gave all the patients three ½ gr. doses of morphia subcutaneously, at intervals of

an hour, and after the first injection the convulsions ceased, and after the third the effect on the pupil of the eye of the younger girl was quite perceptible. I also gave hypodermic injections of brandy.

A message had been dispatched for Dr. McLaughlin, of Bowmanville. On the Dr.'s arrival we used the stomach pump with all three, and after removing the contents of the stomach, we pumped in a strong infusion of green tea. In spite of all our efforts the elder sister grew gradually worse, the pulse became small, thready, and at 4 a.m. rose to 160. The younger girl had shown better symptoms all through, although at one time her pulse rose to 145, and the prognosis was very doubtful. At 5.30 a.m. when we attempted to pump in some warm milk and an infusion of tea, she struggled a good deal and finally roused up sufficiently to look around; we had her removed at once to her bedroom, and gave her a good potion of castor oil. The other poor girl died at 6 a.m., having never rallied in the slightest from the time she first became unconscious. Continued giving the father strong tea, warm milk, brandy and aromatic spirits of ammonia, by means of stomach pump. It was necessary to hold his tongue protruded from his mouth all the time to enable him to breathe at all easily. His pulse varied from 130 to 170. At noon he rallied a little, opened his eyes, looked around and resisted slightly when we were using the pump. The drug, however, had done its work with an enfeebled constitution. In the afternoon he sank gradually and died at 4 p.m., eighteen hours after partaking of his herb tea. The remaining daughter slowly recovered, but was very ill for three weeks. The tongue, throat and fauces were swollen to such an extent that but little could be swallowed for a day or so. There was complete aphonia for a time; harsh, dry cough, with considerable bronchial irritation. Quite a scarlatinal rash over a greater portion of the skin, which lasted two or three days. For two weeks the temperature of the body ranged from 101° to 103° Fahr., and the pulse from 110 to 125. Treated symptoms as they arose, and the patient finally made a good recovery.

I may state here that Dr. McLaughlin fully concurred in my opinion as to the character of the poison. In examining the remaining herbs not