

was on the patient's table; after several attempts to make it write, she undertook a closer investigation and was much surprised to discover that the pen was really a hypodermic needle.

Under such circumstances it can be little wondered at, that the habit is so readily contracted and still less, that with such fiendish methods for aiding the habitues, treatment should be of little avail.

And it is to the desire to test for themselves the alleged glorious effects of these drugs, and to produce in themselves that relief from fatigue and excitation of the mind of which they have read that we must ascribe the greater number of these victims, and worse than all this is the fact that the vice has now to a great extent become a fashionable one among certain female leaders of society. The neophyte now meets upon the threshold of that new world she is so anxious to enter, a fiend in the form of some kind friend who provides her with a pretty panacea for the weariness of dissipation. It is not necessary here to more than refer to the dangers which may arise from the people becoming generally addicted to these drugs, but I might point out the ease with which a legatee might be put out of the way by being initiated in this habit.

Although, as has been stated, the principal reason for the increase in this vice are those given before, yet it is necessary to deal with another alleged influence, that of the physician. This has been made on the basis that he uses large quantities of the drug as a medicament. Of course there is no denying that he does so use these drugs, and we may safely rest content that there will never be a demand made upon him not to. For if any one were disposed to make the attempt there would be such a cry raised, all over the civilized world, against him by those who had been relieved from pain themselves, or by endless numbers of people, members of whose families have been relieved from severest suffering, that he would be glad to withdraw from the light of so much publicity. This gives but a partial idea of the far-reaching effects which this drug has had in the hands of the physician.