

of spare habit and very temperate. His father's, for generations, were victims of gout, though he himself had never had a "fit." Of late, while sitting in court, he had, on more than one occasion, been seized with giddiness, dimness of vision and confusion of ideas, followed for days with constant dull aching and occasional lancinating pain in the head. His medical man, a very intelligent practitioner, had prescribed without benefit. He felt greatly alarmed and feared apoplexy or approaching dementia. I gave him a prescription containing colchicum, bi-carbonate of potash and iodide of potassium, to be followed by quinine in sherry. He writes me that the effect was magical. A manifest improvement commenced at once, and now he is quite well. He further mentions, as a curious circumstance, that his sense of smell and taste, which had been almost totally lost for years, had returned perfectly. Had the loss of these special senses anything to do with latent gout? Had drugs which are supposed to eliminate uric acid from the blood, or perhaps to convert that acid into the soluble hippuric, anything to do with a restoration of these senses? We know that catarrh, with a furious running at nose and eyes, is an occasional result of taking iodide of potassium, and may it not have been that salt, which acted specifically upon the schneiderian membrane? The subject is worth speculating upon.

IV.—An estimable lady, æt. 32, had suffered for two years with neuralgia, generally in the temple. Sometimes the pain was most atrocious, so much so as to produce delirium, followed by mental obfuscation for some time. The pain was never entirely absent. For these two years most of her days were spent miserably in bed, and very rarely could she drive out. In England and in Canada she had been treated constantly, but with little amelioration. For six months she had been under my care, but nothing I could do, did her any permanent good. Thinking her malady might depend upon a gouty diathesis, I prescribed one day a mixture containing *veratrum viride*, a tea-spoonful dose, every two hours, till nausea was produced. Her lady's maid gave her by mistake a table-spoonful, instead of a tea-spoonful. Soon after the third dose, most alarming symptoms of poisoning came

on. Violent and constant vomiting, cold perspiration, extremities, and indeed the whole body cold and livid; pulse almost imperceptible, and an absolute conviction on her mind that death was imminent. The symptoms resembled very closely the collapse stage of cholera. Huge quantities of champagne, brandy, morphia, chloric ether, were in turn or combined, attempted to be given, but all were rejected violently, almost before they entered the stomach. But finally, with the hypodermic injection of morphia, chloroform inhalation, local heat, &c., the alarming symptoms subsided, and on recovering from the shock of the poisonous dose she found her old malady had left her entirely and remained a perfectly healthy and happy woman.

Here was an intractable disease suddenly cured by accident, I suppose; for it is uncertain whether the dose I had ordered would have been effectual. But whether the cure was effected by the almost overwhelming shock to the nervous system of the poison, or whether the neuralgia disease depended upon a gouty diathesis, and the *ver. vir.* acting like colchicum as a specific, I am not prepared to say. But were I not inclined to the latter belief I should not have recorded the case here.

I will only record one case more, although tempted to do several.

V.—A gentleman farmer consulted me for a scaly eruption over his whole body, a sort of cross between pityriasis and psoriasis. He was active and regular in his habits. He contracted the disease, as he believed, very curiously, some months before. While happening to have a scratch upon his hand he caught a small pig that was unusually covered with pityriasis, and in the pig's struggles the scratched part of the hand came into violent contact with the pig's body; inflammation of the hand succeeded, then the lymphatics of the arm and the axillary glands became involved, and thence an erythematous rash extended over the whole body, and left the disease.

The warm-bath containing a little carbolic acid, arsenic by the mouth, milk diet, etc., soon cured the eruption, but its disappearance was immediately followed by an attack of regular gout, which was duly removed by colchicum, etc. Was there no connection between this