

had been previously used to rasp the seeds from which it is produced. Its effects are first discernable in a difficulty and heaviness in the movement of the limbs, a gloominess and restlessness of mind, a peculiar sensitiveness to light and noise, and in many instances a sensation similar to that of a galvanic shock is felt in coming in contact with external objects. After this tetanus and asphyxia commence in single paroxysms, becoming gradually longer and more violent until death ensue. It is very seldom that the intellect is effected beyond the restlessness and mental depression referred to. The corpse is not unfrequently rigid and distorted after death.

Strychnia not being a cumulative, like arsenic, if once recovered from, its effect ceases. It is a colorless inodorous, crystalline powder, its chief characteristic being its exceedingly bitter taste. It is almost insoluble in water, and will therefore generally be administered either in the powder or in some solid form.

In the treatment of cases of poisoning, there are two fundamental principles, to one or other of which recourse must generally be had. The one is the immediate ejection of the poison by means of emetics or forced vomiting the other the decomposition of the poisonous compound by a chemical agent, whereby another inert or harmless substance is formed in its stead. Thus if the compound be oxalic acid—a virulent poison frequently taken in mistake for Epsom salts which it resembles in appearance—and carbonate of magnesia or lime be administered in time, the latter are at once decomposed by the acid, and oxalate of magnesia or lime, a comparatively harmless compound, is formed. Acetate of lead (a poisonous salt of lead employed in the adulteration of wines, loaf sugar, &c.) would be at once decomposed by sulphuric acid (to be used very dilute), sulphate of magnesia (Epsom salts), or sulphate of soda (Glauber's salts), by either of which it would be converted into the insoluble sulphate of lead, which is inert. Prussic acid is decomposed by chlorine, or the chlorides of soda or lime; the mineral acids by the carbonates, such as carbonate of lime, magnesia, soda, &c.; mercurial poisons, such as the corrosive sublimate, by the albumen in milk, white of eggs, &c.; strychnine is formed into insoluble salts by chlorine, bromine, or iodine, which are strongly recommended as antidotes if procurable immediately.

In almost all cases, however, the use of powerful emetics is most effectual, and should be generally resorted to. The emetics generally employed are sulphate of zinc, tartar emetic, epacuanha, and antimony wine. Of these the sulphate of zinc is by far the most effective, and is generally recommended. Ten grains may be dissolved in a tumbler of warm water, and the