

year a case of combined opium and alcohol taking, presenting a history and result of such importance as probably to render its recital one of interest to the readers of the LANCET.

Mrs. —, of Canada, æt. 34, in the summer of 1881, passed through her second accouchement during the eighth month of gestation. Her recovery was tedious, involving four to five months, during which she had much discomfort from alvine torpor, and also underwent an operation for the relief of fistula in ano. The latter was attended by severe pain, to relieve which her medical adviser gave morphia hypodermically, and supplying her with a syringe instructed her and the attendant in its use. This was in July, and the initial dose of the morphia was $\frac{1}{8}$ of a grain, repeated three or more times daily, when the pain was severe. She made a fair recovery from this illness, except that the power of her lower limbs was largely lost, due, it was thought, to the morphia—which she had steadily taken—and a lack of active exercise. She had now become a confirmed habitué, and during the next two years used her opiate in increasing quantity and frequency, often repeating it every three or four hours.

During the autumn of 1883 she came under the care of a medical gentleman who was called to relieve her of severe abdominal pain and nervous derangement. Prior to this time no attempt had been made to abandon the morphia. Her new medical adviser, appreciating the situation, strongly urged an effort in that direction, but without success. Her condition had steadily grown worse, aggravated as it was by an inordinate use of brandy, of which she took at times from 12 to 16 ounces daily. From October, 1883, her mental and physical decline was marked, the most prominent symptoms being anorexia, insomnia, nausea, incessant thirst, subsultus, loss of memory, delirium, hallucinations and partial imbecility. Her physician now insisted on stopping her stimulants, and succeeded with the brandy, while the morphia, which had been increased to several grains, three to five per diem, was reduced to one or two injections daily. Despite this treatment her mental and physical status steadily deteriorated until she became completely imbecilic, and in this condition, on December 21, 1883, she came under the writer's care.

So weak was she prior to leaving home that

some of her friends deemed it hazardous to make the effort, fearing she would not survive the journey, but under the watchful care of Dr. Bayard, it was safely effected. Her physical debility on arriving was so great that she was carried from her carriage. Mentally she was a wreck. Delusions were prominent, and hallucinations of sight, sound and touch almost constant, that of touch being especially marked, patient fancying bugs and reptiles crawling over her. Her expression was idiotic; she was utterly unable to converse intelligibly, and her voice in speaking speedily sank to a whisper and was lost. In fact such mental ravages from opium we never met. Physically, she was partially prostrated, pulse frequent and feeble, marked anorexia, furred tongue and alvine torpor; in fine, all the symptoms before noted except delirium and subsultus. During her coming, in order to maintain her strength, she had taken milk punch freely, and was given one or two half grain injections of morphia daily. Such was her status on arrival. There was no history of hereditary insanity. The case seemed clearly one of profoundly pernicious results from her double addictions, aggravated by a laudable effort to remove the cause. This being our belief, the prognosis was favorable, an opinion endorsed by Dr. John C. Shaw, Superintendent of the King's Co. Insane Asylum, who was called in consultation, and verified by the result, as the further record of the case will show.

As a prelude to active treatment the patient was given a mild mercurial which acted well. No alcohol was allowed from the outset, and at the end of a week the morphia—which previously had been given in small doses by mouth at bed-time—was quite abandoned, and reliance placed on large doses of Indian hemp to secure sleep. As tonics she was given daily seances of electricity, with syr. of the hypophosphites of iron, strychnia and quinine, in two drachm doses, *ter die*, and full feeding. The good effect of this *regime* soon declared itself, for in less than a fortnight, signs of improvement presented. The earliest of these were mental. The delusions lessened and the hallucinations departed, the last to leave being those of touch which persisted for some time after the patient was able to realize that they were only the vagaries of her disordered brain. With this amendment came a better brain status in other