

after-treatment, to induce her to submit to some measures whereby we might dry up that horrible "safety-valve!"

I have already described the condition in which I found my patient, when I was first called in to see her. To any one acquainted with scenes such as this, her case at first sight could, certainly, promise no hope. Terribly exhausting as her disease was, however, one moment's observation sufficed to fully convince me that one-half, at least, of this fearful emaciation was to be ascribed to sheer starvation. Of so delicate a nature was the potency of the medicines which she had hitherto been taking, in infinitesimal doses, that the very simplest and most wholesome articles of food were "incompatible" with them, and accordingly they had been as strictly prohibited as they had been faithfully eschewed, so that when I proposed—as the only expedient I could then recommend which might prove of some use to the dying woman—that her parched lips and mouth might be moistened now and then with a few drops of brandy and water, her horror-stricken nurse could hardly be persuaded to administer what she had been taught seriously to consider as fatally antagonistic to the virtue of the last few drops and globules which she had given the patient shortly before my arrival. But there was no time to be lost; a drowning man will catch at straws, and she, with a trembling hand and fearful countenance, went about in the execution of my suggestion. Having done this, I directed her to lift up some of the blinds, to let in more light. All friends present, but one, were kindly requested to retire from the crowded chamber, and having made everything about her as cheerful and comfortable as possible, I left, with a promise to return in a few hours, expecting only, however, to find the dying woman beyond the need of human aid.

On my return, I was surprised to find that my patient was not only still living, but also presenting symptoms of decided improvement. In fact, the very small quantity of the stimulant she had taken, seemed certainly to have had so beneficial an effect, as sufficed to determine me there and then that my patient would and should recover. During the first few days, she was kept alive by the unwearied perseverance of her friends, who kept feeding her with drops of stimulants. As soon as she was able to swallow nourishment or medicine in sufficient quantities, she was put on a liberal diet, including every article of wholesome food she might relish; while