

numbers of these people are now residing in the opium or inebriate homes and lunatic asylums of the country.

The means of the vice are easily obtainable, and it is usually practised in secret and therefore does not proclaim itself in anything like the manner of alcoholic indulgence. So it is that it has such fascinations for our respectable weaklings and fashionable women. Besides this veil of secrecy which is always so dear to such persons, there is the added fascination of delicate and dainty surroundings. To the fashionable woman it is simply everything, that instead of a bottle unsafely concealed in some nook, there standing upon her table without suspicion whatsoever is her dressing case, one of the pretty cut-glass and gold-stoppered bottles of which contain not the perfumes but rather the curse of the East. Then in the form possibly of a pretty jeweled pencil is the hypodermic syringe whose tiny steel point requires just the amount of heroism which my lady possesses to plunge it into the delicate flesh which at this time might better be described as a sieve-like arm.

There can be no doubt that the surroundings of this habit have a great deal to do with its increase more especially among the classes mentioned, because it appeals to them in ways which have been ingrained as their life progresses. It is seldom the strong are seduced, but often the weak and effeminate, to these it is a matter of the senses and imagination, to both of which nothing appeals more strongly than the habit under discussion; of the secrecy of it there can be no doubt, and it is surprising the fiendish ingenuity displayed by the traffickers in the drug to assist their customers. A striking instance of this has been recently brought to my notice. In one of the ladies' schools in New York, some of the pupils were found using the drug; one of these was taken away and put under treatment in the endeavour to cure the habit, but it was found that, although constantly watched by the nurse, she, beyond a doubt, was obtaining morphine from some source which could not be discovered. The nurse, wishing to write a letter, took for the purpose a stylographic pen which