

A Literary Moral.

The New York *Tribune* of Sunday, March 31st, quotes these remarks from the London *Academy*: "An Edinburgh correspondent sends us the following: 'Addressing his students last week on the intoxicants, Dr. Wylie, the professor of medicine in Edinburgh University, adduced an experience of his that is not without its literary moral. He was called one day to see a young man. As he was entering the house the patient's sister exclaimed: "Oh, it's all that horrid book!" Inquiry elicited the fact that the patient's favorite reading was "Sherlock Holmes." The young man was in a very low state, and his tell-tale arm was dotted with hypodermic punctures. His admiration for the most popular paper detective had betrayed him into the cocaine habit. Taking this case as a text, Dr. Wylie permitted himself a sentence or two of severe stricture on Conan Doyle's knowledge of the action of drugs: "If such a man as Sherlock Holmes had existed, dosing himself as depicted by his creator, in a few weeks his opinion on anything would not have been worth having." Cocaine, according to Dr. Wylie, is even more disastrous than morphine. "It renders its subject vain-glorious and pleased with himself, but blunts the intellect and blasts the imagination."'"—*Medical Record*.

Treatment of Cough.

Weiss (*Die Heilkunde*) states that the velocity with which the air is expelled during violent coughing is double that of the wind during the worst hurricane. It is, therefore, evident that great force is expended, and a violent laryngeal cough may completely exhaust the patient. Treatment should be directed to the cause of the cough when this is known. Too often, however, symptomatic treatment is alone possible. If crepitations are present in the lungs and are due to secretion, the indication is to render expectoration as easy as possible. Apomorphine is probably the most valuable expectorant. Difficult expectoration frequently depends on the viscosity of the secretion. To prevent the secretion becoming too dry and viscid, the air should be kept moist by the bronchitis kettle, Siegle's spray, or other means; the rate at which secretion dries depends entirely on the degree of moisture of the atmosphere. To combine expectorants with narcotics, as is so often done, is irrational. If a narcotic is required as well as expectorants it should be given independently, and only when there is some special indication, such as the necessity for a good night's rest. Even when a narcotic is given it is, as a rule, inadvisable to suppress coughing entirely. Heroin, the diacetic-acid ester of morphine, is the most satisfactory drug. It does