

the proprietor of a neighboring saloon, and on my arrival was told that "a chap" had just gone to his room from the saloon in a fearful fix. "He looks," said the publican, "as if he had been on a terrible spree, and needs a doctor mighty bad." I was shown to the gentleman's room, and was struck at once by his peculiar appearance. He told me frankly that he was an opium eater; that he had not taken a drink for months; but that this morning, feeling so badly from morphine, he had gone to the saloon and taken a brandy cocktail, which, however, did not stick. He protested that he was dying, and altogether was in a sorry plight. I subsequently learned his dose was three grains of morphine several times a day. I tried various remedies for a day or two, and by moral suasion got him to reduce the dose very materially, but much to his discomfort. About the third day of my attention I bethought myself of the coca and ordered it for him. Imagine my surprise upon meeting him the next day with fine spirits and a record of only one fourth of a grain of morphine taken since my last call. This was the end of the case. He took the coca for some days, and entirely broke off from opium. His statement was that whenever he felt depressed or bad he took a good, big dose of the medicine, and in a few moments was all right.

My second case was so striking in its results and is so recent that I hardly feel justified in reporting it. It is as follows: Upon the 18th of the present month a gentleman sent for me. I found him in bed, looking like a consumptive. He at once told me that he was an opium-eater, and that he had reached a point where thirty grains of morphine daily were necessary to supply the cravings of his perverted nature. He said that he was now trying to break off, and wanted me to help him. I told him of what the coca had done, and with a few cheerful words prescribed it for him. The next day I found him still taking morphine, although in small doses, as he had not been able to find the coca. Upon the following day he had had but one dose of morphine in eighteen hours (one fourth grain) and plenty of coca. He was hopeful and cheerful. The next day I failed to see him, and on calling the day following the servant met me at the door with the statement that he was well, and had gone down street. This much I can say for the last case, that when I last saw him he looked like another man, so light and cheerful was his face, and so free from the evidences of opium.

These are very brief and slender claims upon which to base a claim of discovery: and while I might supplement them by several cases of ordinary hypochondriasis relieved by the agent in question, I do not deem it worth while, as my only desire is to direct professional attention to the administration of coca in the treatment of the opium-habit.

Erythroxyton coca is a native of the eastern slope of the Andes. It is cultivated in the tropical valleys of Bolivia and Peru. The greatest of care

is given to its culture by the natives. An idea of its importance as an agricultural product may be gained from the fact that the duties upon coca in Peru amount yearly to four hundred thousand dollars. The Peruvians are pre-eminently a despondent, an unhappy race, and coca is their balm. To them it is a relic of departed days of glory, and under its benign influence they enjoy in dream and delirium the halcyon days of Monco Capac.

Professor Steele, of the American Pharmaceutical Association, from whose article upon Coca I glean these facts, says: "Coca is both salutary and nutritious; in fact, the best gift the Creator could have bestowed upon the unfortunate Indians. They always carry a bag of leaves suspended from their necks, upon which they draw three times a day with as much pleasure and delight as a connoisseur in tobacco smokes a fragrant Havana. It imparts brilliancy to the eye and a more animated expression to the features, agility to the step, and a general appearance of animation and content." Indeed, one can scarcely read Prof. Steele's article * without wishing to test the virtues of this great antidote for the blues. The ordinary dose for adults of the fluid extract is a tablespoonful.

CHIAN TURPENTINE IN THE TREATMENT OF CANCER.

The *Lancet*, for March 27th, 1880, contains a paper by Professor John Clay, of Birmingham, on "The Treatment of Cancer of the Female Generative Organs by a new method." The remedy he uses is Chian Turpentine, and, although his experience extends over a period of only twelve months, yet, from the results which have been obtained from its use during that time, the author asserts that an amount of relief has been secured to the patients put under its influence which has not been afforded by any other mode of treatment hitherto employed. In the first case in which it was tried it was given in doses of six grains, with four grains of flowers of sulphur, every four hours. The patient was 52 years of age, and suffered from scirrhus cancer of the body and fundus of the uterus. Hemorrhage was excessive, and pain in the back and abdomen agonizing, and the cancerous cachexia was well marked. The patient apparently had not long to live. The uterus was extensively destroyed by the cancer, and its cavity admitted three fingers. On the fourth day of treatment by the Chian turpentine the patient reported herself greatly relieved of the pain. The os was found quite contracted, hardly admitting the index finger, and the surrounding cancerous infiltration was much diminished. At the twelfth week examination was made, and the parts felt ragged and

* Proceedings of the American Pharmaceutical Association, 1878, pp. 774-778.