

cerning him, a notice of which Mr. Kursinger saw in the *Wiener Zeitung*, but I have not been able to find the statement itself. Mr. Krum, the pharmacist here, tells me that there is in Sturzburg a well-known arsenic-eater, Mr. Schmid, who now takes daily twelve and sometimes fifteen grains of arsenic. He began taking arsenic from curiosity, and appears very healthy, but always becomes sickly and falls away if he attempts to leave it off. The director of the arsenic factory before alluded to is also said to be very healthy, and not to look so old as forty-five, which he really is.

As a proof how much secrecy is observed by those who practise arsenic-eating, I may mention that Dr. Arbele says he inquired of four medical men, well acquainted with the people of the districts in question, both in the towns and country, and they could not tell him of any individual case, but knew of the custom only by report.

Two criminal cases have been mentioned to me, in which the known habit of arsenic-eating was successfully pleaded in favor of the accused. The first by Dr. Kottowitz, of Neuhaus, was that of a girl taken up in that neighborhood on a strong suspicion of having poisoned one or more people with arsenic, and though circumstances were strongly against her, yet the systematic arsenic-eating in the district was pleaded so successfully in her favor that she was acquitted, and still lives near Neuhaus, but is believed by every one to be guilty. The other case was mentioned by Dr. Lorenz. A woman was accused of poisoning her husband, but brought such clear proof that he was an arsenic-eater, as fully to account for arsenic being found in the body. She was, of course, acquitted.

One fact mentioned to me by some friends is well worthy of note. They say: "In this part of the world, when a graveyard is full, it is shut up for about twelve years, when all the graves which are not private property by purchase are dug up, the bones collected in the charnel-house, the ground plowed over, and burying begins again. On these occasions the bodies of arsenic-eaters are found almost unchanged, and recognizable by their friends. Many people suppose that the finding of their bodies is the origin of the story of the vampire." In the *Médecinischer Jahrbuch des Oesterreichischen Kaiserstaates*, 1822, *neuest Folge*, there is a report by Professor Schallgruber, of the Imperial Lyceum at Grätz, of an investigation undertaken by order of government in various cases of poisoning by arsenic. After giving details of six *post-mortem* examinations, he says: "The reason of the frequency of these sad cases appears to me to be the familiarity with arsenic which exists in our country, particularly the higher parts. There is hardly a district in Upper Styria where you will not find arsenic in at least one house, under the name of hydrach. They use it for the complaints of domestic animals, to kill vermin, and as a stomachic to excite appetite. I saw one peasant show another on the point of a knife how much arsenic he took daily, without which, he said, he could not live; the quantity I should estimate at two grains. It is said, but this I will not answer for that in that part of the country this poison is used in making cheese; and, in fact, several cases of poisoning by cheese have occurred in Upper Styria, one not long since. The above-mentioned peasant states, I believe truly, that they buy the arsenic from the Tyrolese, who bring into the country spirits and other medicines, and so are the cause of much mischief." This report is, I believe, mentioned in Orfila's *Toxicology*, and one or two other works, but I have not seen it quoted myself; it is interesting, as being early and official evidence of arsenic-eating. Since I received the above information, a gentleman who was studying at this hospital, told me that, when an assistant in Lincolnshire, he knew a man who began taking arsenic for some skin disease, and gradually increased the dose to five grains daily. He said he himself supplied him with this dose daily for a long time. He wrote to the medical man with whom he was assistant, and I have been, for a long time, promised full particulars of the case; but beyond the fact that he took five grains of arsenic, in the form of Fowler's solution, daily, for about six years, and could never leave it off without inconvenience, and a return of his old complaint, I have as yet not received them. I have delayed publishing these facts for some time, hoping to get information on some other points, for which I have written to my friends