

gained by its rapid action, where time is precious; and it appears preferable to other purgatives in abating the torpor left in the stomach and duodenum by repeated spirituous stimulation, and restoring normal peristaltic action in the whole intestines. Long experience of its efficacy has induced me, of late years, to give a couple of drops always as the first medicine.

When the bowels have been fully evacuated—but not before—the patient is in a proper state to commence taking some preparation of opium. Indeed, sometimes, when the croton oil is given, he will not need opium; for I have seen a few instances in which the oil alone sufficed for cure; but of course this cannot be generally expected. Liquid preparations of opium appear to be most convenient and effectual; and the common tincture, given in bottled porter, is as good as any.

In the early part of my life I occasionally combined tartrate of antimony with the narcotic; but finding, or believing, that this disturbed and suspended its soporiferous effect, I have for many years administered the opium alone.

The narcotic dose, I think, should be moderate; given every hour, and not increased. Care should be taken not to administer what are called "heroic doses," nor to continue too long the exhibition of moderate quantities; and I have seen fatal results from both practices. When, after forty or fifty hours, the patient continues without sleep, jactitating, raving, and talking himself hoarse, it will be proper to leave off medicine entirely for some hours; and not unfrequently, after such interval, sleep and recovery will follow. If not, a cold douche on the head should be tried, and kept up for a considerable time. If this also fails, the administration of chloroform by the stomach, or its inhalation, still remains. The latter appears preferable; and several instances are on record of recovery by inhaling chloroform when every thing else had failed.

The writer has found the simple plan here recommended successful in a large number of cases of delirium tremens, and unsuccessful in very few. During twelve years, in which he was surgeon of a Regiment of the Line in Canada, he attended a hundred and three men ill of the disease, all of whom recovered but two, both of whom had diseased livers. Unless coma supervened, blisters were never used; but the head was often shaved, and wet linen applied.

Patients are usually harmless, and coercion is seldom necessary; but they should be amused as much as possible, and sedulously watched. Sometimes they are violent and dangerous, and require personal restraint, to prevent mischief to themselves and others. A little management is often required to induce them to submit quietly to coercion. Many years ago, in Quebec, the writer attended a Canadian