

hæmorrhoids. Stramonium leaves are much employed for fumigation in asthmatic affections, a practice frequently productive of speedy relief, notwithstanding its alkaloid, datura, is not volatile; that of conium being freely so, its leaf might be supposed to furnish a much better material for the fabrication of asthmatic paper and cigars. Another eligible mode of administering this class of remedies, especially those containing volatile principles, is by inhalation in connection with the vapor of water; the inconvenience of the method and the want of suitable apparatus have sometimes operated against a trial of its merits: there is no real difficulty, however, in adjusting a good inhaler, when not readily accessible, by the use of a wide-mouth bottle and glass tube.

Of all the narcotics, none has received so great an impulse, in our time, as Indian hemp. The incredible stories recorded by travelers in relation to the effects of *hashish* on the impressible natives of the East Indies, have given it a world-wide notoriety as an intoxicant, while the efforts of certain empirics, among us, who have advertised it extensively, under the plea of disinterested humanity, have drawn the attention of thousands, both in and out of the profession, to its availability in the treatment of phthisis. The extract of cannabis has, certainly, become one of the most popular, as it is one of the best of its class; its chief advantages are the exhilaration which accompanies, or rather precedes its complete narcotic effect, the remarkable control it exerts over nervous inquietude and the absence of any noxious effect, either in diminishing the appetite, checking the secretions or constipating the bowels. The quality of the preparation is so varied, that physicians are often quite uncertain what dose to prescribe; some specimens seem nearly inert, while of others half a grain is a powerful dose, and a grain has produced alarming symptoms. It is always best for the physician to assure himself beforehand on this head. It should be of a bright green color, heavy narcotic odor, and entirely soluble in alcohol. Squire's London manufacture is esteemed the best. In prescribing extract of cannabis, in liquid form, the most approved combination is with carbonate of potassa, which renders the extract soluble in water, otherwise, dissolved in alcohol, it readily separates on being added to aqueous and even mucilaginous preparations. I have met with one case only in which extract of cannabis produced those extraordinary hallucinations to which I have referred as being ascribed to *hashish* in the East. This patient, a consumptive, was often possessed with an idea of his own duality, seeing horrid visions of detached portions of himself. He seemed to be continually haunted by the presence of an imperious director, on whose behalf his most trifling acts were performed. At times, even in the act of expectoration, he believed himself the agent of another for whose sufferings he felt the keenest sympathy.

The very extensive use made of lobelia and sanguinaria in this country, would, I think, surprise our transatlantic collaborators. The combination, in these remedies, of narcotic with emetic and diaphoretic properties, fits them for a great variety of indications, though they seem to me by no means so safe and harmless as some rather adventurous prescribers seem to suppose. A plant of the famous *soianacæ* family, to which belladonna, stramonium, and hyosciamus belong, yields us the alterative narcotic *dulcamra*, of which we have only two preparations in the Pharmacopœia—the decoction and aqueous extract, neither of them very eligible or apparently satisfactory to the profession.

One very prominent element in the popularity of a remedy is its pharmaceutical eligibility, and there is little doubt that the neglect into which many valuable drugs have fallen is due chiefly to their not being presented to the practitioner in an eligible shape. Since the general abandonment of the crude and inelegant class of infusions and decoctions, there has been a manifest tendency to employ more concentrated and reliable preparations; but the Pharmacopœia, never in advance of the demands of the profession, has given no formulas in the cases of many of the most valuable. That this may be partially remedied in the edition now under revision by the eminently judi-