

tendant found him standing in his room with his shirt off and torn into ribands, his bedding torn and scattered over the floor, his bedstead on its end up against the wall, and the patient praying and swearing at the top of his voice. He did not sleep, but occupied himself in shifting his bedstead from one place to another, and making a row generally, so much so that the other patients in the ward were kept awake all night.

Next night, at nine o'clock, I gave him a good tumblerful of hot toddy, containing 2 oz. of whiskey, with a little sugar and nutmeg in it. I then put him comfortably to bed, and in five minutes afterwards he was in a sound sleep, from which he did not awaken until four o'clock in the morning, at which time and until daylight he was perfectly quiet. He got up much refreshed, and partook of some breakfast (only a moderate quantity being allowed him); he remained quiet and slept a little during the morning, had a cup of beef-tea at ten o'clock, took nourishment again at dinner-time, had a little sago boiled in milk at three o'clock, had a small quantity of bread and milk at tea-time, after which he was put to bed; at nine o'clock I again gave him hot toddy, which produced similar results to the previous night. This routine was continued about a week, when I gave him in addition half-a-wineglass of port wine, with a teaspoonful of cod liver oil twice a-day. He slowly but steadily improved under this treatment, when in April, I discontinued the oil and wine, sent him out to work on the farm, and gave him a glass of ale at his dinner. In a short time I cut off the toddy at night; he continued to improve both bodily and mentally until the 18th September, when he was discharged, a strong, healthy and sound man, and in all probability has continued so ever since.

Here, then, is a typical case of the majority of acute maniacs, showing that debility, exhaustion, and depression of the vital powers, is what you have to contend with; and that stimulants, nourishment and tonics are the only appropriate remedies; whilst narcotics and sedatives are useless and contra-indicated, inasmuch as they tend to lower the vitality of the patient, which above all things you must not only maintain, but also increase, strengthen and support.

EXECUTION OF A QUACK.—Thomas Heap, (*Med. Press & Circular*) the man who was convicted of causing death by attempting abortion upon a patient, he at the same time being illegally practising as a surgeon, was hanged on Monday, April 19th, at Liverpool.

ON ABORTION.

BY ALFRED A. ANDREWS, M.D., WINDSOR, ONT.

(Read before the Western and St. Clair Med. Association.)

I have been requested to prepare and read before you, at this meeting, a paper on some subject connected with our profession; and although the call was rather informal, I readily acceded to it, not because in a general way I feel competent to instruct you, but because I believe that no man of average ability (even the most inexperienced) can for weeks concentrate his consideration upon one special point without evolving some thoughts which may be new, and worth the attention of the most intelligent and erudite amongst us. The subject to which I call your attention is Abortion, which I shall glance at in three aspects:—1. Abortion, strictly professional. 2. Abortion, strictly pathological. 3. Abortion, felonious.

Of "professional abortion," my first case occurred about thirty years ago. It was a case of extreme pelvic deformity. On three previous occasions craniotomy had been had recourse to by three different practitioners; on the last occasion so extreme had been the violence to which she had been subjected, that vesico-vaginal fistula was one of the sad results. To avert the necessity of recurring to this horrid butchery, I consented to procure abortion. I now doubt if I was right in so doing. Were I now to be confronted with a similar case of well-ascertained extreme deformity, I would recommend, and so far as my ministrations were concerned, insist upon the woman submitting to the Cæsarean section, as the preferable alternative.

The next case that I submit to you was of a very different character. Here I do not doubt the propriety of my conduct. I know that I was wrong. It occurred about twenty-five years ago. A gentleman and lady called upon me to satisfy themselves whether or not she was pregnant. After due investigation, I gave a decision that she was. The lady was deeply moved, but quiet, though tears streamed down her cheeks; but I know of no word but agony, that will express the emotion her husband labored under. He called himself her murderer, entreated her pardon, and seemed beside himself. She strove to soothe and console him, and finally brought matters to the climax, by conjuring him, "After I am gone, don't allow any woman (she