

ment of this peculiarly interesting malady that, during the second or developed stage, so graphically described by Dr. Blake, the pupil is always more or less contracted. It occurred to me, while reflecting upon this fact, that by dilating the pupil we might so influence the disturbed visual sense as to dispel, or at least modify, those "false creations proceeding from a heat oppressed brain" which characterize this disease, and thus conduce to the comfort and tranquillity of the distressed patient. I resolved therefore to avail myself of the first opportunity to test the reality of this idea.

On the 25th of March last I was called to attend D. W., æt. 49, a man naturally of a robust constitution, but who, of late years, had been much given to intemperance. On inquiry I found that he had been more or less intoxicated for the last three weeks, that he had slept none for several nights in succession, and that the present was his fourth attack of delirium tremens. I found him suffering under great nervous excitement and commotion; labouring under all sorts of optical delusions, fancying that lizards, centipedes, and other entomological horrors were crawling in and around his bed, from which he was convulsively making vain efforts to dislodge them. His pulse was upwards of 120, soft and compressible; his whole body was bedewed with a cold clammy perspiration, and the pupils of both eyes were much contracted. Having obtained some ext. belladonna I rubbed a little on the eyelids, and remained by his bedside to mark the result. My expectations were soon more than realised, for no sooner was the physiological effect of the drug manifest in the dilated state of the pupils than the spectral illusions gradually became less and less distinct, the nervous tremors and excitement began to subside, and he soon became comparatively quiescent and tranquil. Soon after this I had the satisfaction to see him fall into the much coveted sleep. Thus I left him; and on revisiting him in a few hours I found that he had slept for two hours; his pupils were then still much dilated; his pulse was below 100, firmer, fuller, and of better character; and altogether his condition, mental and corporeal, was much ameliorated. On interrogating him about his recent hallucinations, he replied, "They were all stuff and nonsense; I see no more of them."

From data so limited it is neither legitimate nor safe to draw any conclusions as to the actions of a remedy, still I cannot help thinking that the belladonna has probably some specific effect in soothing the cerebral irritation, and inducing a quiescent condition of the nervous system. If further experience confirm the accuracy of the above observations, belladonna may yet prove the best hypnotic, not only in delirium tremens, but also in all those diseases of the cerebro-spinal system in which the primary object is to tranquilize and obtain sleep.—*Monthly Jour. of Med. Science.*

---

*Hot Water and Soap in Ptyalism.*—A great variety of remedies have, from time to time, been employed in the treatment of ptyalism, every practitioner having his own favorite remedy. Tar water, solution of creosote, lead water, sumach root tea, sage tea and honey, alum, spts. turpentine, &c., have each acquired more or less reputation in the hands of different practitioners; but we have never been satisfied with any of