

action ; and (2) 25 per cent, which, although less active, yet were possessed of medicinal power ; while (3) 52 per cent. were of no importance, or quite inoffensive. The first category especially comprises violent and poisonous agents for the skin and hair ; opiates for children, capable of inducing chronic cerebral disease, or even death ; 'purifiers of the blood,' composed of arsenic or mercury ; and a whole legion of violent purgatives capable of doing in inappropriate cases an immense amount of mischief. The third category comprises preparations which have nothing in common with the noxious and poisonous effects produced by those of the first and second, but yet agree with them in being sold at from five to a hundred times their proper value, and thus constituting robberies. All these attacks on the public health and morals take place with the full cognizance of the public authorities.—*Lyon Med.*, Sept. 2.

AN AGED OPIUM-EATER.—Dr. Mattison, of Brooklyn, gives (*New York Medical Record* for April 14) an account of a very extraordinary case occurring in the person of a Captain Lahrbush, a Londoner, now more than 111 years of age—a fact said to be well authenticated,—who, after some half-century of adventures in all parts of the world, settled down in New York. Becoming the subject of diarrhoea in India in 1807, on the relief of this by opium he took to the habit of eating this substance—a habit persisted in for *seventy years* ! Beginning with only occasional half-grain doses, the amount he consumed up to the tenth year was only limited. From then the quantity taken was progressively increased until 1856, when the amount taken was *ninety grains per diem*. Placing himself then under medical care, the quantity was gradually decreased, so that by 1858 he took only thirty grains daily. Reduction was persevered in, so that for the last five years he has been content with a four-grain pill at bedtime. Alvine torpor has been a very constant accompaniment of the habit. Abstinence from opium has never been carried beyond forty-eight hours, and then has always been attended with diarrhoea and "profound malaise." No other ill effects have been produced by the opium, and up to quite lately the health of the Captain has been sufficiently good to allow of his passing several hours daily out of doors.

CHINESE LEGISLATION AGAINST OPIUM.—It is announced that the Chinese Government, in view of the evils resulting from the use of opium, has prohibited its importation. The chief and almost only source of foreign supply is India, from which country the annual importation has cost the Chinese forty millions of dollars. As India is under Christian rule and China is pagan, it may be doubted whether the latter nation will be able to protect itself from that peculiar style of Christianity which controls the commercial policy of Christian nations. Past experience on the opium question increases the doubt. Should England, being a representative Christian commonwealth, resist the defensive legislation of the disciples of Confucius and force on them the noxious traffic, there will still be one way left for China to gain her purpose, viz. : to organize a regular mission