

ally, in a state of mental depression, about one ounce and a half of tr. opium. I saw her about three-quarters of an hour after she had taken it; she was being kept awake with difficulty. I gave her at once an emetic of two-thirds of a tincture vial of sulphate of zinc, which I had in my pocket case, and followed it by some ipecac and copious draughts of warm water. This failed to cause emesis, although I tickled the fauces. After waiting for some time, and the narcotic effects of the opium becoming deeper, I went to the office, and made a solution of sulphate of atropia, one grain to two drachms, of which I injected hypodermically 5 minims. In about 10 seconds the pupils began to dilate, and in a short time copious emesis took place, the vomited matter smelling strongly of the opium. In about half an hour the narcotic effects of the opium passed off, and there was no further difficulty in keeping her awake. The pupils remained dilated for some hours, and she complained of numbness and double vision. After two hours sleep in the evening these symptoms passed off. This case is interesting: (1) from the amount of opium taken; (2) from the failure of the emetics to act until the physiological action of the atropia was manifest; (3) from the promptness with which the atropia antagonized the narcotic and sedative action of the opium. I am confident that, without the aid of the atropia, I would have failed to save the patient's life, as the tincture is so rapidly absorbed that the stomach pump would have been of little service.

I place these cases upon record in the hope that some of your readers will give their experience of similar cases, and that others may be induced to try the effect of the belladonna or its alkaloid in those cases of opium poisoning which come more or less frequently into the hands of every practitioner.

November 23, 1879.

## Correspondence.

Editor CANADA MEDICAL RECORD.

I was a short time ago requested by one of your staff to give the readers of your paper a few facts in my experience as a practical sanitarian. I know that I cannot advance anything that would be new to the scientific readers of

your journal, but it occurred to me that a few facts in regard to the drainage and water supply, in view of the present prevalence in Montreal of a class of complaints that are generally allowed to proceed to a great extent from bad drainage, ventilation and water, might awaken a fresh interest in the subject, and result in some permanent good being done.

1st. Inspected a house in the country at the request of the attending physician, as the general health of the family had been bad for a long time, they having suffered from a class of complaints that would indicate bad drainage, &c. Found under the floor a wooden drain with rotten cover, and soil saturated with sewage; trap on W. C. non-effective; W. C. foul; situation very bad; ventilation so arranged as to poison the room above it, a sleeping apartment occupied by a young man suffering for a long time from general ill health. No trap on kitchen sink; water supply cistern connected directly with the sewer without traps in the overflow pipe. On my reporting latter fact to the family, and expressing my surprise that they had not all had typhoid fever, they exclaimed in chorus, "Oh! we have all had it." The defects were partly remedied, the proprietor of the house not being willing to carry out all my suggestions on account of expense; result—improved health of the family, and I was yesterday informed by the proprietor that the result was satisfactory, he adding, "if your city houses were arranged like mine, you would have no typhoid."

Yours, etc.,

J. W. HUGHES,

Practical Sanitarian.

Montreal, December 6, 1879.

## Progress of Medical Science.

### HYDRATE OF CHLORAL AND BROMIDE OF POTASSIUM ENEMATA IN THE VOMITING OF PREGNANCY.

Dr. D. B. Simmons, of Yokohama, again calls attention to this method of treatment. Further experience still more impresses him with its usefulness. The amount of each drug and the frequency of its administration depend on individual susceptibility to its influence, but in general the dose of twenty to thirty grains of each dissolved in gum-water may be injected, at short intervals, until a moderate degree of narcotism is produced.—*American Journal of Obstetrics*, April, 1879.