

to our materia medica, that it produces effects of which no other known remedy is capable, and that it is well worthy the attention of the Medical Profession."

ART. XIII.—*Fatal Case of Poisoning by Sulphuric Acid, with Observations*, by JAMES SEWELL, M. D., Physician to the Hotel Dieu, Quebec.

A SAD case, possessing more than usual interest, both from the poison selected, and the quantity swallowed, having recently occurred in my practice, I think it my duty to submit its history to the Profession.

Mrs. E., aged 23, the mother of two children, had about three weeks since suffered a miscarriage, which left her feeble and nervous. In this state, more easily acted upon by depressing causes, she heard a sermon, the effects of which on her mind (according to her own statement to me) she could not throw off; she fancied herself without the pale of salvation—her soul condemned and lost—in fact, she became insane with this predominant idea. In this state she remained, with some shades of variation, until Monday the 16th of February; her husband had been repeatedly warned that she would probably attempt to commit suicide, and he fortunately arrived in time to prevent her committing it by suspension on the Friday previous to the fatal accomplishment of her purpose. Her husband's business led him to the employment of Tincture of Bromine, Iodine, and other poisonous materials; these he had carefully disposed of beyond her reach. A day or two before the sad affair, he bought at a Druggist's one pound by weight of *concentrated sulphuric acid*, which shews about 5 fluid drachms to the oz.; he poured the whole of this into two large tumblers, dividing the quantity equally to form what these Artists call "a battery," by which they galvanize the silvered plates, previous to submitting them to the vapour of iodine in the production of daguerreotype likenesses; he had placed, as I have said, the Bromine and Iodine, &c., under lock, but, never suspecting the probability of her using this powerful acid for the purpose of self-destruction, he took no precaution with it. She was absent from her usual sitting apartment about 3 o'clock, P. M., of the 16th February, for somewhat less than two minutes, but she had time to effect her purpose, as she told him on returning to the room; on instant examination he found that she had emptied one of the tumblers of its contents, except about $\frac{1}{2}$ a fluid oz., and the already excoriated state of her mouth and chin fearfully corroborated her story.

Assistance was quickly sought, and, on my arrival, finding that the stomach-pump had been imperfectly used, I re-introduced it. At this time