

found her in a very agreeable mood, saying she was wonderfully better, —free from pain, her skin cooler, and perspiring mildly, pulse 110—great thirst, her eyes were suffused, and her face flushed, she was full of compliments of the skill of her doctor, and the kindness of her attendants—she was very loquacious, and evidently under the narcotic effects of the anodyne, many of her expressions were amusing, as well as incoherent, she said she felt very queer, and supposed she was tipsy, and eulogized a scidlitz draught, as “excellent champagne”—cold was applied to her head, and the delirium shortly after subsided. She remained pretty free from headache, or pain during most of the day, and her fever was slight, and skin perspiring. In the evening she became restless, the pain of her side returned, but not so seriously, and occasionally remitted, her headache also had become severe, and compelled her to keep silent. Although I had sufficient evidence of her peculiar idiosyncrasy, yet the effects of the anodyne of the previous night, were in every other respect, so satisfactory, that I concluded to repeat the draught, with the addition of a drachm of tincture of valerian—which procured her several hours of refreshing sleep. At 7 o’clock a.m., when I visited her, she awoke, and conversed very rationally, and said she felt quite well, and quite free from pain, and asked if she might not sit up during the day; her skin was perspiring mildly, pulse 100, some thirst; in a short time she began to speak, as if under the influence of morphia, looked alarmed and said *there were creatures in her bed evidencing the peculiar time*. However when told her fancies arose from the medicine, and the operation of the cold applications having relieved her head, she soon became quite rational,—among other remarkable observations, she asked “if her baby was not a very nice one?” and having been answered; she said, “she would like to eat it!” and this idea she repeated two or three times. It is somewhat extraordinary, that so remarkably amiable and affectionate a mother, should in her delirium have had such a perverted fancy, and most especially when all her feelings at the time appeared to be of the happiest character. I would here notice, that from this case, it would appear, that the acetate of morphia possesses the stimulating properties of opium, which is not generally supposed to be the case, and I need scarcely add, that opium cannot be our “sheet anchor” on all occasions; and we must often proceed on general principles, and not blindly adopt the rule that we must obtain sleep by any means or death will ensue.

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