

## HYOSCIN AND THE MORPHIA HABIT.

---

**A.** B., a graduate of a prominent Medical School in Maryland, had been practising for some years in the Southern States, and gives the following history:—About 15 years ago while a student he was much troubled with insomnia and nervousness through close application to his books, a condition much aggravated at examination time. On the advice of a consultant small doses of morphia and bromides were at different times taken with satisfactory results, viz.:—Patient secured sleep and his nervous symptoms were controlled. On their re-appearance the remedies were again resorted to with similar though more tardy results. Soon after beginning practise he was attacked with malaria of a severe form which left him on recovery in a very nervous condition. The old remedy was resorted to with the result that he soon became a victim of the “habit”. Knowing its dangers and fearful of their results, he attempted to avoid them by varying their mode of administration, as well as the drug used and for a period of twelve years vainly fought an insidious and relentless foe. Not wishing to admit to himself, much less to a fellow practitioner, his true condition he was treated during the last ten years for various troubles, such as chronic indigestion, appendicitis, intestinal catarrh, general tuberculosis, multiple abscess, “decline”, &c., and before meeting the writer, was told he had but two years to live as he was suffering from intestinal and gastric tuberculosis.

His condition before beginning the treatment to be described was characteristic of all such drug habitués, viz.:—Complexion sallow, skin parchment like and drawn, eyes dreamy and dull, tongue coated, breath foetid, alternate diarrhoea and constipation, neuralgic pains, anorexia, lassitude, emaciation and general weakness. On cross-examination he admitted the use of drugs as the only means of relief. His relatives were consulted and made aware of his true condition and he himself was talked plainly to. After some consideration he signed a document admitting his “habit” and giving the medical adviser authority to confine him in an insane Hospital. Very