AN OPTUM-EATER'S MISERY.

Raw the Histor of the Poppy are Lured to

A quarter of a century ago an opiumeater-by which is meant a person who habitually uses opium or its preparations as a stimulant-was a rarity; today onium-eaters are counted by the thousand. Medical books written twenty years ago mention the subject briefly or not at all, while in all recent works on therapeuties it forms an important chapter. Until recently the principal source of information possessed by the public upon this subject were the writings of De Quincey, a confirmed opiumeater, whose famous "Confessions" were posed under the malign influence of the drug; who whited the walls of the deadly habit with the beautiful tints of rhetoric of a hand always masterly but occasionally deceptive. The extraordi-nary headway which the opium habit has made in this country is not apparent to the general public for many and sufficient reasons; but the large number of cases met by physicians in private practice, the institutions springing up n which its treatment is made a specialty, and the horde of charlatans who advertise nostrums guaranteed to effect a speedy and painless cure, show how widespread and far-reaching is the evil, which is met in all conditions and walks of life, from the laborer to the gentleman of elegant leisure, and in both

The facilities for indulging in opium stimulation explain the prevalence of the habit among the better classes. The gentleman who would not be seen in a barroom, however respectable, or who would not purchase liquor and use it at home, lest the odor might be detected upon his person, procures his supply of morphia and has it in his pocket ready for instantaneous use. It is odorless and occupies but little space, while its use is only made manifest in its effects, which are rarely recognized by any but the initiated. He zealously guards his secret from his nearest friend -for popular wisdom has branded as a disgrace that which he regards as a misfortune-thus cutting him off from the advice and aid of friends who would encourage him to abandon the habit; making, perhaps, spasmodic efforts to fight the unequal contest alone, to meet with repeated reverses and to fall still deeper into the abyss from which he

would escape. The careless manner in which physicians prescribe opiates, and the prevail ing custom among druggists of duplicating prescriptions, are prolific sources of the evil. The physician prescribes morphia for a patient suffering from painful disease, and relief is obtained. Moreover, the sensations experienced under the influence of the medicine are peculiarly pleasureable. He goes back to the drug store and has the medicine renewed without the physician's advice or direction. He finally learns that it is morphia he has been taking, purchases a quantity, and finds that by its use he can relieve his pain or waft him-self into Elysium at pleasure. Finally he ascertains that his life is being injured or is otherwise warned of the danger, and attempts to give up its use. Suddenly his eyes are opened to his folly and he realizes the startling fact that he is in the toils of a serpent as the bayonet, after a bloody and expenmerciless as the boa-constrictor and as sive war with England, whose merrelentless as fate. With a firm deter-mination to free himself he discontinues they did by the slave trade carried on its use. Now his sufferings begin and steadily increase until they become un-bearable. The tortures of Dives are his; but, unlike that miser, he has only to stretch forth his hand to find oceans with which to satisfy his thirst. That human nature is not often equal to so extraordinary a self-denial affords little cause for astonishment. At length he surrenders, but with bad grace, determined to renew the contest at no distant day, under more favorable circumstances; returns to the drug, and is again happy—happier than ever in contrast with the misery lately endured

-but far from satisfied. In a medicinal dose the effects of opium on a person not habituated to its | General Custer. He was a fellow of the use are of the most pleasing character, though, like other powerful drugs, there are persons on whom it produces unusual and unpleasant effects. A few minutes after taking an ordinary dose a tingling sensation is felt over the entire body; the heart's action is increased, the muscular system invigorated, the the muscular system invigorated, the spirits are animated and the intellectual with the story of the play, had to repeat faculties are stimulated to an unusual extent. The eyes shine with a newborn light, the face is flushed, body and mind evincing signs of unusual excitation. In the lower animals the spinal cord is especially affected, but in man the force of the drug is chiefly expend-ed on the brain. The body seems to lose sensibility and weight, while the mind enjoys a continuous round of pleasure, detached from earthly cares and living in a superior world of its own. It is the human conception of Valhalla, elysium, and the happy hunting-grounds combined: All sources of care and anxiety are forgotten for the time being, and the most pleasing but extravagant fancies are indulged in. This condition gradually merges into unconsciousness and sleep, followed on awaring by lassitude and nausea, bearing a strong resemblance to the after-effects of a prolonged "spree."

The effects mentioned are put partially induced in the confirmed opiumeater. The stage of excitement is not so pronounced, and the soporitic effect is limited to a drowsy somnolent conance of any kind. The eye soon loses hands cold and clammy. The physical vous organization gives unmistakable evidence of great exhaustion. There is now an intense craving for opium, which nothing else can satisfy. Let the abstinence be continued and the symptoms are intensified. There is a sickening feeling of oppression at the stomach, the body is bathed in a cold perspiration, the sense of weariness is overwhelming, and relief is vainly sought in momentary change of position. Every fiber of the anatomy suffers and cries out for its accustomed stimucas ensues, which nothing but opium | support the arbitrary ruling.

can relieve. The agony of this state is indescribable, the craving for opium so maddening and irresistible that no sac-rifice would be too great that would afford relief.

The pleasures so ably described by De Quincey are only for the tyro; those confirmed in the habit rarely taste them, and only at the expense of a considerable increase of the dose. The latter use the drug, not from the pleasureable sensations experienced from its use, but to escape the misery resulting from abstinence therefrom. The opium flend lavishes his choicest pleasures upon them while luring them on, but now that they are securely in his grasp such favors are denied. A curious fact may be mentioned in connection with thisi. e., a dose of say three grains of morphia taken regularly semi-daily produces in the consumer few of the exhibarating effects described; but let him be without the drug for a considerable time and one-half that quantity will yield many of the old-time pleasures as if the fiend were fearful of his victim's escape and cunningly sought to win him back by the means that had previously proved so efficacions.

The quantity of opiates which the system will learn by constant use to tolerate is almost incredible. Few persons who have been subject to the habit for a year or more use less than from five to ten grains of morphia, or its equivalent in other preparations, daily. Cases are not uncommon where one dram (sixty grains) was used each day; and the superintendent of a Michigan sanitarium related to the writer the case of a lady who consumed ninety grains per day. Indeed, it is difficult to conceive to what extent the habit may be carried when we bear in mind that there is a constant tendency to increase the quantity consumed. The National Dispensatory speaks of a woman fortyseven years of age who had used opium since the age of seventeen without experiencing any evil effects; and the New York Medical Record records the case of a British officer who for seventy years had used opium-averaging during the latter years ninety grains daily—who had attained the extraordinary age of 111 years, and was still in the enjoyment of excellent health.

The Chinese consume large quantities of opium, and the people of the East-Mohammedans—use it as a stimulant, alcoholic liquors being forbidden by their religion. Such cases as those mentioned in the Medical Record and National Dispensatory are exceptional, however, and prove nothing, except that some people have remarkably good constitutions, capable of withstanding an extraordinary amount of abuse. The Chinese, and Hindoos smoke opium, while Europeans and Americans eat it; and though the narcotic effects may be as pronounced in one case as in the other, it does not necessarily follow that the constitutional effects must be the same. It is also possible that the more delicate nervous organization of the Caucasian may render him more narcotic stimulants than the Chinaman or Hindoo. The emperor of China was so impressed with a sense of the baleful effects of opium that he refused to allow its importation into his empire, and finally yielded only at the point of with the American colonies in years

gone by. The direct constitutional effects aris ing from the use of opium are loss of appetite, nervousness, tremor, insomnia, hyperæsthesia, lessened secretions, emaciation and low temperature, the two latter arising from the arrest of metamorphosis, upon which the nutrition and warmth of the body depend. Among the remote effects are insanity and a host of nervous disorders too numerous to mention .- Catholic World.

"Wild Bill,"

The surrender of Sitting Bull recalls one of the "genuine Indian scouts" of most singular temperament, and was known on the plains as Wild Bill, albiet his actual name was James Hickok. Wild Bill, under circumstances of particular aggravation, shot and killed a desperado in Missouri. Years afterward Bill became a member of Buffalo Bill's droll every night upon the stage the killing which, as a reality, had made him famous. Bill watched the rehearsal patiently, then he went to the stage manager "I can't kill that thar chap, no how," quoth Bill. "Why not?" inquired the manager. "Well," said Bill, tranquilly, "Buffalo slings him around in the first act, and Maeder clips him in the ear in the second act, and Mrs. Maeder drives him out of the ranche with a broom in the third act. Then I've got to kill him after all in the fourth act. Why, I never killed such a coyote as that in all my life! It's all by wearing spectacles. wrong, pardner! It's all wrong making him out such a squaw man as that! By goll, sir, he war the biggest gentleman I ever shot!"

Although he carried a dozen builets, more or less, deeply imbedded in his flesh, Wild Bill never sustained an internal wound. He was killed while playing eards, by a scoundrel who, for \$500 blood-money paid him by gamb-lers, sneaked up behind Bill and blew his brains out. Bill was, strangely enough a very honest and courageous fellow and dition, in which the subject is dull and in his office of marshal, was the terror morose, evincing a dislike to disturb- of the "crooked" gamblers of the Territory. The post mortem examination its luster, the cheeks become pale, the of his remains explained his immunity from penetrative bullet wounds. It was and medical powers are depressed, the discovered that his ribs were welded to-muscular system relaxed, and the nergether, the intercostal cartilages and muscles having ossified. His lungs and heart, therefore, were naturally protected by a cuirass of bone. Such was the wonderful rapidity with which Bill could draw his pistol that, even in the sudden death which befell him he had time enough and sense enough to put his hand upon the butt of his revolver. -New York Hour.

> The Mexican government has now issued orders that no soldier guarding a

REALTH RINTS.

The Medical Record, speaking of warm milk as a beverage, says: "Milk heated o much above 100 deg. F. loses for the time a degree of its sweetness and its density. No one who, fatigued by over-exertion of body and mind, has ever experienced the reviving influence of a tumbler of this beverage, heated as hot as it can be sipped, will willingly forego a resort to it because of its having been rendered less acceptable to the palate The promptness with which its cordial influence is felt is indeed surprising. Some portions of it seems to be digested and appropriated almost immediately; and many who now fancy they need alcoholic stimulants when exhausted by fatigue, will find in this sinple draught an equivalent that shall be abundantly satisfying, and far more enduring in its effects.

The French commissioners on the hygiene of infancy, in awarding the prize in a competition of essayists, report that the conclusion generally arrived at leads to the following recommendations: No child should be reared on artificial food when the mother can suckle it, but such food is preferable to placing the child with a wet nurse, poorly remunerated and living at her own home. For successfully bringing up an infant by hand the best milk is hat of a cow which has recently calved, or similarly of a goat, to which should be added the first week a half part of water, and consequently a fourth or less, according to the digestive powers of the child. Glassware or earthenware alone should be used; no vulcanized India rubber mouthpiece or vessels containing lead ought to be used.

Although salicylic acid, from having been too highly extolled, has fallen somewhat into disfavor, there can be no doubt that it is useful in the case of bee stings. An Austrian paper recommends the following treatment: First, to remove the sting as quickly as possible with a forceps or by scratching with a finger, but never the thumb and forefinger, because this squeezes more of the poison into the wound. Next squeeze the wound until a drop of blood comes out, and rub the place as large as a dollar with an aqueous or dilute elcoholic solution of salicylic acid. The affect is still better by injecting the salicylic acid into the wound with the hyperdomic syringe. After this the spot is painted with collodion to keep out the air. A sting treated thus causes little or no pain, slight inflammation and swelling, and is not followed by nettle fever or lameness in the most sensitive and nervous individuals.— Scientific News.

All kinds of burns, including scalds and sunburns, are almost immediately relieved by the application of a solution of soda to the burnt surface. It must be remembered that dry soda will not do unless it is surrounded with a cloth moist enough to dissolve it. This method of sprinkling it on and covering susceptible to the deleterious effects of it with a wet cloth is often the very best. But it is sufficient to wash the wound repeatedly with a strong solution. It would be well to keep a bottle of it always on hand, made so strong that more or less of it settles on the bottom. This is what is called a saturated solution, and really such a solution as this is formed when the dry soda is sprinkled on and covered with a moistened cloth. It is thought by some that the pain of a burn is caused by the hardening of the albumen of the flesh which presses on the nerves, and that the soda dissolves the albumen and relieves the pressure. Others think that the burn generates an acrid acid, which the soda neutralizes.

### QDDITIES.

All the natives of high northern latitudes are short, measuring little more than four feet.

Elephants have been known to live 400 years, and it is supposed whales may live 1,000 years.

The Druids gathered their sacred mistletoe with a gold knife when the moon was six days old.

A glass globe full of cold water or even a lump of ice, will in the sun's rays act as a burning lens. Thunder can scarcely ever be heard

the flash that produced it. The door-plates of three houses standing side by side in Boston read as fol-lows: Goodman, Kneeland, Pray.

more than twenty or thirty miles from

The latest application of paper is the adoption of paper plates by some of the great restaurants and cafes in Ber-

The biggest moustache on record is the one Michael Angelo cut on his statue of Moses. It weighs a ton and a

Lord Denman rides about London behind a near-sighted horse, which is enabled to see as well as other horses

A Great Western Farmer. A correspondent of the Chicago Inter-Ocean, who visited Mr. Dalrymple, the great Dakota farmer, describes him as a "slender, quiet-looking man, with a pen behind his ear, whom you would judge to be a schoolmaster or clergyman at sight. His hands were soft and white-more accustomed to the book or pen than the plow-and his face, where it is not covered with beard, was not burned as much as mine." His farm is the largest in the world, embracing 30,000 acres. It is forty-five miles long and about one mile wide. It will yield this year 600,000 bushels of wheat and 90,000 bushels of oats. At present Mr. Dalrymple is sending three trainloads of wheat a day to Duluth, where he loads a vessel every two days for Buffalo. He employs 800 men and runs 200 self-binding harvesters and thirty steam threshers. The harvesters cut an average of 2,800 acres a day, and the thrashers turn out about 30,000 bushels a day. Mr. Dalrymyle estimates the cost of production for this year at \$7 per sere, or on his entire farm \$210,000. His wheat, 600,000 bushels, brings him a net price of \$1 a bushel. His profits, ant. A condition bordering on colduty, and some of the Mexican papers the difference between \$210,000 and \$600,000.

Their Statements Indersed. [Pittsburg Catholic.]

A strong statement unqualifiedly in-dorsed must induce confidence. In this connection we note the following from Dr. Louis Bock & Son, Sheboygan, Wis.: We have been handling St. Jacobs Oil and are pleased with the large demand. Hardly a day goes by without hearing from some one or another of our patrons having used it with entire satisfaction, saying it is the best thing they ever tried, and we join them in so saying.

Varnished Melons,

A lady has discovered a plan to keep watermelons in their natural form and flavor for an indefinite length of time, She has successfully tried it in past seasons, and, as a consequence, has been able to treat her family to a watermelon supper at Christmas time. The plan is an extensive one, and consists in giving the melon three or four coats of varnish to exclude the air. She says they not only keep from decay, but that the flavor and sweetness are retained, and when eaten at Christmas or New Year's the fruit seems to be wonderfully improved in these particulars.—Harrisburg

[Boston (Mass.) Cultivator.] Mr. M. F. Morse, Westboro', Mass., mentions to us the gratiflying information that St. Jacobs Oil relieved him of a very severe attack of sciatic rheuma-

tism and is an excellent thing.

Chains and linked rings are among the new designs in satin and velvet brocades. They are prettier than the spades, clubs, hearts and diamonds of last year.

Be Xe Like Poelish.

For ten years my wife was confined to her bed with such a complication of ailments that no doctor could tell what was the matter or cure her, and I used up a small fortune in humbug stuff. Six months ago I saw a United States flag with Hop Bitterson.it, and I thought I would be a fool once more. I tried it, but my folly proved to be wisdom. Two bottles cured her. She is now as well and strong as any man's wife, and it cost me only two dollars. Be ye likewise foolish.—H. W., Detroit, Mish.

Mr. Joe Beasley, according to the Columbus, Ohio, Times, has succeeded in giving a lemon flavor to watermelons by making an incision in the vine a short distance from the root and attaching thereto a lemon, the juice of which is absorbed by the melons.

In April Leer,
Twenty-four members of Arlington's minstrels
were taking Warner's Safe Kidney and Liver
Cure, It made them happy.

There is no thunder and lightning in the Arctic circle.

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Ask Druggists for it. It clears out rats, mice, roaches, bed-bugs, flies, vermin, insects. 15c.

a Treatise upon the Horse and his Diseases. Book of 100 pages. Valuable to every owner of horses. Postage stamps taken. Sent post-paid by New York Newspaper Union, 150 Worth Street, New York. Street, New York.

There was a young man so well bred, That the hair would not stay on his head, But the Carroline oil Put new hair on the soil, And now with an heiress he's wed.

RESCUED FROM DEATH. William J. Coughlin, of Somerville, Mass., says: Ir the fall of 1876 I was taken with bleeding of the lungs followed by a severe cough. I lost my appetite and flesh, and was confined to my bed. In 1877 I was admitted to the hospital. The doctors said I had a hole in my lung as big as a half-dollar. At one time a report went around that I was dead. I gave up hope but a friend told me of Da. WILLIAM HALL'S BALSAN FOR THE LUNGS. I got a bottle, when, to my surprise I commenced to feel better, and to-day I feel better than for three years past. I write this hoping every one afflicted with diseased lungs will take Dn. Wil-LIAM HALL'S BALSAM, and be convinced that cox-SUMPTION GAS BE CURED. I can positively say it has done more good than all the other medicines. I have taken since my sickness,

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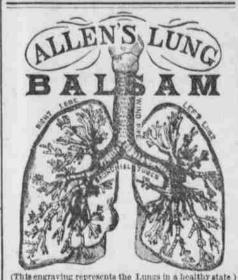
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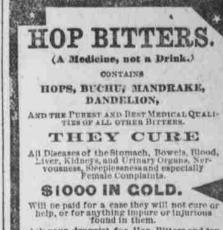
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