

An
 Essay upon Opium Abuse and
 Adulterated Liquors

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By

George W. Westwoodland
 Pulaski Tenn

To My Brother C. W. Westwoodland M.A.
This copy is respectfully
inscribed

By
Jerome, W. Westwoodland

What are some of the
poisons which destroy the greatest
number of human lives and is
there any classification under the
different heads of which we can
systematically arrange all the del-
eterious agents the medical man
comes in contact with

This enquiry
has been made and answered
a thousand and one times by some
of the greatest lights in the profession
and out of it yet not satisfactorily
The field has yet important labours
for scores of industrious Toxicologist
we do not propose however to take
to ourselves the task of traversing the
whole field of 'notus agrati'

far from it for we arrive to Book
making (we intend rolling pills) =
We are not vain enough to under-
take to do that which French, German,
Italian and American, all have failed
to do. But the nature of our profession
makes it incumbent upon every one
who intends to make medicine his
profession to study the nature of
these various agents, which he may
come in contact with every Day.

Writers classify poisonous agents in
different ways. Some in alphabetical
order others narcotic and acro-narcot-
ic. Some others make three separate
classifications narcotic, acrid and
acro-narcotic. This last classifica-
tion is by some writers intended
to include the whole catalogue. We

We think however it falls short of its
the classification is intended to
express their physiological action it
is true we can arrange under
the classification a large number of
deleterious agents. But nothing like
whole Catalogue we cannot under
either of the above heads, include Sty-
rene many of the gases Tobacco and
its unpyrametic acid and a long
list of others prussic acid is a very
deadly poison that cannot properly be
included We therefore think the
classification is consciously made
by writers erroneous and well cal-
culated to mislead the student
of medicine He goes about the
investigation of any supposed case
of poisoning with his book notions

of narcotism and anti-narcotism
We should lay aside such a classification and investigate each and every article and ascertain each and every physiological action

We propose to review some of the poisonous articles of our Materia Medica — which are made to destroy great numbers of human lives, and to enumerate the whole would require more space than is allotted to our space by a medical student

In the hands of men of Opium and Arsenic stand head They are articles that can be had by any and every one It is not in the hands of physicians that these articles are likely to do any

ingery It is with the opium eater
that we find the ill effects of a
medicine which controls a larger
proportion of ill that flesh is heir
to than any other single remedy
The Drunken Set and occasionally
respectable persons temporarily insane
put an end to his with this drug
Some persons would regard opium
eating in the United States as a
very rare thing - it is true there
is very little compared to our
Turkish brethren who make
use of it as regularly as they
do their daily meat
Notwithstanding such a large amount
is used such large numbers of
human lives are destroyed there
is no legal restriction upon the

The sale of it

Opium in small quantities is by all regarded as a stimulant and in larger quantities a sedative. It is by the daily use of opiates in small quantities during some chronic disease that the habit of opium eating is formed in the United States or by the use of it by the Drunken. Not to quail his wild imaginations during a delirium; it is in such cases as these we find a combination of poisonous ingredients as varied and different as the trees of the forest.

In those diseases of any duration where it is necessary to use an opiate the physician should occasionally leave off the use of opium

and substitute Hyoscinus Belladonna
may in some few cases answer
the purpose Opium when taken
in large quantities destroys life in few
hours - Narcotizes completely The
patient has Stertorous Breathing
Slow, full and soft-pulsed pupil
Contracted with fixed clammy
perspiration It is not however
always the case that Opium Nar-
cotizes when taken in large quan-
tities but produces a perfect mor-
bid influence - He may be in
Sund - some persons cannot bear
the smallest possible quantity Such
idiosyncrasies are but seldom
met with but often enough that
the physician should understand
its various physiological actions

The Treatment for our our dose
of Opium or its preparations
would be if there was sensibly
enough left to administer an emetic
Such of Zinc or Copper. And our
purpose but it empties it more
brately and effectually. We should
be careful under what Circumstan-
ces we administer such remedies
for if they fail to vomit the
patient our remedy would be
equally as injurious as the Condition
we are aiming to relieve.

Brandy, Wine and Anise should
be freely administered - Cold ap-
plications about the face and head
If any difficulty remains we may
irritate him by apply a feather
about the pharynx with a view

to his emptying of his Stomach
Specie and enlarged Antimony
do not operate quick enough
Some direct emetics should always
be preferred if the Case is one
that an emetic is at all appli-
cable We have very small Opium
of outtakes in poisoning by Opium
Strong decoction of Coffee is thought
by some to counteract the effect
of Opium other than by its stimulant
effects No doubt it

We should be careful not to administer
a large amount of fluids if our pa-
tient was able to take it it disturbs
the Stomach and thereby oppressing
the remaining feebly respirations
Purges or complete Narcotics are
not absorbent and secretions

The next take up Arsenic the article so commonly resorted to by all the low down classes about large cities to accomplish their hellish purposes it has but little taste can be given in most any diet without the object of their designs being aware of it - It is an article that is widely diffused in nature it is in large or small quantities in all the mineral ores - large quantities of it is sold as fly powder, but exterminators &c all over the United States - We think that some stringent regulations should be thrown around the sale of so dangerous a remedy

Arsenic or arsenious acid when taken in from two to fifteen grains

Arsenic Corrodes the mucous membrane through the whole length of it. Soon after being taken produces in large number of cases great emesis and if the Stomach is not instantly emptied ulceration and inflammation of Stomach and bowels follow. Some think from the corrosive nature of arsenic that when it is taken in full doses that very little if any of it is absorbed. We think different we believe it is taken up by absorbents freely enough to produce a general ptychitis and to partially coagulate the blood even in the capillaries. There is in cases of poisoning from arsenic a general dropsical look of the body. Soon after death where there was

The greatest amt of cellular tissue
and most vascularity we would
expect to find greatest amount
of swelling. We saw a case
in year 1856 which we think verifie
ed the above statements. It was
Case of poisoning from Arsenic by
Negroes upon a quarter plantation.

The Negroes had been put in possession
of the article by the owner
for the purpose of destroying rats.
They instead of destroying rats, destroyed
their overseer. When we are called
to one who has been poisoned with
this article we expect to find him
with burning sensation about the pro
cudial vomits occasionally very free
edema or swelling about the eyes tongue
being red, if it has been administered

Any length of time a pulse beating
one hundred and twenty to one hundred
and fifty. Head great thirst -
discharges from bowels variously dis-
colored urine high colored and scanty

Treatment

The application and kind of remedies
depends upon the length of time that
has elapsed since the introduction
of the poison. If we are called
early we would procure free emesis
with warm water - mustard or
Salt and water or by the applica-
tion of foreign substance about the
pharynx. We would also after
free emesis or before it if we
failed to produce it give albumen
freely in form of raw eggs Sol &

Starch and Mille followed by
Mixture of Sweet and Castor oil
in full doses - after emptying
Stomach and bowels - We would give
Turpentine and Laudanum in Mucilage
with or without small portion of
Sweet oil In some cases and
in latter stages of large number
it is necessary to give diffusible
Stimulants. Such as Brandy, wine &
Malt liquors if the distilled oil
not agree, Mustered plasters
over the region of the Stomach and
bowels. It may become need
say to resort freely to Astringents
and Anodynes

We have said nothing as yet in
regard to The Duties for this
poison We have but little can

produce in any of the antedotes
known to us at present time we
may at proper times administer them
so they do not interfere with our
other remedial measures - We know
that arsenious acid may be neutr-
alized in the chemist's retort but
there is a very great difference
in the human stomach and a chemist's
pottery

We are frequently called to test
and give opinions in a medico-legal
point of view. This poison is
so widely diffused that the vessels,
and reagents may contain small
portions of it - that a very small quan-
tity can be detected - are for
and against arsenium

It being so widely diffused and can

be detected in such small quantities is the very strongest kind of argument with us that we should not rely upon our test in but very few cases. If it could be found mixed in substance of the Stomach there would not be any necessity for any test. It is only where the eye cannot detect that a test is required. One who has chemical apparatus that has been tried and pure reagents may be justified in some few cases in giving a qualified opinion.

But when there is no other proof to consult he should be extremely careful how he ventures to give an opinion. Life and death are in his hands and you had better let half dozen guilty

go unpunished to punish one who
is innocent

We next propose to give Young America's
eds. Lighteners a printing notice.

We may talk of poisoned Atmospheres
Amine and all the irritants as being
destroyers of human life. But the
article known as Corn Whisky also,
Fire Brandy and Tobacco cloves and
Capsicum Strychnine and Logwood Kill
more men than every other poison
known to the medical profession
Pure liquor Kill it hundreds. The sub-
jects of adulterated are numbered by
thousands. It is criminal
for one man to cut throat or stab
another. But the man who kills his
hundreds with his adulterated liquors is
a gentleman. What is our Legislature and American

Medical Association for The answer
is One as a body because the distr
action of human life while the members
of the other stand by the bed side
and utters the truth of the above
assertion We are not a Manic
Liquor Law man neither do we
belong to any of the issues of the
day or Southern Democrat

We are for Legitimacy and Obedience
along this duty which has not
yet been done