by opium ; but the most common effect of the drug is to produce a feeling of liveliness and happiness. The writer is acquainted with the editor of one of the most influential morning newspapers, who is subject to hypochondriacism, and takes a grain of opium about once a fortnight, the effect generally remaining for that period of time, and producing in him a most pleasant and comfortable feeling. The late Duchess of Gordon is said to have owed much of her wit and vivacity in company to the swallowing of laudanum, to which she was much addicted, and the conversational powers of Coleridge were influenced by the same cause. The dreams of the opium eater are at first highly gorgeous, but when the stomach becomes disordered by the long-continued use of the drug, nothing can exceed the horror and gloominess of his visions. Persons of a poetical temperament are often addicted to opium, the inhabitants of the poetical climates of Turkey and Persia especially. Mr. Madden in his Travels says, that he knew a Turk who could not rise from his couch until he had stimulated his frame with a drachm of opium, and then he was most animated and cheerful. He used to take three drachms of solid opium in the day. The writer (the reporter) knew a young woman who took one ounce and a half of laudanum daily, and a retired naval officer who a short time since took two drachms of opium in a day. By great persuasion, the writer induced him to decrease the dose gradually, and he now requires only two scruples to produce the same effect as was before produced by the two drachms. At one time he had diminished the dose to fifteen grains, but in consequence of some domestic calamity he became melancholy, and flew to larger doses. His bowels generally require very strong purgatives to move them. He has little appetite, and is subject to occasional attacks of distressing sickness. He only takes his dose once in the twenty-four hours, but if he suffers any time beyond that to elapse, he becomes wretchedly melancholy. He occasionally drinks freely, but does not find any difference between the effect of opium and alcohol.—*Lancet*.

A CASE OF CHOREA SUCCESSFULLY TREATED WITH FOWLER'S SOLUTION OF ARSENIC.

BY ROBERT C. CUMMING, M.D. OF FREDERICK CO., MARYLAND.

THE embarrassment experienced by the practitioner in the treatment of some of the diseases usually denominated *nervous*, is a matter of frequent complaint, and of this number chorea may be considered one of the most conspicuous. Although high authorities have testified in strong terms, to the almost infallible efficacy of their favorite modes of treating this disease, yet the physician will meet with signal disappointment, who relies with much confidence upon any *particular* plan, until at least its pathology, now unquestionably obscure, shall be better understood. The following case is related, not because of any novel feature it presents, but merely to exemplify the value of an article already favorably known as a remedy in this distressing affection.

Rebecca D., ætat. 14, was attacked on the 7th of April, 1834, with

slight convulsive motions of the muscles of the face, arms and legs, which were accompanied with some degree of lassitude and languor. These symptoms continued to increase for about ten days, when I was requested to see her. I found the following symptoms present. All the muscles of voluntary motion were affected, those of the face, neck and extremities particularly; there was an inability to remain for any length of time in any one position, the spasmodic action being so violent as to turn the patient suddenly and involuntarily, from side to side. The pulse was regular, though somewhat irritable; the tongue covered with a thick yellowish coat. No pain was complained of, except in the lumbar region, with some degree of tension and fulness about the lower part of the abdomen. Her appetite was not impaired, though deglutition was very difficult, and there was an inability to convey food or drink to her mouth; the vocal organs were also so much affected as to render her articulation indistinct. No remission of the symptoms was observable, except during sleep; and of this she enjoyed only about four hours in the twenty-four, when merely slight contractions about the face and neck occurred.

Considering the treatment recommended by Dr. Hamilton as particularly appropriate to this case, I at once commenced the use of purgatives, and continued them steadily and perseveringly for one week, but with an aggravation rather than a diminution of the symptoms. Supposing from the age of the patient, the pain in the lumbar region, &c. that the symptoms might be connected with an effort of nature to produce the menstrual secretion, I now combined emmenagogues with the purgatives, and continued their joint administration for some time longer, but still without lessening the severity of the symptoms. Believing that I had given this plan a fair trial, without deriving benefit from it, I now resolved to institute a tonic course, and forthwith administered some of the preparations of iron, with some of the most efficient vegetable tonics, but yet without any obvious advantage. My attention now was directed to Fowler's arsenical solution, of which I ordered eight drops three times a day, gradually increasing it to fifteen drops. A very material improvement was apparent as soon as the effect of the remedy on the system was manifested by a swelling of the integuments about the face, when it was suspended for some days, and then resumed for a few days longer. In ten or twelve days from the commencement of its exhibition, the symptoms had abated in a considerable degree, and about a week more established a perfect cure. The patient has never had a return of her malady, and is now in possession of excellent health.—*N. A. Archives.*

PAROXYSMAL SELF-LIMITED DISEASES.

FROM DR. BIGELOW'S DISCOURSE.

WE come next to a second order of self-limited diseases, of which the term *paroxysmal* is sufficiently descriptive. This term applies to certain morbid affections, which recur in fits or paroxysms, leaving the patient comparatively well in the intervals, at the same time that the paroxysms themselves can neither be foreseen, prevented, nor, as far as we know,