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*Non facies, itaque, non purpuram, non extruñas in altum divitias,  
non ingentium artibus atque scientiis utrunque ornatum et imbutum;  
sed nullam communi utilitati inferviendam dignitas sequitur.*

Nicholls.

in which it may be employed with advantage, is undoubtedly an object of the greatest importance.

The author of this dissertation sets out with observing, that its use has been very generally condemned in all inflammatory diseases: But that, in opposition to this general opinion, stands the experience of those eminent men, De Haen, Storck, and Huxham. Instigated by these authorities, he proposes to consider, whether the common prejudice be properly founded or not. In order to determine this question, he first treats of the effects of opium upon the human body in a state of health; and then offers some remarks on its use in inflammatory diseases.

With respect to the effects of opium, he observes, that it at first induces serenity of mind; but dullness, and slowness both of the pulse and respiration soon succeed; then follows a sleep, to all appearance natural. He farther alleges, that it diminishes animal heat, and all the secretions and excretions from the body, perspiration excepted, which, on the contrary, it increases. It likewise produces costiveness, and disturbs the functions of the stomach. If it be taken in a large dose, vomiting will often be produced;

and

*Will. Ed. Sect. 7<sup>th</sup> March 1796-*

and if this do not happen when the quantity is very great, convulsions, and even death itself, will be the consequence.

Besides the effects above enumerated, which Dr. Remmet considers as the only constant ones arising from opium, he allows that, on some occasions, it also induces cheerfulness, and increase of the venereal appetite, and an effluence on the skin. But these he regards merely as adventitious and secondary symptoms, since they very seldom occur, and, when they do happen, seem only to be consequences from the primary effects mentioned above. The cheerfulness and increased venereal appetite, he refers to the serenity of mind; and the effluence on the skin, to the increased perspiration.

The effects of opium, he observes, are evident affections of the nervous system, since they must all be referred to the powers of sense and motion. As these are most certainly diminished by opium, he concludes, that all its effects are to be explained from its sedative power. But here a question arises, whether it acts immediately upon the nervous system, or affects it in a secondary way only, by first rarifying the blood? An argument, in favour of the first supposition, has been drawn from the