

POISONS.

In all cases of poisoning, the first step is to evacuate the stomach. This should be effected by an emetic which is *quickly* obtained and most powerful and speedy in its operation. Such are, powdered mustard (a large teaspoonful in a tumblerful of warm water), powdered alum (in dessertspoonful doses), sulphate of zinc (gr. x to xxx), tartar emetic (gr. i-ij), combined with powdered ipecacuanha (gr. xx); and sulphate of copper (gr. ii-v). When vomiting has already taken place, copious draughts of warm water or warm, mucilaginous drinks should be given, to keep up the effect till the poisoning substance has been thoroughly evacuated. If vomiting cannot be produced, the stomach-pump must be used. This instrument will be found particularly useful when narcotics in liquid form have been taken. In cases of corrosive poisoning it is liable to lacerate the stomach. Where the stomach-pump is not at hand, a rubber tube, used to fill the stomach with water first, then inverted as a syphon, answers a good purpose, as by its use thus the stomach can be thoroughly washed out.

Inflammation of the stomach, congestion of the brain, and other symptoms are to be treated on general principles, viz., by blood-letting, cold applications, revulsives, cool mucilaginous drinks, milk, lime-water, etc. When prostration exists stimulants should be resorted to.

The following is a list of substances which produce poisoning, with their antidotes :—

| POISONS. | ANTIDOTES. |
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| <i>Acids.</i> | The Alkalies. Common soap (soft or hard) in solution is an efficient remedy, and has the advantage of being always at hand. It should be followed by copious draughts of tepid water or flaxseed-tea. For <i>nitric</i> and <i>oxalic</i> acids, the carbonate of magnesia and lime (chalk or whiting and water) are the best antidotes. When sulphuric acid has been taken, the use of much water is improper. |
| <i>Alkalies and their salts.</i> | The Vegetable Acids. Common vinegar, being always at hand, is most frequently used. The fixed oils, as castor, flaxseed, almond, and olive oils, form soaps with the alkalies, and thus also destroy their caustic effect. They should be given in <i>large quantity</i> . |
| <i>Baryta and its salts.</i> | <i>Epsom</i> , or <i>Glauber's Salt</i> , in solution, or diluted sulphuric acid. The fixed oils also have the same effect as with the alkalies proper when these bases are uncombined. |
| <i>Lime.</i> | Starch, wheat-flour, or arrow-root, in large quantities, first well boiled with water. Let the patient drink <i>freely</i> of boiled starch, or boiled wheat-flour and water, and afterward of a strong mixture of vinegar and water (any acid in which there is oxygen). When this is done, the whole process of saving the patient's life is accomplished, and it will only be necessary to evacuate the bowels. |
| <i>Iodine.</i> | |
| <i>Iodide of potassium.</i> | |
| <i>Cyanide of potassium and prussic acid.</i> | Cold effusion by douche, etc.; chlorine water; solution of chlorinated soda; aqua ammonia. |
| <i>Antimony and its salts.</i> | Astringent infusions, as of galls, oak-bark, Peruvian bark, or very strong green tea. |
| <i>Arsenic and its compounds.</i> | Any oil or fat (sweet oil, butter, milk); magnesia in large quantity. Dialyzed iron in tablespoonful doses, frequently repeated, to the extent of eight or ten are taken, followed by ten or fifteen grains chloride sodium after each dose. Hydrated oxide of iron (recently made), in tablespoonful doses, every five or ten minutes. |