

**ON THE TREATMENT  
OF THE MORPHINE  
HABIT**

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On the Treatment of the Morphine Habit by Albrecht Erlenmeyer

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**ALBRECHT ERLNMEYER**

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TREATMENT OF THE MORPHINE HABIT.

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BY

DR. ALBRECHT ERLLENMEYER.

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN.



1899:  
GEORGE S. DAVIS,  
DETROIT, MICH.

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## PREFACE.

The great work of Dr. Albrecht Erlenmeyer on the Morphine Habit was published in 1883; the second edition appeared in 1887.

It is much to be desired that the entire book might appear in an English translation; such a volume would, however, be too large for the Leisure Library series.

One chapter only of this work is here reproduced, viz., that pertaining to Treatment. Nor is this chapter given in its entirety, as it seemed best to the translator to make some abridgments, and it is especially under the head of *the cocaine habit* that such abridgment appeared to be demanded—that topic being treated in the original with a diffusiveness, and a minuteness of detail, which, although adding to the scientific value of the entire work, would have been out of proportion in this translation. The aim of this little volume, in fact, is to give a plain, concise and practical presentation of the therapy of morphinism according to Erlenmeyer's teachings. The translator has made other brief abridgments according to his best judgment, the omitted passages being mainly repetitions, or paragraphs that would have been unintelligible without the reproduction of parts of the book in other chapters to which the omitted portions refer.

To Mr. Carl Meinerth, an accomplished German scholar the translator is mainly indebted for assistance in the translation of the text. Dr. Ernest H. Noyes has added a chapter of reports of cases occurring in Erlenmeyer's clinic, and illustrative of his methods of treatment.

E. P. HURD, M. D.,

NEWBURYPORT, MASS., April 20th, 1889.

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THE TREATMENT  
OF  
THE MORPHINE HABIT.

SUMMARY.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF TREATMENT.

- I. *Methods of Withdrawal.*—Gradual Method. — Sudden Method.—Rapid Method (a modification of the second).
- II. *Where shall the Treatment be carried out, and what are the Means necessary for Success?*—At Home. — Insane Asylums. — Public Institutes for the Morphine Cure. — Private Institutes. — Regulations for Institutes; for Home Treatment.
- III. *Treatment of the Symptoms Developed by Abstinence.* — Collapse. — Delirium. — Toxæmia. — Vomiting. — Diarrhoea and Abdominal Pains. — Pains in the Calf of the Leg.—General Restlessness.—Insomnia.—Rest in Bed. — Nutritious Food.—Baths.—Fresh Air and Exercise.—Treatment of Mental Disturbances.—Hysterical Symptoms.—Causal Indications. — Simulations of Sufferings.
- IV. *The Cocaine Treatment.*—Its Abuse.—The Cocaine Habit. — Physiological and Toxicological Effects of Cocaine in the Treatment of Morphomania.
- V. *Prevention of Relapses.*—The Habit is Not a Primary but a Secondary Malady.—Treatment of the Original Disease After Withdrawal of Morphia; Before Withdrawal.—Secondary Symptoms arising from Abstinence.

VIII.

VI. *General Prophylaxis.*—Assistance by the Government.—  
Assistance which Might be Rendered by Druggists; by  
Physicians.—Public Warnings.—Attitude of the Press  
towards the Habit.

VII. *Reports of Cases.*

## INTRODUCTION.\*

The words *morphinomania*, or *morphiomania*, and *morphinism* are used to designate the sum of morbid phenomena resulting from the abuse of morphia. The word morphinism may be compared to alcoholism, and morphiomania to dipsomania: the propriety of calling inveterate addiction to the morphine habit a *mania* is obvious to any one who considers how completely the will and moral sentiment of the victim are dominated by the passion of the narcotic.

This is a disease of modern life, and of recent origin. Opium eating, the sum of whose baneful effects has been called *thebairn*, has been practiced for centuries in the East, and in China numbers among its victims one-fifth of the entire population. But opium eating and opium smoking have never prevailed to any great extent among Western nations, while within a few years—since the time, in fact, when the hypodermic syringe first came into use, about the year 1859 (we hardly need go back to the discovery of morphine by Sertürner in 1817)—a new vice has sprung into existence more peculiarly suited to the temperament and habits of Occidentals, which on the Continent of Europe, and in this country has made thousands of victims, and is said to be steadily on the increase. Synchronously with the discovery of the wonderful pain-assuaging properties of hypodermic injections, morphinism became known.

The way in which this malady is developed generally is as follows: A patient shall be suffering from frequent attacks of angina pectoris, sciatica, hepatic colic, or some other very painful affection, for which his physician has resorted to subcutaneous injections of morphine. The relief has been speedy and magical. The painful disease persisting, the hypodermic

\* By the translator.