

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF PRACTICAL INFORMATION, ART, SCIENCE, MECHANICS, CHEMISTRY, AND MANUFACTURES.

Vol. XL.—No. 16.
[NEW SERIES.]

NEW YORK, APRIL 19, 1879.

\$3.20 per Annum.
[POSTAGE PREPAID.]

TOXICOLOGICAL NOTES.

An Italian journal, according to the *Lancet*, records a case in which, to a child two years of age, the administration of a grain and a half of santonine was followed by convulsions, beginning in the face and extending over the whole body, with dilatation of the pupils, hinderance to respiration, and urine colored by the drug. The most efficacious therapeutic measure was found to be artificial respiration whenever paralytic asphyxia threatened. The convulsions continued for three days, gradually lessening. It is difficult to believe that the dose of santonine was not, by error, larger than was intended. The case, however, is instructive in respect to the therapeutics of santonine poisoning, since further experiments on animals, suggested by it, showed that the most potent means of combating the effects was by artificial respiration, that the convulsive attacks were best treated by inhalation of ether, and the elimination of the poison furthered by purgative and abundant drinks.

Instances of poisoning by chlorate of potash are very rare. In one case on record, seven drachms were taken at once by mistake, and caused the death of an adult. Another instance has just been recorded in Germany. Some of this substance was being given daily to some children of a physician as a prophylactic against diphtheria, then epidemic. One day the children, three in number, obtained the stock of chlorate and commenced playing "doctor," and took altogether between three and four drachms. The youngest, aged two and

a half years, began quickly to vomit, and continued to do so till her death, seven hours later, with symptoms of acute gastritis and great somnolence. The others recovered. In a case recently recorded five grain doses of chlorate, continued for a considerable time, caused almost constant gastritis.

A curious case of tobacco poisoning is recorded in France. A woman, by the advice of a midwife, gave to a child aged eighteen months, suffering from oxyuriasis, an injection consisting of a decoction of two cigars. Some minutes afterward the child began to vomit, and became convulsed. Half an hour later it was in a state of coma, interrupted now and then by convulsive movements. The pulse was frequent and feeble, the extremities cold, respiration irregular, and the pupils contracted. The symptoms lessened after injections of warm water, warm baths, and ammonia, and next day the child was pretty well. The two cigars contained about two and a half drachms of tobacco.

The *Pharmaceutical Journal* records a case in which a popular "soothing sirup" caused the death of an infant. The child, five months old, was supposed to be teething, and its mother purchased a bottle of "Mrs. Winslow's soothing sirup," administering ten drops of the nostrum about twice a day for about three days. On the night of the third day it died very suddenly from the effects of the medicine. The coroner said that the effects of "Mrs. Winslow's soothing sirup" were those of a narcotic, and that the *Pharmaceutical Journal* of 1872 stated that two doses had caused the death of

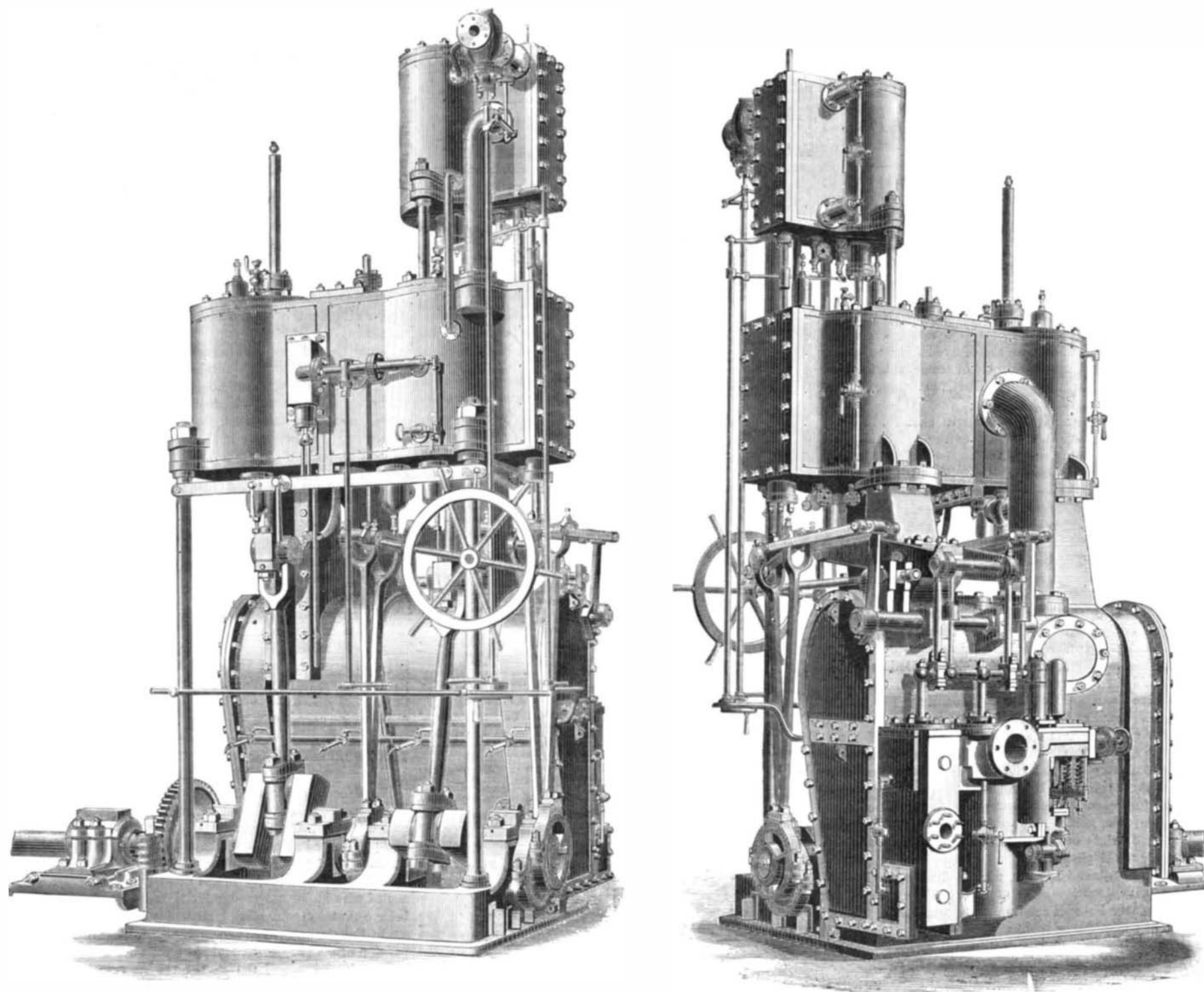
a child fifteen months old, with the usual symptoms of narcotic poison. Analysis of this sirup showed that one ounce of it contained nearly one grain of morphine with other opium alkaloids. "It is not surprising," he adds, "that it should prove fatal to infants in small doses." However, it is safe to say that this case will prove no warning; and that mothers will go on just the same, stupefying their infants with Godfrey's cordial and "patent medicines," like the one above noted; and the practice will cease, perhaps, on the same day in the dim future in which the housekeeper and the average servant girl learn that benzine and kerosene are not proper substitutes for paper and wood in kindling the kitchen fire.

THE ENGINES OF THE YACHT ISA.

We illustrate herewith the engines of the yacht *Isa*, the property of Mr. H. Andrews, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, and belonging to the Royal Thames Yacht Club. The engines and boiler were built by Messrs. Douglas & Grant, engineers, Kirkcaldy, to the specification of Mr. Alex. Taylor, Newcastle.

The *Isa* is a well modeled twin screw yacht, with clipper bow and elliptic stern, 118 feet 8 inches length of keel, 18 feet 9 inches extreme breadth, 10 feet 5 inches depth moulded, and 10 feet depth of hold; flush decked, and rigged as a two-masted yacht, her yacht tonnage being 248 tons.

The engines are three cylinder compound, the cylinders



THE THREE-CYLINDER COMPOUND ENGINES OF THE YACHT ISA.