

gence in manner, slow speech, and great deliberation of movement. When walking, he partially extended his arms, as a rope-dancer might, and would touch any object he passed as an aid to muscular co-ordination, while the gait was jerky, uncertain and slightly ataxic in character. His mental powers were enfeebled and memory defective, though he exercised control over his property. In disposition he was reserved and secretive, and would carefully treasure up dirty fragments of paper and other rubbish found in the street. Curiosity and cunning were largely developed, and when a seizure was approaching, uncontrollable fits of giggling occurred. He resented the imputation of ill-health strongly, and cling tenaciously to the hope that, contrary to the opinion of various medical authorities who had seen him, he would shortly be able to resume his college studies. His great dislike of medication and intense desire of concealing his fits when they occurred rendered him difficult to treat, and he would deceive me as to his sensations, condition of bowels, &c., whenever possible. After much trouble I got him to take one daily dose of bromide of potassium, forty grains in the morning, with which I at once began, as a wound on the bridge of the nose indicated a recent attack. From this date, August 9th, 1880, fits occurred at the rate of two a week on an average, but always during the night, until November 18th, when I watched a seizure from the commencement at about 9 p. m. He was dozing over a newspaper held upside down which he had been pretending to read, when a low, peculiar cry indicated an attack. The eyes became fixed and staring, the chin advanced, and the face livid (I noticed no initial pallor). The chest walls seemed motionless and respiration suspended, but a gurgling sound resembling retching closely followed the initial convulsion of the limbs, which began in the arms and legs, which were forcibly extended, the former being rotated inwards and the fingers extended. Both sides seemed equally affected, or nearly so. With this the head rotated strongly to the left, the jaws closed firmly, and the pupils slightly deviated from their usual contracted state. Accompanied by deepening lividity, clonic spasms of the usual kind, and twitchings of the mouth succeeded, and I think most affected the right side. The convulsive stage lasted about twenty seconds, and terminated in relaxation and stupor; saliva, tinged with blood from a bitten tongue, running freely from the mouth. The lividity disappeared, and the pulse, which during the paroxysm had been frequent and tense, was now slowed and softened, and perspiration moistened the skin. The sphincters were unaffected, and I found the urine normal the next day. Thinking the bromide was losing its effect in warding off day seizures I gave borax till December 20th. In this time two day fits and seven at night were noted. Then followed bromide as before, with short intervals of iron aloes, till May 30th, with the result of

eleven attacks in the waking and fifteen in the sleeping state. Belladonna in twenty-drops doses with bromides of potassium and ammonium were given till October 30th, when three day and twelve night seizures were observed. Nitrite of sodium in twenty-grain doses was then administered until February 6th, when he passed from under my care. During this period a remarkable improvement took place. Three fits only were noted, diurnal on December 15th and January 10th, and nocturnal December 16th. During these latter months, the gait and general manner showed a change for the better. The giggling which formerly generally heralded a seizure almost entirely disappeared. A disposition to over-eat, and post-prandial drowsiness, greatly lessened, and his friends declared they had never seen him look so well before. Among the few particulars, however, in which but little improvement took place, was one I omitted to mention in its proper place, an offensive exhalation from the skin resembling the odor of corduroy, and differing from any I have observed among mental and nervous cases. To make the effect of remedies more easily apparent I subjoin a tabular statement, in which time is expressed by weeks in round numbers.

The general treatment was uniform, and consisted in careful dieting, restrictive in bulk, absence of all excitement, attention to the bowels as far as practicable, and constant watchfulness to repress the tendency to mischievousness which so often accompanies brain deterioration.

Weeks.	Seasons.	Number of Fits.		Total.	Remedies used.
		Day.	Night.		
14½	Summer.	—	28	28	Bromides of pot. sodium and ammonium.
4½	Winter.	2	7	9	
23	Winter and Spring.	11	15	26	Borax, with intervals of iron and aloes.
22	Summer.	3	12	15	
14	Winter.	2	1	3	Bromides with belladonna. Nitrite of sodium.

The object in this paper is to advocate the claim of nitrite of sodium to a trial in epilepsy. One case of course is of little value, and I am far from wishing to do more than suggest a trial; and, as it is not likely to be equally valuable in all forms of this malady, I thought it best to describe rather fully the present case in which it seemed of great service. So far as I am aware, this drug has not been used as a remedy for epilepsy, but, assuming that the nervous discharge or explosion is associated with cerebral anæmia—a view which receives clinical support from the initial pallor of the face and high tension of the radial pulse, as well as from the usefulness of belladonna in certain forms, and of nitrate of amyl during the paroxysm—it seemed natural to look for a remedy capable of influencing the vaso-motor apparatus, and, although I am aware that nitro-glycerine—an agent of this class—failed in the hands of Dr. Gowers, I tried sodium nitrite, a drug whose action