

and the Hospital Medical Society. By the latter, strong doubts were expressed as to the reality of the disease, and after a patient and skilful examination, it was ascertained that the ladies (for almost all those affected with it were women) used a preparation of lamp-black to give their lids that appearance, thus deceiving M. de Mericourt, one of the most distinguished physicians of that city.—*Med. & Surg. Reporter.*

LARYNGISMUS STRIDULUS OR SPASM OF THE GLOTTIS.

Being part of a lecture delivered by Sir Henry Marsh, in Steeven's Hospital, Dublin.

The following case was communicated to me by Dr. Johnson, Professor of midwifery to the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland:—

I was consulted some time ago about the child of the Hon. Mrs. P., and received the following history of the case: He was attacked on the third day after birth with laryngeal spasm and a crowing inspiration, in such a degree as to excite great apprehension in the minds of the parents; these attacks returned at intervals, when the child was irritated, and on awaking from sleep, until the third month, when they disappeared without any apparent cause. Between the fifth and sixth months they returned, accompanied by the swelling of the hands and feet, and the rigidity of the thumbs and toes described by Dr. Kellie (in the *Edinburgh Medical Journal*), and terminated in general convulsions: at this period he cut two incisors in the lower jaw; the attack of crowing inspiration returned frequently during dentition, sometimes alone, at other times accompanied by the rigidity of the thumbs and toes, but never terminating in convulsions until he was cutting the first molar. At the time that I was called to see him the rigidity of the toes was so great as to prevent him from walking, and the screaming such as to render the parents apprehensive of the return of convulsions. On examination of the gums I found the canine teeth making their appearance; the gums were divided, an issue inserted in the back of the neck, and aperient medicines were given. The attacks, however, were neither diminished in frequency nor violence until the child was removed to the country, since which time he has had no return of the disease. He was a remarkably large and strong child for his age, which left the impression on my mind that he was over fed; however, on enquiry, I found this was not the case."

This case is interesting, inasmuch as it proves that this disease is not necessarily connected with the process of dentition,* although unquestionably exasperated in its symptoms, when the teeth are cut with pain or irritation; this case too, as the others, evinces the great value of change of air in the treatment. It does not appear until after the teeth had been all cut.

I am indebted for the following interesting case to Mr. Newton, Licentiate of the College of Surgeons in Ireland, upon whose soundness and accuracy of observation the fullest reliance may be placed:—

"A child, aged 19 months, of a violent temper, had always been very healthy until it was about 17 months old, when he had a mild attack of hooping-cough, since which he was observed to have occasional fits of difficulty of breathing on awaking from sleep, during which his face became livid; these lasted for some time and were terminated by a long deep-drawn inspiration, with a crowing noise; this did not excite any alarm in his friends.

On the morning of the day on which he died he took a hearty breakfast of stirabout, and in about an hour afterwards he vomited; he was in good spirits and apparent good health until five p. m. when he was put into a passion; his breathing suddenly became difficult, his face livid and he expired in about five minutes.

Dissection seventeen hours after death.—Extremities stiff, body fat, some lividity about scrotum and posterior parts of the body.

* Dr. Johnson has mentioned to me a case of this disease, the symptoms of which did