

with distension of the abdomen, ending with the expulsion of flatus. These attacks are paroxysmal, and are frequently accompanied by clonic convulsions, which may last for some minutes, and even for an hour or more. After the cessation of the paroxysm the child is either itself again, or may remain dull and feeble. In the intervals of the attacks there are no essential cerebral symptoms perceptible. The prognosis depends upon the nature of the cause, but it has been questioned whether a colic of itself alone may not prove fatal. Through the long duration of the accompanying convulsions, through the shock and the exhaustion of the nervous system, death may follow, and at the post-mortem no anatomical cause of the fatal termination can be shown. Hysterical attacks of colic especially concern very excitable children, usually nervous girls, and are characterized by violent pains, a drawing in abdomen, slight convulsions, and obstinate constipation. In the treatment of colic we must first endeavor to remove the cause. In suckling infants, colic is especially apt to occur when the nurse's milk exhibits a large proportion of fat, and in such a case the nurse should be changed. In flatulent colic, oleum chamomillæ or fœniculi may be given, with a drop of tincture of opium, as an oleo-saccharate. In metallic and in hysterical colic, belladonna is the best means; and intermittent colic should be treated by quinine.

### SICK HEADACHE.

Surgeon Major Roehring of Amberg, reports, in No. 32 of the *Allg. Med. Centr. Zeit.*, April 22, 1882, a case of headache of long standing, which he cured by salicylate of sodium, which confirms the observation of Dr. Oehlschlager, of Danzig, who first contended that we possessed in salicylic acid one of the most reliable remedies for neuralgia. This cannot astonish us if we remember that the action of salicylic acid is, in more than one respect, and especially in its influence on the nervous centres, analogous to quinine.

While out with the troops on manoeuvre, Dr. Roehring was called to visit the sixteen-year-old son of a poor peasant family, in a neighboring village. The boy, who gave all evidences of living under bad hygienic surroundings, but who had shown himself very diligent at school, had been suffering, from his sixth year, several days every week, from the most intense headache, which had not been relieved by any of the many remedies tried for the purpose. A careful examination did not reveal any organic lesion or any cause for the pain, which seemed to be neuralgic in character, a purely nervous headache. Roehring had just been reading the observations of Oehlschlager, and knowing, from the names of the physicians who had been already attending the poor boy, that all the common remedies for neuralgia had been given a fair trial, thought this a good opportunity to test

the virtue of salicylate of sodium. He gave the boy, who, in consequence of the severity of the pain, was not able to leave his bed, ten grains of the remedy every three hours, and was surprised to see the patient the next day in his tent and with smiling face. The boy admitted that he for years had not been feeling so well as he did then. The remedy was continued, but in less frequent doses, for a few days longer; the headache did not return. Several months later Dr. Roehring wrote to the school teacher of the boy, and was informed that the latter had, during all this time, been totally free of his former pain, that he was much brighter than formerly, and evidently enjoying the best of health.

It may be worth while to give the remedy a more extensive trial, and the more so as we are only too often at a loss what to do in stubborn cases of so-called nervous headache.

### THE SUBCUTANEOUS INJECTION OF ETHER.

It should be more generally known that ether injected subcutaneously has a powerful stimulant effect, and is remarkably efficacious in case of extreme depression of the powers of life. It has long been used to a limited extent in such cases, but increasing experience has enlarged the domain of its application. In adynamic pneumonia, in fevers when failure of the vital powers is threatened, in the puerperal state, in cases of thrombosis of important vessels, the injection of ether has been lately used with singular benefit. Besides, as a stimulant in conditions of depression it has important applications as a hypnotic and local anodyne. In cerebral excitement and wakefulness, accompanied by depression of the arterial circulation, it is most useful. In the more chronic cases of superficial neuralgia, as sciatica, lumbago, intercostal pain, zoster, etc., ether injected in the neighborhood of the affected nerves often gives surprising relief.

There are contra-indications to its use. It is not proper in the cases of cardiac depression due to chloroform or ether narcosis, and yet it has, in the confusion incident to such an event, been freely injected on the cessation of the cardiac or respiratory movements. Under similar circumstances, alcohol has also been freely injected subcutaneously, but this practice is equally improper—and both for the obvious reasons that these are synergistic agents. Ether, subcutaneously, is also not a suitable remedy when there is arterial excitement with power.

The technical details are simple. Ether must be injected with a glass or metallic syringe. Rubber and celluloid are damaged by it. As ether dissolves the oil with which the piston is lubricated, the syringe should always be put in order after ether has been injected. It is a useful precaution,