

the cases reported both patients were over 30 years of age, and both had always enjoyed good health, never having had convulsions during infancy. We have to do with an acute dissolution of the centres and not with a permanent disability. No doubt if the habit of drinking is continued at short intervals for a lengthened period the centres become permanently unstable, and then we have a state not different from that we find in ordinary epileptic states.

THE TREATMENT.

The first and most important indication to fulfill in the treatment of epilepsy is to endeavor to diminish that instability of the cerebral cells which in all confirmed cases of this disease is present to a greater or less extent. It is especially necessary that this should be before us while the disease is not as yet confirmed. By diligent attention to this indication there is no doubt that many children might be saved from becoming epileptics. In from 10 to 15 per cent. of epileptics the fits have begun in infancy, and there can be no question that careful treatment of the recurring convulsions of childhood might greatly diminish this proportion. To notice the apathy and indifference of patients as I have several times in such cases is distressing. A very great responsibility devolves on the medical attendant in these cases. The time for treatment is before the cells have acquired the vicious habit of unduly discharging. The influence of habit as related to the cells of the cerebral cortex is of paramount importance in the treatment of epilepsy. Nervous tissue, above all other tissues, is prone to easily acquire and retain organic memories. Tissues are resistive to disease in proportion to their maturity, and as the tissues of the cerebral cortex are the last of all to reach complete functional power, it follows that they are longer exposed to injurious influences. This is the reason why epilepsy may not show itself for a number of years. It is comparatively rare for epilepsy to originate after the 30th year. Fully 90 per cent. of cases begin before the 25th year. This period may be taken as about the time when the cells of the cortex have reached their maturity. The slow development of