

brain secretes from the blood the nervous fluid; an ethereal or subtle substance, like electricity in the rapidity and energy of its motions. It is emitted from the brain through the nerves to all parts of the body, in channels so diminitively small, that no glass has been able to detect them. It is a subtle, invisible consistence, and is conveyed from the brain to the muscles like the electric fluid. The place where all the nerves meet is called the common sensorium—where are treasured up all the sensations carried to the brain, and retained, in proportion to the strength and frequency of the impressions. Hence, all insanity, delirium, or disorder of the intellect, arise from disorders or injuries of the brain. In case of hypochondria, delirium, or insanity, there is always an affection of the nervous system, and the effects correspond with the cause, or disorder, in the brain or nerves.—But as the invisible fluid which constitutes the sentient principles of life is mysterious in its nature and operations, so are the infinitely various effects which are occasioned by the disorders of the nervous system. Well may we exclaim with the inspired writer, "We are fearfully and wonderfully made."

From the Boston Thompsonian Manual.

CRAMP IN THE STOMACH.

Dr. Thompson—Dear Sir: I will state to you a case which has just passed under my hands; if you think it important, please give it an insertion in your valuable journal.

CASE.—Called to visit a young married man who was attacked with a violent cramp in the stomach. Dr. Martin, (M. D.) had been sent for, who had, during a few hours bled him twice, and administered calomel, salts, and oil, followed by frequent injections. He had also drank repeatedly yarrow tea, whether by the advice of Dr. M., I did not inquire. The patient was taken between three and four in the afternoon, and became worse and worse. The doctor remained with him till sometime before daylight the next morning when no effect of medicine taking place, and the spasms being almost continual, and determining upon his vitals, he declared he would die, and retired to rest. In their extremity they sent for me. On my arrival at seven o'clock, I found the young man in an awful condition. He was in dreadful agony, could not lie, and could not rise without shrieks and groans. Inflammation, verging to mortification, was seated on the colon—he could not even bear the weight of a dollar on its region. On entering his room he exclaimed, "there is no hope for me—no medicine can cure me." An excellent pious mother was pale with maternal fear and anguish, and a wife, with child, trembling with agony. Had I consulted appearances or my own reputation or success, I should undoubtedly have deserted him

as a "hopeless case" of mineral practice, thrown in the *extreme* on your excellent system; but trusting in your efficient medicines, in the light of the eclectic system, and feeling the powerful sentiments of sympathy, I entered upon it, observing to the patient, "in two hours you will be a comparatively well man." I threw into his stomach Nos. 2 and 3 in warm teas, soon followed by the amount of three doses of the 3d prep., and in ten minutes effected a pretty copious ejection from the stomach. I had in the meantime rubbed his bowels with No. 6, and administered an injection of water taken from the tea diluted as warm as he could bear it, and infused with a teaspoonful and a half of the tincture of lobelia. As soon as it was voided, I immediately added another, the same in quantity and warmth, with two teaspoonfuls of the tincture and 3d prep., mixed together. This was retained in the system. In 30 minutes he was relieved of all spasm and pain, and perfectly happy, and was heard to call for food. Anticipating what would be the case, if relieved, since he had eaten nothing during 24 hours, I had ordered some chicken broth with crackers and rice sparingly infused, to be prepared. In 40 minutes after my arrival he had a copious fetid discharge. The Dr. had risen, and seeing me thus busily engaged, instead of coming to his patient, sat down to breakfast. We had prepared for steaming to throw off the calomel, &c. He now visited his patient and was astonished to hear him say, that except a little soreness and weakness, he was as well as ever he felt in his life. He (the Dr.) declared that he had a febrile affection. I answered, it has resulted from bleeding and spasmodic nervous excitement, which I shall soon remove. He took me aside, and stated seriously what he had done, adding that he felt that in surrendering the patient, it was his duty. I observed that it was of no consequence, since in our practice it was as necessary to remove the mineral medicines as the disease, and that the mercury had already become absorbed into the system. He remained while we steamed the patient. The patient declared that he smelt the yarrow root and the mercury. We fearlessly applied the cold water over his whole person; rubbed him dry, and had him in a few minutes in clean apparel and fresh bed clothes, comfortable and at rest.

In two hours after my arrival he arose, dressed himself, and was sitting laughing heartily with his happy family. I rejoiced in the efficacy of your admirable system.

About the same time a farmer in a village 13 miles distant was taken with the same disease, and after 2 days of agonizing suffering, expired under the hands of the minerals. Had these means been present, and employed, how different would probably have been the result! My mode may appear rather rapid to