

heat of the body, will generally soon find his patient convalescent.

A dangerous illness yielding rapidly to any particular mode of treatment, must always be considered one of the best proofs of its correctness; in this point of view I am disposed to regard the following. A lady was delivered of a child by a midwife. Everything went on well till the end of the third day, when on awakening from sleep she felt herself chilly. An additional blanket was put on, and in succession warm drinks, hot bottles, and a good fire increased the evil. About forty-eight hours after the commencement of illness, I visited her. She was then incoherent, being impressed, for instance, with the idea that she was not in her own house. She was immediately removed to a room without a fire, her coverings were greatly lessened, no bottles were laid beside her, nor warm drinks given; small quantities of cold spirits were administered frequently, partly to dry up sweating, and partly to give strength. As soon as the skin became dry, it was quite evident that she was much too warm; and the season being mild, the temperature of her body was reduced by bathing the hands and feet in cold water. Finding that she was still too restless to sleep, small doses of opium were administered with the desired effect. In three days she was so much better that I did not consider it necessary to visit her oftener than once a day, and in four weeks I entirely discontinued my attendance. When her recovery was far advanced, her husband told me that when I first gave directions to cool her, these were so contrary to all his conceptions of the nature of her malady, and to her own sensations of chilliness, that he could not acquiesce in their propriety, till he saw that the progress of the illness was checked, and that recovery was commencing.

The following case shows how prone delicate females are, notwithstanding the utmost care, to lapse into child-bed fever; and it also may be regarded as tending to prove the correctness of the treatment. A lady, whose constitution was not vigorous, on the second day after the birth of her first child became somewhat too warm, perspired and was chilly. The error was only of very short continuance, for the patient was a near relative of my own, and I was never absent longer than two or three hours. On my arrival, I took every

measure to cool her, but little required to be done in this respect, for she and her attendants had previously been well instructed, the apartment was large and well ventilated, and the weather was cool. The disposition to sweat, however, was considerable, and had I yielded to what may be termed the natural opinions of women in these circumstances, and endeavored to remove chilliness by the application of warmth, I would soon have converted a slight and incipient fever into a most dangerous, perhaps a fatal one. Watching the effect of every dose, I gave small quantities of brandy, and had the satisfaction of finding that they produced the desired effect. Perspiration, however, frequently threatened to return, but was always prevented or removed by the same remedy, the pulse becoming slower, and the sensations of the patient approaching more and more nearly to those of health. Such was the debility and tendency to sweat, that the use of brandy could not be altogether discontinued for a fortnight, and in that time she had taken more than a quart of spirits. The child was suckled by a wet nurse, my patient having neither milk nor strength to undertake the office. The good effect of brandy was here more remarkable on account of this lady when in her usual health, both previously and after her recovery, being unable to take the most trifling quantity of any description without exciting headache, and yet, during her confinement, brandy produced no unpleasant symptom whatever. I may mention that a few hours after shivering commenced, she had pretty severe pain in the right side of the abdomen, which yielded to the warmth and steady pressure of an assistant's hand continued for an hour. In this case, brandy was required chiefly on account of the constitutional want of vigor of the patient. In robust women who have become dangerously ill, it is mostly required on account of the fever of two, three, or more days duration reducing their strength to a degree which could scarcely be credited by those who have not seen it.

In 1820, Dr. Marshall Hall published "Cases of a Serious Morbid Affection, chiefly occurring after Delivery." In these the reader will find decisive proofs of the danger, and even of the fatal effects of incautious purging; and likewise of the same results from the use of the lancet, although severe pain in the head or abdomen was present. I do not know whether the symptoms of the real