neuron. These dendrites do not join other dendrites from other neurons, but come into such close proximity to them that the stimulus may flow from one dendrite to that of another neuron, and thus the discharge may spread with rapidity and readiness. Sensation begins in the peripheral ends of the fibrils and passes to the centre. Discharge may begin in the central end, the dendrite, and pass out to any given muscle fibre, causing its contraction. If the waves of discharge are very close upon each, the contraction will become continuous, or tonic. If the waves of discharge are separated, so will the contractions, and the result will be a clonic action of the muscle fibre.

There is no doubt but that the discharge in disease is the same as the liberation of energy in health. There is some chemical change. These changes in the composition of tissue take place with great rapidity in health, as shown by the suddenness of reflex action. In like manner there is some instant interchange between the blood and the reserve matter that forms the chemical basis for the discharge. This leads to the view that the molecular changes in epileptic discharge is some as yet unknown, untritional change. There is some state of instability. There may be a great readiness to the release of energy to an unusually slight stimulus. As this process is repeated, the discharge becomes easier of production. Thus epilepsy, like acquired movements, becomes self perpetuating. There is in many cases a further instability that gives rise to post-epileptic attacks of mania, automatic action and hysterial seizures.

INTUSSUSCEPTION IN CHILDREN.

We publish in this issue a synopsis of an admirable discussion on this subject which took place at the last meeting of the British Medical Association in Cheltenham, and was published in full in the *British Medical Journal*, September 7th. We fear that the mortality from intussusception in young children in Canada has been extremely high. We are not sure that in a majority of cases a correct diagnosis has been made. It is perhaps not to be wondered at that general practitioners throughout the country should make many mistakes in this