

move her legs, but requires support in walking; neither leg, however, is dragged, as in paralysis. Apart from the speechlessness, her other faculties are right. She usually has a fit of a hysterical nature every night, about nine. Catamenia regular, and bodily functions in general healthy.

Dr. Pavy remarked that he believed this to be one of those strange vagaries brought about by hysteria. Here was a girl of healthy and lively appearance, and of good bodily condition, who had not uttered a single word for seven months. Doubtless she had excited the commiseration and sympathy of her friends, but one would have thought it must have been a great hardship to endure to forego speaking altogether for such a length of time. There was evidently nothing physically to interfere with her speaking. She was never to be caught unawares. When spoken to she made no attempt to answer by speech, but was ready to write down her reply. It was difficult to suppose that the girl was a voluntary agent in the part she was performing, or that she was practising a wilful deception. It was more rational to suppose that she was herself deceived—that she was so impressed with the conviction, so deluded with the belief that she could not speak, that she did not make the attempt. Some powerful impression would have to be made to dissipate the delusion. The galvanic shock had succeeded before in such cases, and Dr. Pavy would have it tried in this. An instrument in use by a paralytic patient in the ward was set to work, and the girl made to grasp the handles. The battery was not strong enough to yield a very powerful shock, and she did not utter any sound, although she cried and moved her mouth as though attempting to speak. She was told that a more powerful battery would be used another time if she did not find her voice, and that she was meanwhile to try all she could herself to speak. The next day she had a fit of hysteria, and afterwards uttered some sounds. She now began to speak, and in the course of a few days talked as freely as any patient in the ward. The use of her legs also became restored, and her hysterical attacks disappeared. The medicine administered was *sp. ammon. foet., mxx.; inf. valerianæ, ʒj., ter die.*—*Medical Times and Gazette.*

Medicine.

THE THERMOMETER IN DISEASE.

Much attention has of late years been paid to the temperature of the body in disease, and much practical information has been gained from this study. We therefore propose to lay before our readers an account of the help which we may get from the temperature of the body in the diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment of disease.