

The little sufferers from beginning hip-joint disease sleep no more till the leg is immobilized, codiene and chloral affording only temporary relief. The insomnia of broncho-pneumonia in children is best relieved by the application of a fly-blister, a remedy that makes the ignorant laugh. At once respiration becomes less frequent, oppression diminishes, and the little one sleeps. The most varied measures bring about this consummation devoutly to be wished, under different circumstances. And any agent will fail when it is not indicated, as it does everywhere in the practice of medicine.

Ætiology must ever be kept in view. The causes of childish insomnia are legion. Among the new-born, Dr. Simon places dyspepsia first on the list, and acute cerebral congestion—due to some kind of exposure—next. A beginning meningitis, cerebral tumors, and hydrocephalus have wakefulness for a symptom. In later childhood, headache produces the same result—the headache of growth and overwork. Many of these headaches are really manifestations of latent rheumatism. The neuroses of childhood, such as hysteria, chorea, and epilepsy, produce wakefulness. This is sometimes the only evidence of epilepsy, and expresses itself in a peculiar way. The child goes to bed well, wakens with cry from profound slumber, sits up suddenly in bed, and the falls back again, either to sleep, after a short interval, or to lie awake weak and prostrated. Sleepless or wakeful chorea is a serious affair. Rheumatic conjunctivitis, catarrh extending into the frontal sinuses, urticaria, itch, etc., are frequent and obvious reasons for sleeplessness. Not so hernia or displaced testicle. The rarity of these conditions make them overlooked, though existing oftener than is supposed, the symptoms they give rise to being referred to the digestive tract or the nervous system. Naturally, the whole range of nerves and digestive tonics fails to do what a simple bandage can accomplish—bring about normal sleep. The exanthematous fevers have sleeplessness during some part of their course as an accompaniment. So also malarial fevers, especially of the irregular type, when the child wakes suddenly in the night with pain in the head and vomiting, without fever or chills. Quinine cures this kind of sleeplessness. Unrecognized albuminuria is another reason why repose is disturbed; and this disturbance may precede uræmia. The diphtheritic patient in whom the disease has murdered sleep is in the gravest danger. Among children of six or seven, wakefulness is one of the protean expressions of lithæmia. It is often accompanied by intense headache and profuse perspiration. And last, but not least, the indiscretions of the mother or wet-nurse are potent causes of the wakefulness of early infancy. Alcohol, tea, coffee, salted foods, condiments, and spiced meats may act as poisons

to the baby when they pass into the milk that is its food. Strong odors, good and bad, may also keep little ones awake, for their are powerful excitants in the young.

The most careful regulation of a child's life, the most patient enquiry into the details of its every-day career, and matters worthy of the best physician's learning and skill. Grown persons are badly spoiled as a rule, and not much can be done but patch them up and let them go; but with children the case is more hopeful.—*N. Y. Med. Jour.*

ABSTRACT OF THE ADDRESS ON MEDICINE.

Dr. Davis referred to the recent changes and progress in medicine, and proceeded to ask the attention of the audience to a limited number of topics that are at present exerting an important influence on the progress of medical science. He spoke of the microscopic search for bacteria, which has recently become so popular. He said a large proportion of the bed-side practice had become little more than a clerical process, recording the temperature as indicated by the clinical thermometer, and adjusting the stimulants and food in accordance therewith, little attention being given to the condition of important secretory and excretory organs. He claimed that a general fever, instead of being simply high temperature, is a complex, morbid condition, involving all the functions of the body, the elevation of temperature being only incidental. The real value of any remedy in the treatment of acute general diseases cannot be determined by its specific effect in temporarily controlling one or two common symptoms, but the mode of its action on the general system. Physiological investigation has proved that all nerve sensibilities and molecular changes are dependent on the presence of arterial blood containing oxygen. All acute general diseases accompanied by abnormal temperature include disturbance of these processes. Abundant observations and experiments on animals show that many of the favorite antipyretics produce their effects by more or less direct interference with the function of the blood. They impair the assimilative processes as shown by the diminished conversion of food into sugar in the liver and muscles and the diminution of nitrogenous elimination. He entered into an extended discussion of typhoid fever. He thought it safe to relieve the excess of heat by the natural processes of radiation, exhalation and general evacuations. This can be done by frequent sponge bathing, aided by wrapping the patient in a cold, wet sheet, which can be done with a positively refreshing influence. He referred to the effect of alcohol as used for a remedy in the treat-