

epileptics who in early life have suffered from infantile convulsions, a disease identical with epilepsy, the predisposition to this disease has always existed, and the system has readily yielded to exciting causes of irritation.

Although it is my desire to confine myself as far as possible to points connected with the treatment of the disease, yet I feel called upon to notice one or two facts which have recently come under my notice, which strike me as having a strong bearing upon the pathology of this, and, indeed, upon all forms of convulsive disease, more especially with regard to the seat in which convulsions would appear to arise. Believing with Van der Kolk that the medulla oblongata is the centre in which convulsion is organized, it is my habit invariably to examine carefully the upper part of the spinal column in all epileptics who come under my notice, and I have been much struck with the frequency with which pressure in this region will give rise to a species of epileptic aura, arising from or proceeding to some distant part of the body. Thus on making pressure between the occiput and the atlas there is frequently pain or a peculiar nervous tingling felt, sometimes at the pit of the stomach, sometimes down the arms, or it may be in the throat, and in some cases this aura may pass into a modified or even a complete epileptic seizure. In two cases in my practice this has actually happened. The first of these patients was a young lady, E. R., aged twenty. She had been epileptic for nearly five years. She was a strongly built girl, of sanguine temperament. An elder sister, suffering from melancholia, is in a lunatic asylum, the fits first appeared at the commencement of the menstrual period, and were attributed to fright. They came on every ten days or fortnight, but more frequently occurred at the catamenial epoch. They were very convulsive, but she did not bite her tongue. I very soon discovered the effect of pressure upon the upper part of the spinal column, and it was upon the second occasion of my seeing her that an actual convulsion occurred. She described the aura as arising in the throat, coupled with a sense of constriction, this was but momentary. The face became deeply suffused, no cry was given, but convulsions, commencing in the upper extremities soon became general. After this I frequently observed that similar effects could be produced by pressure in this spot, although I never carried it so far as to produce convul-