

ence of spasmodic croup; a disease which I believe to be nothing else than the first stage of inflammatory croup, or else a slight and transient attack of croup in nervous and irritable children. The disease which forms the subject of this paper is essentially different from every form and variety of croup; it is a purely spasmodic affection, and in all its stages is characterized by convulsive movements, partial or universal, and in its earlier stages all its symptoms will be aggravated if it be confounded in treatment with any inflammatory affection of the larynx or air tubes. This mistake has been often made; it therefore seems to me important to distinguish this disease from other affections with which it has been often confounded, and to set forth the principles of treatment which are directly founded on this diagnosis: I may also mention, as an additional reason for dwelling on the characteristic features of this affection, that I do not find it described in any systematic work in the English or French languages.—*Dublin Medical Press.*

MATERIA MEDICA.

ARSENIOUS ACID IN LARGE DOSES: A SUBSTITUTE FOR QUININE.

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(Communicated to the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society.)

The author has employed arsenious acid for twenty years in the treatment of intermittent fevers, and on account of the great drain upon the cinchona-tree, its failure in India, and his strong opinion as to the equal if not greater value of arsenious acid in the above-named diseases, he now brings the results of his experience before the profession. He considers the fears of an inconvenience or danger arising from the remedy as much exaggerated, and instances the case of a child of nine months, to whom he gave twenty minims of the arsenite of potash within ten hours, repeating the dose on the following day, with the only effect of curing an obstinate quotidian intermittent. Mr. Turner's success was so marked, that in 1860 the Director-General stated that Mr. Turner should be thanked for "drawing attention to his successful treatment of intermittent fevers by large doses of arsenic, and steps should be taken by circular to urge an extended trial of this remedy, and reports requested." The course usually adopted by the author was to give the arsenite of potash as in the following prescription:—Arsenite of potash and compound tincture of cardamoms, of each half a drachm; gum mucilage, three crachms; camphor mixture or water, half an ounce: mix. To be given every second hour four or five times, the last to anticipate the expected paroxysm at least two hours.—*Phar. Jour.*

EFFECTS OF SANTONINE ON VISION.

The effects of santonine in causing green vision have been known for some time, and an oculist of Nantes, M. Guépin, has experimented largely with this drug, hoping to obtain some beneficial therapeutical results from this peculiar property in certain affections of the retina. A case presented by M. Cavasse to the Medical Society of the Seine, last week, further illustrates some of the properties of this drug. A very nervous woman, believing that she suffered from worms, purchased from a druggist a drachm of worm-seed, semen-contra, in order to rid her bowels of their turbulent inmates. Shortly afterwards colic came on, and chancing to look in the glass, she distinctly saw herself pea-green. The fright sufficed to throw her into violent convulsions, and her friends, who believed poison to have been swallowed, rushed in a body to accuse the unlucky chemist of manslaughter. Luckily M. Cavasse, well aware of the properties of santonine, and of its presence in semencontra, was called in, and able to reassure the