

Other complications occur in other parts of the system, as diarrhœa, irritability of the stomach, convulsions, etc., through the influence of the disturbed nervous system. Barrier believes the diarrhœa of dentition depends usually on what he calls "a sub-inflammatory turgescence limited to the gastro-intestinal follicular apparatus," and occasionally it is due to defective or altered innervation. In which case, Smith says, it would then be similar to that form of diarrhœa which occurs in the adult from the emotions.

Generally there are other causes for the diarrhœa, as unsuitable food, clothing or locality; city infants, in hot weather, suffering most, dentition being only a subordinate cause. But there certainly is a looseness or diarrhœa connected with dentition recurring with each epoch, showing that dentition can be a cause of other diseases. It is generally admitted that eclampsia or convulsions is a common result. Barrier attributes convulsions in the teething infant to excitement of the nervous system, arising from the pain which is felt in the gums, and to a determination of blood to the dental apparatus, in which afflux the whole vascular system of the head participates. Other cases may often be found where dentition is only a subordinate cause producing a sensitive state of the nervous system, when any additional stimulus, as indigestible food, etc., may produce convulsions. When several teeth are advancing at the same time, producing much disturbance, and convulsions occur, dentition evidently takes first place as a cause. Infants who are burned or scalded are very liable to convulsions, which constitute the chief danger in such accidents. So the swollen and tender gums, proceeding from the advance of several teeth at the same time, may affect the nerves like a burn or scald, and produce the same results.

The treatment of all cases of difficult dentition must be twofold, local and constitutional. The occasions for local treatment in the mouth are easily detected and relieved. When complications occur in remote parts of the body, they are generally found without trouble.

The diarrhœa must be controlled and limited to two or three evacuations daily, as greater frequency endanger the safety of the child. (Smith.)

"Nervous affections, fretfulness, irritability, etc., may be relieved by bromide of potassium or chloral. Demulcent and soothing applications may be applied to the gums. The infant may hold a rubber or ivory ring in its mouth with apparent benefit, but a tooth should not be rubbed through with a thimble or other hard substance, unless the point of the tooth has reached the mucous membrane, for the friction will increase the inflammation."

As regards lancing, much difference of opinion is expressed. The English authorities favor it, while the French oppose it. (Rilliet