

tion." Black blood, in so far as it is deficient of oxygen is equivalent to no blood at all. Uræmic and all convulsions arising from poison in the blood, as the exanthemata, scarlet fever and small-pox, &c., are explained as resulting from anæmia of the brain, caused by arterial spasm excited through the sympathetic by the presence of morbid blood. The so called symptomatic convulsions from cerebral diseases are, I think, on the same principle due to irritation in the brain caused by its own disease and exciting to reflex action through the sympathetic. That the sympathetic does exercise control over the circulation is proved conclusively by Claude Bernard's experiments, showing that division of the cervical sympathetic produced dilatation of the vessels of the head and neck on the side operated on, while on the other hand electrical irritation of the peripheral end of the divided sympathetic causes the previously dilated vessels of the head and neck to contract.

Amongst the causes of convulsions occurring in infants are the following;—all cerebral diseases, changing of milk in the nursing as when produced by violent emotion of the mother, as anger, fright, grief, the use of acescent or indigestible food, or derangement in the health; a case is recorded where the catamenia so affected the milk that the infant was seized with convulsions at each monthly period; fruit, when taken unripe or in undue quantity especially currants, raisins, cherries, and strawberries; constipation, worms, dysentery and dentition. The above enumerated causes are all located in some part of the digestive apparatus. Other causes are, all depressing influences, as violent emotion, unfavorable hygienic conditions, malaria, poison of eruptive fevers, &c. An excitable or impressible nervous temperament constitutes the chief predisposing cause. It will be noticed that the causes are divided into two classes, viz. those that depress or lessen the inhibitory power, and such as excite or increase reflex action.

It is a question often asked, does eclampsia predispose to epilepsy? It is very probable that those who have suffered from convulsions in infancy have a tendency to epilepsy, partly as a result, but chiefly owing to the predisposition that led to the early convulsions. Bristowe, in his new work on medicine, writes: "It is certain that many of those persons who subsequently became epileptic have suffered in infancy from convulsions which were

induced by teething or other accidental circumstances." Nothnagel says, "I cannot get rid of the idea that were the process purely functional which was set up in the central parts at the time of the teething, convulsions may have furnished the impetus for the development of the epileptic change." Smith wrote: "Patients who seem to have genuine attacks of eclampsia in infancy and childhood prove to be epileptic in subsequent years."

Disturbances of the general health are upon the whole but rarely observed, and when present are often consequences of the original disease. The mind usually early betrays symptoms of being involved, as dulness, loss of memory, &c., which probably is in most cases due to trophic changes in the brain cells as the result of mechanical pressure from too frequent interstitial congestion. Eclampsia as regards prognosis may be divided into three classes—

1st. That in which the cause is easily and early removable.

2nd. That in which the convulsions have continued long enough to create in the system a convulsion habit, and which has developed into regular epilepsy, even after the original cause has been removed.

3rd. That in which the cause is permanent and irremovable.

In the first class the convulsions usually cease spontaneously on the removal of the cause.

The second class are amenable to such treatment as will break the spasmodic habit, the cause having ceased to operate.

The third class are as a rule incurable, and admit of but little benefit from treatment further than to hold the attacks in check for a time when they almost invariably return with accumulated violence, except where in rare cases nature has accommodated herself to the cause, as tumours, foreign bodies, &c., in the brain.

In the treatment of those sudden seizures, so alarming to the friends and distressing to the patient, there are two very important indications to be observed by the physician; first to control the abnormal reflex excitability, and secondly to find out and remove as early as possible the exciting cause. If the latter is such as to be easily removable, the convulsions as a rule will cease with its removal; but when it is otherwise, and the cause