

sciousness more or less prolonged, and also frequent desire to make water. This was reported to the doctor on his arrival, which was half an hour after the camphor had been swallowed. These effects were manifested by all the children, and, with some slight variations, in nearly equal degree.

When first introduced to the scene, Dr. Schaaff was forcibly struck by the appearance of the three little unfortunates, simultaneously affected with violent convulsions, with disordered expression of countenance, livid aspect, and tormented with constant retchings.

The oldest boy, more than the others, was affected with clonic convulsive movements, leaving between them intervals of a few seconds, sometimes of a minute. The arms were more convulsed than the lower limbs. Several times the body rolled itself up into a ball, and was projected out again with great activity. The author had never seen such an appearance before. The face, alternately pale, and livid was the seat of incessant spasmodic movements. The eyelids in constant agitation, and half closed, showed the eyeballs turned upwards and outwards. There was a little froth about the teeth, which were firmly clenched. The skin appeared in general to be pale and moist, and the heat of the surface diminished. Sometimes there was complete loss of consciousness, at others the boy recovered his senses, and obeyed the orders given him. The respiration was short and noisy. The pulse uncountable, chiefly from the agitation of the body. There was frequent retching followed by vomiting from the remedies used, and repeated discharges from the bowels and bladder. The urine appeared to Dr. S. to possess the odour of camphor, although this was denied by some of the bystanders.

The whole of these phenomena lasted, with more or less intensity, for three consecutive hours, then there came on a comatose sleep, which lasted till evening. The night was good, and beyond a little discomfort, the next morning showed no traces of the violence of the previous day.

As regards treatment, the author not knowing of any positive antidote for camphor, commenced by taking every means for expelling the poison. He

gave an emetic, laxatives, enemata emollient, oleaginous, and narcotic,—and afterwards an opiate draught. In regard to this last, he inferred that as camphor has sometimes been employed to remedy some of the symptoms caused by opium, the latter might in its turn be able to subdue the violent action of the camphor. At all events, the formidable symptoms disappeared under its use with comparative rapidity. It is to be remarked that the first vomiting did not take place till an hour after the swallowing of the camphor, so that there was abundant time for its absorption.

The second boy presented the same symptoms as his brother, but in a less formidable degree. He vomited spontaneously and at an earlier period, to which circumstance, although feebler and younger than the other, he owed a more speedy restoration to health. In fact, an hour after the commencement of the symptoms, a profound sleep, accompanied by a profuse perspiration, soon brought everything to rights. The following are the facts connected with the little girl, whose life was sacrificed to the deplorable mistake of her parents:—She was delicate, and ill-developed for her age had had a difficult dentition, and latterly suffered from an affection of the respiration of rather severe character, which had itself caused some convulsive attacks. But more recently her health had been restored, and the slight flatulency and want of appetite which had been the pretext for giving the camphor, were quite unimportant. This child had been the first to show the symptoms of poisoning. The convulsions in her were less violent than in her elder brother; but were prolonged without interruption from 7 a.m. till 2 p.m. From this period they presented intermissions of greater or less duration; but after this the recurrences were more violent. The peculiarity in her case was, that in the face they affected only the right side; but there they manifested themselves, even when the rest of the body was unconvulsed, and continued to cause hideous grimaces till the death of the child, which took place at seven p.m. She never recovered consciousness from the beginning to the end of her illness.—There were also observed involuntary evacuations and vomitings, which, however, did not come on until a late period, notwithstanding the means used to ex-