

a warm bath, while the head is kept cool with ice or vinegar and water or the cold water douche, to apply sinapisms or some other rapid and powerful counter-irritant to the lower part of the body, administer, or attempt to administer, enemata, either with the view of working out the irritating matter from the primæ viæ, or to act as anti-spasmodics, and in some cases, (*and that more to have the appearance of not being idle*) to apply leches.

If, however, we look at the rationale of the cause of such convulsions in most cases (and let it be distinctly understood that this paper refers to convulsions arising primarily either from the irritation of teething or from the presence of indigestible substances in the stomach or bowels and not to convulsions caused by disease of the nervous centres) if, I say, we look at the explanation of such cases we will see that most of these modes of procedure are either injurious or altogether useless.

Take, for instance, a case of convulsions arising from the irritation of teething, we find that the presence of the advancing teeth stretch the resisting gums and irritate the delicate nervous fibres, and thus in all cases causes a great amount of irritability, and, in very susceptible constitutions, this irritation being conveyed to the centre of the excito-motary system, causes, by reflex action, irritation of the motary nerves, the visible evidence of which we have in alternate contraction and relaxation, of the parts supplied by these nerves, termed spasms or convulsions according to their extent or duration.

On the other hand take a case of convulsions arising from the presence of indigestible matter in the primæ viæ, we have direct irritation on the organic nerves which like a delicate net work cover the intestines—this irritation passing along the large ganglia, to the excito-motary system, and producing, by reflex action, the convulsions and spasms already referred to.

In both instances, of course, the removal of the source of irritation must be a primary object, and where this can be done quickly and thoroughly at the very commencement of the spasms, and that more especially in some children (who not having those finely strung nerves which seem to be peculiar to certain families, and which render them subject to convulsions, from very slight sources of irritation) the disease is very often checked at once and the patient cured. Thus, for instance, in convulsions from teething, timely scarification of the gums will often stop the spasms, while in cases of convulsions from irritation of the bowels, if the first attack be slight, and we have time for the administration and action of drugs calculated to clear out the primæ viæ, before a recurrence of the muscular contractions, we may often relieve the patient. But how