

and in half an hour her bowels were freely acted upon, discharging an immense quantity of fecal matter, comingled with hardened scybala, evidencing the previously neglected state of her intestines, a state by far too common among Canadian females in childbed, and indicating the grossest neglect on their part, of one of the first and simplest indications in nature. From this period our patient may be said to have recovered rapidly, and with the exception of slight pain and weight of head, together with partial deprivation of the functions of sight and hearing, she did remarkably well. Some slight temporary derangements subsequently required particular treatment, but she continued to recover rapidly, and at this time is as well (to use her own words) as she ever was in her life.

REMARKS.—This disease cannot be considered otherwise than as most dangerous. According to RYAN it is a very rare one, and generally fatal, therefore its prognosis is always unfavourable. According to the French authors it is of rare occurrence, and mostly fatal. They say that it only occurred in *sixty-five* out of *forty thousand* cases—(vide Dr. Michael Ryan on *Dystocia Convulsiva*). Convulsions generally occur during, or as a consequence of severe labours; the peculiar habit of body, however, acts as a predisposing cause of the attacks. Ryan distinguishes them under the heads of *Epileptiform* and *Apoplectic* or *Eclampsia*, thus dividing them into *two classes*. He says that this division is useful inasmuch as their treatment is different. When consciousness returns in the intervals between the fits, he styles them *Epileptic*, when *Coma* or *Stertor* supervene *Apoplectic*. *Rigby* also divides them into *two classes*, but his distinction is different. He says that *genuine Puerperal convulsions* are of the *epileptic character*, and are of two species, first, those produced by the irritation arising from the presence of the child in the passages, and secondly, those arising from great collapse, the result of profuse hæmorrhage. He admits, however, a third and milder form of puerperal convulsions in common with Ryan, viz.: the "*Hysteria*."

In the case of the female in question, habit of body (plethora) had more to do with the advent of the attack, than the nature of her labour, which was comparatively speaking easy. From her earliest years she had been subject to a determination of blood to the brain, and if we consider puerperal convulsions to be caused by congestion in that organ, we may readily admit that the exciting cause (labour) was all-sufficient to arouse under the circumstances a pre-disposition to that malady. Without doubt had proper attention been paid to the state of her bowels, and she had taken the precaution of getting herself bled some time antecedent to her accouchement, she would have escaped the dread ordeal through which she had been obliged to pass, and avoid the chances of the dangerous game, in which, however unwillingly, she was the principal actor, and in which life or death hung on the cast of the die! I regret