

whining cry. I found that he had repeated attacks of convulsions, and when I arrived he was in a state of opisthotonos, this condition having existed for several hours. Having carefully examined the child, I found nothing to account for the nervous symptoms, save that the upper gum was hot, red, and swollen. He had cut the two lower incisors. I drew the point of a lancet across the tumid gum, and next day I found that the opisthotonos had passed away very soon after the operation. There were no more fits, and the child was comparatively well. The two upper incisors made their appearance in two days, and when I saw the child the other day he was in perfect health.

Similar cases I have frequently met with before, and the members of the Society must have had the same experience.

In Dr. Cairn's paper three questions were put, which I shall now endeavour to answer *seriatim*.

1st, Does sacrifice do any good? Does it relieve local pain or prevent and arrest convulsions, laryngismus stridulus, diarrhoea, etc.? To this I reply in the affirmative. It does relieve local pain in many a case, and how this can be doubted for a moment I am at a loss to understand. The little patient cannot speak, says Dr. Cairns, and how can you be sure that you have given relief? It seems to me that, if we cannot interpret the feelings of a little child because it has not yet acquired the use of articulate speech, we are not well fitted to treat the diseases incident to infancy, and have yet to cultivate a most important part of our professional education. The simple wagging of a dog's tail conveys to his master a clear and distinct expression of the feelings which animate his canine breast; and do not the calm repose, the sparkling eye, the joyful crowing of our little patients manifest their relief from suffering as decidedly as the sleeplessness, the fretfulness, and the shrill cry of pain tell of discomfort and distress? But Dr. Cairns does not believe that by abstracting blood from an inflamed part you can in the least degree either reduce or modify the inflammation. The part, he says, continues to be as red, as hot, and as painful as before. Such ideas are only to be explained on the supposition that our friend never practises local depletion, and is consequently a stranger to the beneficial effects of such a remedy. Has he never seen relief following the opening of an abscess, or the application of leeches to a swelled testicle or to the belly in a case of acute peritonitis? If he has not, then I can easily comprehend why he doubts that the abstraction of a little blood from a congested gum can alleviate pain.

That scarification may prevent and arrest convulsions I firmly believe, and in this opinion I know that I am supported by a perfect cloud of witnesses. Dr. Brown-Sequard has shown how easy it is by pinching or