

times a day, the nipple being first dried, and the sides of the crack pressed together. When the child is put to the breast the film covering the point of the nipple may be peeled off, so as to allow the milk free egress from the mammillary tubules.

When an organ in the discharge of its function is strained, either from inherent weakness in itself, from debility of the general system, the contractile power of its vessels is lowered, and a form of congestion is induced, which may go on to the formation of abscess. This is especially apt to occur in the mammae of weakly or ill-nourished women, and here the prophylaxis of abscess consists in the recognition of this fact. When efforts at suckling are attended with pain in the breast, and down the arm on its inner side, or the gland feels, after feeding the infant, tired and strained, and more particularly if the mother herself seems to suffer in health and appetite, and develops hysterical symptoms, the attempt to nurse should gradually be given up.

TREATMENT OF INFANTILE CONVULSIONS.

Dr. Charles Bell, in *Edinburgh Medical Journal* :

The first object in the treatment of convulsions is to allay the spasm, and to restore consciousness. This is generally effected by means of a hot bath, and at the same time applying some pungent substance to the nose, such as ammonia. Should these not be effectual in restoring sensibility and overcoming the convulsions, we must have recourse to the application of chloroform. Having overcome the convulsions, we should then endeavor to remove the cause, which is most commonly something irritating the alimentary canal. If the child has recently taken a full meal, an emetic ought to be given as soon as the patient is able to swallow, and the best kind under the circumstances is a full dose of ipecacuan according to the age of the child. If the bowels are constipated, an aperient should be given, either of calomel or castor oil; but as it is important that the bowels should be moved quickly, an enema or a suppository should be administered without delay. Cold should be frequently applied to the head if there is much heat, while the feet are kept in warm water, or mustard poultices should be applied to the calves of the legs. If there is much excitement in the circulation, leeches may be applied with advantage, although M. North prefers venesection or cupping, as he says that he has never seen a well-marked case of congestion removed by leeches. But the use of the lancet or cupping-glasses is very questionable in young children, from the certainty of producing crying, which inevitably

increases the congestion. Some authors have advised the use of opium and blisters, but such remedies are extremely hazardous in very young children. If the child is teething, and the gums seem red and swollen, they ought to be scarified. If there is reason to suspect that worms are the cause, turpentine should be given in milk, or it may be given in the form of an enema.

After the attack is over, bowels should be kept regular by mild aperients, and the most useful are moderate doses of rhubarb, and potash, which, besides regulating the bowels, will act as a diuretic. Change of air and the use of small doses of chalybeates, along with light and nourishing food, will be very beneficial.

Prognosis. When the fits are moderate and of short duration, and the natural cheerfulness and lively expression of countenance soon return, the case may be considered extremely satisfactory; but if the convulsions are long-continued or of frequent occurrence, and the child continues to be dull and heavy, with an anxious expression of countenance, there is reason to apprehend great danger.

LUNAR CAUSTIC IN THE TREATMENT OF OPHTHALMIA.

Dr. W. A. Macnaughton writes to the *Medical Times and Gazette* : There are certain inflammatory conditions of the eye which, owing perhaps to constitutional causes, are often very perplexing in their treatment. There is, for example, no complaint of its kind more obstinate than the scrofulous ophthalmia of children. In these, and in all cases where the simpler remedies have failed, I would recommend the application of the solid nitrate of silver to the supra-orbital surface as a speedy means of cure. Seeing that the remedy is applied in close proximity to the affected organs, it will be admitted that this is a more rational mode of relieving ocular inflammation than the distant counter-irritation behind the ears recommended in the more obstinate forms of this disease. As a matter of fact, I have observed excellent results in cases where the irritation and intolerance of light had persisted for months. The mode of application is simple. The caustic point is firmly applied over an inch or so of the previously moistened integument above the affected eye, but when both are concerned, I cauterize a narrow strip across the whole supra-orbital region. This causes a slight smarting sensation at the time, which soon passes away. The stain which results can readily be removed afterward with a strong solution of iodide of potassium. It is advisable, while this treatment is being progressed with, to exclude the light from the eyes by means of a shade.