

be tonic convulsions and involuntary evacuations. It is seldom fatal, and is apt to last for months. Death, when it occurs, is always seen in the first stage. These symptoms can only be explained by a functional trouble, a paralysis perhaps of the spine and nervous centres. Its duration is various, some having it but once, others for months or years. It is most frequent about the commencement of dentition. The mildness or severity of the attacks depends on the constitution and occasional causes. Hypertrophy of the thymus gland has no influence in the production of this disease, as was once thought; hence the name "thymic asthma" is incorrect. It may arise also from disturbance of the alimentary canal, by any cause, as excess in feeding, and dentition. It is highly probable that hypertrophy of the thyroid gland is a cause. The treatment has been very various. The indication is the thorough irritation of the respiratory muscles. Electricity would be of great value, could it be applied at the right moment. The patient should be kept in a sitting posture, allowed plenty of fresh air, the face sprinkled with cold water, and ice or cold water applied to the sternum. Artificial respiration, kept up till the paralysis has been removed, has proved of value. To prevent a return, attend to any cerebral disease. Tonics should be exhibited, if demanded; nutritious and digestible diet given; anti-scurfulous treatment, cod-liver oil, iron, and iodide of iron, etc. Much circumspection is needed in selecting the means of removing the disease. One case recently has shown the necessity of mental education. A little girl aged eleven months was affected so as to become "asphyctic" whenever contradicted. A pailful of cold water was ordered to be kept ready, and poured over her as soon as any symptoms of an approaching attack presented. In the course of a week, three or four such doses proved sufficient to soothe the temperament of the patient, and to entirely remove her attacks of laryngismus stridulus.—*New York Journal of Medicine*, January, 1860.

MATERIA MEDICA.

PHOSPHORUS IN PARALYSIS OF THE MUSCLES OF THE EYE.

By M. TAVIGNOT.

M. Tavignot, in localized paralysis of the muscles of the eye, employs with success the following liniment: Walnut-oil, ʒ xxv; naphtha, ʒ xij; phosphorus gr. iij. Frictions are performed in the evening by means of a piece of flannel; this remaining also fastened around the forehead all night.

M. Tavignot also administers the following emulsion internally: Oil of almonds ʒ ijss; phosphorus gr. jss; gum-sirup, ʒ xxiijss; powdered gum, ʒ ss. To be well shaken when administered, the dose being at first one, and then two and three teaspoonfuls per diem.—*Ibid.*

TREATMENT OF THE HYSTERIC PAROXYSM BY CHLOROFORM.

By M. BRIQUET.

The hysterical paroxysm should not be left to itself, inasmuch as it becomes a predisposing cause of future attacks, and always produces an injurious disturbance of the economy. M. Briquet arrests it by chloroform. A little dossil of charpie is wet with this fluid, and applied to the nostrils, the mouth being closed. In a short time the agitation ceases, and the attack is cut short. After a little time the patient awakes with a slight headache, perhaps the effect of the chloroform, and is soon as well as before. During the first few inspirations the agitation is considerable, and the patient requires to be held; this, however, soon passes off, and a tranquil sleep comes on. Hysterical patients seem to be very susceptible to the effects of this remedy. M. Briquet