

effusion it is impossible to say. In conclusion I would just suggest that, possibly, all the symptoms were nervous and hysterical, and that the young lady died of apnoea, caused by an *hysterical* paralysis of the muscles of respiration, as we see in the muscles of other parts.

February 15, 1870.

*On the use of Chloroform in Infantile Convulsions.* By DAVID MACKINTOSH, M.D., Edin., L.R.C.S. Edin., late President of the Hamilton (Ontario) Medical and Surgical Society, and one of the Physicians to the Hamilton City Hospital.

(A paper read before the Canadian Medical Association at its meeting held in Toronto on the 8th September, 1869.)

To be awoke during the night to find a child, who had gone to bed apparently in the best of health, racked with convulsions and distorted by spasms, or during the day to observe a child who has been running about, in all the joy and buoyancy of youth, and in the very flush of health, suddenly fall, become unconscious, and in an instant be disfigured with the twitchings or the powerful muscular contractions peculiar to convulsions, is one of the most painful and startling positions in which a parent can be placed, and in which, almost more than any other, he looks to the medical man for help. To be summoned to such a case, and to be able to do little or nothing likely to give certain relief, where so much is expected of him, is one of the most trying positions in which a Physician can be placed.

Every member of our Profession must be aware that in such a case he has to stand idly by, till the source of irritation having been removed by the efforts of nature, the patient rallies, or till the exhausted frame sinks under the strain on the nervous system, and death comes to the relief of the little sufferer, or make use of remedies in which he has little faith, and which are mostly employed from a conviction that *something* must be done to satisfy the relatives of the patient, however small the prospect of doing good.

In such cases the difficulty is not so much the want of remedies calculated to give relief as the impossibility of administering them in the ordinary manner, since all the avenues usually employed for the introduction of these remedies into the system are closed, the jaw is locked, and the power of deglutition gone, and the anus is relaxed, and thus unable to retain enemata.

In such cases the practice generally has been to plunge the patient into