

After the intermitting period she complained of pain in the head, and about six years ago the right side of her face became paralyzed, and three years later she lost all power of speech. The mother does not recollect of any of the relatives on either side being similarly affected, insane, or scrofulous. Fatuity began in this case about nine years since, and for the last five years she has been perfectly insane. Sometimes very wild, requiring a constant attendant.

The number of severe fits during 1870 was 141.

The catamena commenced at the age of sixteen, always regular but scanty.

On the 30th of November 1870, I was called in to see her for the first time, the messenger stating that they thought she had broken an arm in falling while in a fit. On my arrival I found she really had broken the left arm at the junction of the middle with the lower third, both bones, the hand being bent back upon the arm at nearly right angles. I reduced the fracture and while putting it up according to the usual practice learned the previous history of the case from the mother.

I saw at a glance that my reputation as a surgeon was in danger, as during each fit the ends of the bones would be dislodged by muscular contraction, that if union took place I feared that ankylosis and deformity would be the result, and that no allowance would be made by the friends for the unusual difficulties of the case.

The mother told me she had tried everything she could get to control the fits and excitement, but to no purpose. I felt my position to be a critical one and resolved to try chloral hydrate, but an obstacle presented itself in the shape of heart disease, I determined, however, to try small doses and watch the effects. I left the patient for a short time, and on returning I found the girl had a fit during my absence, and on undoing the arm found the bones displaced. I again reduced the fracture and administered the chloral in 15 gr. doses every six hours, and on my return the next day, (Dec. 1st,) I found she had rested well and had no return of the fits since. Dec. 2nd, I visited her again and found her very quiet, had no fits since last I saw her. As she was so very quiet I ordered them to discontinue the chloral hydrate until some symptoms of fits or wildness came on, but on the slightest signs to administer the dose again. She went to sleep