

ate suffocation—and the expectoration of a thin glairy mucus from the larynx.

The remarks above made are well illustrated by the following case, witnessed in August, 1855:—

A girl, aged two years and six months, of thin frame and lively disposition, was suddenly seized at night with difficulty of breathing and a threatening of suffocation. It was stated by the mother that her child had previously suffered from three attacks of "croup," the last being the most severe, and that, during the day previous to the present one, the child was in perfect health, played about as usual and went to bed without showing any symptoms of being ill. About 12 o'clock she awoke suddenly, crying for breath and coughing with a sharp jerking motion of the throat. On my entrance into the house the child was asleep, having recovered from two attacks of coughing. In a few minutes, however, she started suddenly up, evidently in great distress from difficulty of breathing, cried with a shrill voice, and commenced a rapid harsh cough which was accompanied by a distinct croaking noise, lasted nearly two minutes and returned in twenty minutes or thereabout. During the interval there was comparative rest, but the breathing was short, hurried, and sometimes irregular, and the characteristic sound was heard in the larynx during respiration. There was absence of general fever, but the patient was restless and irritable. Watching the symptoms for some time and observing that the disease was of a spasmodic nature and likely to endanger the life of the child if no immediate relief were given, large doses of ipecacuan were administered till it produced a full emetic action, on which the patient was placed in a warm bath and retained there, covered by a blanket, till copious diaphoresis supervened. The relief obtained was almost immediate, and the patient fell into a deep and quiet sleep which continued till morning, only interrupted by an occasional cough. Towards morning a purge of calomel and rhubarb was given, and the next day the child was kept quiet in bed, and small doses of ipecacuan continued to guard against a return of the attack. The succeeding night, however, after about four hours' sleep, the symptoms suddenly recurred with their usual violence, but yielded readily to the prompt treatment previously adopted. The following day the child seemed perfectly well and as lively as could possibly be and the disease did not recur. Whether any subsequent attacks supervened, is not within my knowledge, as the family removed from town a short time after.

It may be said of the treatment of spasmodic croup, that, in few diseases are decision and promptitude of greater avail in averting im-