

They also come on when the child awakens from sleep, and when it is exposed suddenly to a current of cold air. The paroxysms come on in this way, the child struggles for breath as if the respiration were arrested for the moment, but after repeated violent efforts recovers with a *crowing* or *shrill* inspiration approximating hooping-cough or croup. If the paroxysm lasts many seconds the face and extremities become purple, the head is thrown back and the spine bent. They may recur often and in the end convulsions become general. This singular affection is generally met with in children who are late in cutting their teeth, and who have several presenting at the same time, and whose digestion and assimilating powers are weak and readily disordered.

It is now generally admitted that this affection is caused by irritation at the roots or origin or *some portion* of the Laryngeal nerves, whereby the muscles which close the glottis are unduly contracted and cause the peculiar croupy inspiration; and the child who suffers from it has always very tardy and difficult dentition, and a constipated state of the bowels.

The treatment I have been led to adopt in this view of the case is very simple, and as I have met with perfect success in the five cases in which I have used it, I think it my duty to lay it before the profession. The first case was a child of my own who suffered most severely from the spasms, and who once or twice was thought dead—he had been subject to the attacks for some time, and although he had not had any convulsions, the attacks of the spasms were becoming more and more frequent and more severe—when my friend Dr. Arnoldi, then of Montreal, but who now resides in Toronto, and who has devoted much attention to the diseases of children, suggested, in consultation with me about the case, the trial of some counterirritant to the upper portion of the spine. Mustard poultices were tried first, then a blister, with but very little relief, when I noticed in Dunglison's "New Remedies" that the ointment of the Bio-iodide of Mercury, when absorbed into the system, had in addition to its local irritant effects, a tendency to cause diarrhæa, which was exactly what I wanted, as the child's bowels were, as is always the case in this disease, obstinately constipated. It was commenced with immediately of the strength of one grain to the drachm of simple ointment, and in a few days we had the satisfaction of seeing the spasms diminish in both strength and frequency; they soon ceased altogether, and the child was cured. A few weeks after this a lady residing in Quebec, brought her child to Montreal, her Physician having recommended change of air, as her child was labouring under this disease, but with the addition of occasional convulsions; she placed the child under my care, and this case also was rapidly cured by the same simple treatment, of course due attention having been paid not only to the state of the gums but also to the state of the stomach and bowels.

Shortly after these two cases, but about the same time, a case occurred in Dr. Arnoldi's practice, which he kindly afforded me an opportunity of seeing three or four times with him, which was likewise soon cured by the same course of treatment. Since these cases occurred I have met with two more, and both were cured by the same means—the last one, however, proved much more obstinate than the four previous ones, for whenever I attempted to scarify the gums, convulsions were produced, so when I had to do it I was compelled to place the child under the