

Many more such cases are on record. Cures have followed in this way amputation of the lower third of right forearm and hand (22), leg (23), left index finger, (24), etc.

*Phlebotomy.*—Of course this remedy (?) was well tried in the days of our grandfathers. It was always easy to discover a "congestion of the head" in the "falling sickness." Yet, whether it was the blood-letting, the mental impression, counter irritation or what not, apparent cures of epilepsy did follow repeated venesections, in the old days, when it was fashionable to bleed a man for almost every disease. Any one who is interested, may find details of three cases so cured, in an article by the French surgeon, Colson. (25)

*Ligature of the carotids.*—This measure was at one time recognized as a legitimate and potent means of curing epilepsy.

It was undertaken with a view of lessening the blood-flow to the "irritable" nervous centres. Unjustifiable as we now believe it to be, it yet furnishes us with a fair array of cures, many of them performed in this country, *e.g.*, by Valentre Mott, (26) and other well known surgeons.

*Case 10.* (27) Under the care of the British surgeon Preston, a pensioner, aged 25, of a robust constitution, had suffered for five years from severe epileptic attacks which recurred about every two weeks, often without any assignable cause. Preston thought that a cerebral congestion might lie at the bottom of the trouble, and on the 4th of Feb, 1831, one of patient's common carotids was tied, after great loss of blood. The ligature fell off on the 5th of March, and two years after he had not had a single attack of epilepsy.

Two cases are reported by Dr. C. Angell, (28) of Pittsburg, Ind. The first patient had fits for three or four years. These in-

creased rapidly in severity and frequency until on the day before the operation, he had 15 to 20 fits in the forenoon alone. The right common carotid was ligated. The operation was successful and the patient never had another attack. Unfortunately, however, he died on the seventh day. Dr. Angell was more fortunate in his next attempt.

*Case 11.* A man, aged 40, had seizures for seven years. He had been under treatment by a great number of physicians, regular and irregular, without benefit. The attacks later on recurred nearly every day, so that patient had not been able to work for nearly three years, and his mind was almost destroyed by the disease. Three months after the operation (from which he recovered perfectly) he had had four fits only; commenced to attend to his long neglected business, and felt much better than he had done for three years. His family and those who are acquainted with him all agree that they can see a marked change in him.

*Tracheotomy.*—A fierce controversy raged over the utility of this proposed cure for epilepsy, before it was generally abandoned. The celebrated Marshall Hall originated the idea and wrote extensively in its favor. (29) It was extensively practised both here and in England, and in spite of its irrational character, many cures and examples of relief are recorded. It was pointed out by Hall and others, that many cases of epilepsy, are of laryngeal origin (*epilepsia laryngea*) or at any rate the attack takes the form of laryngismus, (or spasm of the glottis) producing embarrassment of breathing, congestion of the brain, and even danger to life from suffocation. Of course, it was obvious that in such cases if the supply of air to the lungs could be insured, the chief source of the trouble would be removed! The tracheal tube was worn constantly, or at least until a cure had been effected.

Instances of cure are reported by Albers, (30) Neill, (31) and many others. In Albers'

29. *London Lancet*, May 10th and 17th, 1872. The reader will find full directions as to when and how to perform this—so far as epilepsy is concerned—now forgotten remedy in the *Lancet* for October, 1854.

30. *Archiv. für phys. Heilkunde*, 1852.

31. *Boston Med. and Surg. Journal*, 1852-3. vol. 47, p. 29.

22. W. Atlee. *Philadelphia Med. Times*, 1870, p. 224.

23. *Gazette des Hopitaux*, Paris, xxiv., p. 95, 1851. Reported by Cazenave.

24. Lallemand. *Annales Cliniques de Montpellier*, ii. 284, 1854.

25. *Bulletin de la Societe de Medicine de Gand*. Tome 1, p. 19, 1835.

26. *New York Med. Gazette*, p. 120, 1850. See also a full report of Cases in the *N. Y. Journal of Medicine*, 1852, and 1857, p. 22.

27. *Schmidt's Jahrbcher. der ges. Med.* Bd. xx, S. 167.

28. *Northwestern Med. and Surg. Journal*, Oct. 1857.