

commences with a slow fever, to which it is frequently so nearly allied in its symptoms as to be mistaken, even by medical men, for a disorder of that nature. Soon, however, the disease is rendered more manifest, by a disinclination to employ the muscles on which voluntary motion depends. The arms and legs are moved with reluctance, and the fatigue of preserving the body in an erect posture is such, that the patient is always desirous of being laid down ; the pain in the head is more constant than in a low nervous fever, and the heaviness or dullness more evident, the pulse is also usually very slow and irregular. As the disease proceeds, the pulse becomes quicker ; the child's senses and faculties evidently become impaired, the sight partially fails him ; objects appear exceedingly indistinct ; and the pupils of the eyes are dilated. Towards the close of this melancholy scene, the urine and stools are passed involuntarily ; total blindness comes on, and a fatal termination takes place, while the patient lies in a comatose (sleeping) state, or whilst agitated with severe convulsions. This disease may be the consequence of an originally weak habit of body ; of various other affections of the brain, and of other diseases which have induced a considerable degree of debility of the whole system. But one cause, and that perhaps a very frequent one, more particularly demands here a few words, and that is, that it frequently arises from violent concussion or jar of the head ; from blows or falls. When the numerous accidents to which children are exposed are considered, together with the delicate texture of the brain, it becomes really a subject of surprise that this shocking calamity does not more frequently occur. It, however, happens with sufficient frequency to warrant the most zealous exertions for its prevention. On this head it will be sufficient to say, that care should be taken that children should not be unnecessarily exposed to injury. Parents must excuse the suggestion, as it is made with a hope that it may prove beneficial. The correction of children in the moment of passion, is not always within those bounds which the parent would, the moment before or the moment after, have himself prescribed. A box on the ear, as it is termed, or a severe blow on the head with the open hand, is the most ready punishment, and therefore most generally adopted, when petulance or passion impels