

others were seized with a general tremor before they fell, shrieking aloud. A few shrieks never failed to start the epidemic going, and to cause men and women to fall to the ground. A sense of "pins and needles" was complained of by many of the subjects, and others felt a numbness of the body and lost all control of their muscles. It soon grew into a habit, and those who had once fallen were ready to fall again under conditions by no means exciting. Women, who had suffered repeated attacks, sometimes fell from their horses on the way to or from the meeting houses.

The condition in some of the cases was cataleptic, lasting generally from a few minutes to two or three hours, but in some instances lasting many days. Others were violently convulsed as in epilepsy. The majority were speechless, but some were capable of conversing throughout the paroxysm. The sensibilities were numbed. Many, who fell hard to the ground, or, in running madly about, encountered stumps of trees, felt no pain from the violence. So many fell at Cabin Creek camp meeting, it is stated, that to prevent their being trodden upon, "they were laid out in order on two squares of the meeting house, covering the floor like so many corpses." At one camp meeting two hundred were attacked; at another three hundred, while at a third the number who fell were believed to have reached three thousand.

One of the features of this remarkable condition was popularly known as the "jerks." These