slight convulsive motions of the muscles of the face, arms and legs, which were accompanied with some degree of lassitude and languor. These symptoms continued to increase for about ten days, when I was requested to see her. I found the following symptoms present. All the muscles of voluntary motion were affected, those of the face, neck and extremities particularly; there was an inability to remain for any length of time in any one position, the spasmodic action being so violent as to turn the patient suddenly and involuntarily, from side to side. The pulse was regular, though somewhat irritable; the tongue covered with a thick yellowish coat. No pain was complained of, except in the lumbar region, with some degree of tension and fulness about the lower part of the abdomen. Her appetite was not impaired, though deglutition was very difficult, and there was an inability to convey food or drink to her mouth; the vocal organs were also so much affected as to render her articulation indistinct. No remission of the symptoms was observable, except during sleep; and of this she enjoyed only about four hours in the twenty-four, when merely slight contractions about the face and neck occurred.

Considering the treatment recommended by Dr. Hamilton as particularly appropriate to this case, I at once commenced the use of purgatives, and continued them steadily and perseveringly for one week, but with an aggravation rather than a diminution of the symptoms. Supposing from the age of the patient, the pain in the lumbar region, &c. that the symptoms might be connected with an effort of nature to produce the menstrual secretion, I now combined emmenagogues with the purgatives, and continued their joint administration for some time longer, but still without lessening the severity of the symptoms. Believing that I had given this plan a fair trial, without deriving benefit from it, I now resolved to institute a tonic course, and forthwith administered some of the preparations of iron, with some of the most efficient vegetable tonics, but yet without any obvious advantage. My attention now was directed to Fowler's arsenical solution, of which I ordered eight drops three times a day, gradually increasing it to fifteen drops. A very material improvement was apparent as soon as the effect of the remedy on the system was manifested by a swelling of the integuments about the face, when it was suspended for some days, and then resumed for a few days longer. In ten or twelve days from the commencement of its exhibition, the symptoms had abated in a considerable degree, and about a week more established a perfect cure. The patient has never had a return of her malady, and is now in possession of excellent health.—*N. A. Archives.*

PAROXYSMAL SELF-LIMITED DISEASES.

FROM DR. BIGELOW'S DISCOURSE.

WE come next to a second order of self-limited diseases, of which the term *paroxysmal* is sufficiently descriptive. This term applies to certain morbid affections, which recur in fits or paroxysms, leaving the patient comparatively well in the intervals, at the same time that the paroxysms themselves can neither be foreseen, prevented, nor, as far as we know,

materially abridged in their duration. At the head of this subdivision stands *epilepsy*, a disease which has been long eminent as an opprobrium of medicine, and for which, it is believed, the healing art has not yet devised a cure. The first attacks of epilepsy, especially while there is any doubt as to the nature of the malady, are usually made the subjects of active and various treatment. But after the recurring paroxysms have established the character of the disease, if active medical practice is persevered in, it is rather to satisfy the anxiety of friends, than the judgment of the practitioner.

Angina pectoris, appropriately called by Dr. Good, *sternalgia*, is a paroxysmal disease, which controls its own movements. The anatomical character of this disease is not well understood, and I may add, the same is true of its medical treatment. And in this place it may be proper to state, that various incurable lesions of the heart, lungs, brain, and other viscera, do not apparently destroy life by a regular, undeviating march; but that as far as their outward phenomena afford evidence, they seem to proceed by alternate fits and pauses, undergoing, in their progress, all states, except that of retrogradation. This is apparently true in regard to tubercles, ossification, hypertrophy, and some other morbid alterations. It is also even true in regard to old age itself.

Thirty years ago, we might have added *gout* to the opprobrious list under consideration. But as we may now be said to possess the means of shortening the paroxysms, by the use of certain acrid narcotics, and as an abstemious life goes far towards lessening the frequency and violence of the recurrence, we may be justified in withdrawing gout from the place it would otherwise occupy.

The diseases of mania and melancholy, asthma, when it depends on emphysema of the lungs, gravel in the kidneys, and the symptoms produced by ascarides in the rectum, furnish other examples of maladies, which manifest themselves in unforeseen paroxysms. Cases, which bear the names of all the above diseases, are undoubtedly relieved, and sometimes even removed by medicine; but it is equally true, that other cases are wholly intractable, both as to their recurrence, their duration, and their susceptibility of much change from medical treatment. And it will come to the recollection of many practitioners, that they have, in the course of their lives, believed themselves to have cured these diseases, when in fact they have only witnessed the spontaneous subsidence of a paroxysm.

MERCURIAL TREATMENT IN WHITE SWELLING.

FROM M. LISFRANC'S LECTURES AT LA PITIE.

A NEW method of internal treatment in white swelling has been proposed by Dr. O'Beirne of Dublin; it consists in giving internally calomel in doses strong enough to bring on salivation in a few days. As soon as this phenomenon sets in, the pain disappears as it were by magic, the tumor diminishes, and articulation returns rapidly to its normal state. These seductive promises were supported by seven cases contained in