fear of impending evil keeps him in perpetual anxiety, he employs himself in imagining events that are to come, classifying and awaiting them; or, going back to the cause of his troubles, he forms, as we often observe in the insane, an imaginary etiology of his disease. Fundamentally, the intellect is only slightly involved, and the perversions it undergoes are limited to themselves.

Mental vertigo accompanied with delirium, needs a lengthy exposition, and I must content myself here with this preface to the study of delirious vertiginous conditions.

ART. VII.—A CASE OF POISONING BY COAL GAS.

BY DR. RANSOM DEXTER.

EARLY in the morning of the 24th of May last, I was summoned to see Miss Ella R., a servant girl, who had retired the night before, after closing her room, bolting the door, and, as she supposed, turning the gas off; but in reality, from there being no stop to the key, she turned it too far, thus putting the flame out, and re-opening the gas burner as before, to the fullest extent. The room was small, and its atmosphere in the morning was heavily charged with the gas. The patient, on being called, did not respond. Her employer, on nearing the door, smelled gas, rapped, but no answer; listened, heard stertorous breathing, burst in the door, and found the girl, as he said, unconscious, and frothing at the mouth.

When I arrived at the bedside I found her in the following condition, namely: the patient was in such a state of asphyxia as to render her respiration feeble; frothing at the mouth; the surface of the body was cold, the circulation so reduced as to render her pulse hardly perceptible at the wrist; the sounds of the heart were scarcely audible; she was entirely

unconscious, pupils dilated to the fullest extent, no spontaneous movements, reflex activity diminished, but reflex action was induced by violent impressions, such as jostling and the like.

As no specific antidote was known to the profession, and every case had necessarily to be treated entirely upon its own merits, I felt quite at liberty to use such agents as appeared therapeutically indicated, by the phenomena so apparent in the vital organism. I therefore prescribed spirits of ammonia in fifteen drop doses every ten minutes, in water, but remained there myself to watch its effects. After the second dose was administered, I observed the pulse at the wrist, the pupil began to contract, and the reflex movements became more active. In thirty or forty minutes a decided improvement was manifest. I then left the house about half an hour, during which time the ammonia was not administered effectually, the attendants being unfamiliar with medicinal agents, or their forcible administration. The medicine stopped, the patient ceased to improve, but when begun again improvement went on, and in an hour and a half she was conscious, and spoke rationally; in an hour more was apparently well, and, as she said, felt well.

In this case there was not any other medicinal agent given; ammonia and fresh air were the only agents brought into use. The restoration to the normal physiological conditions of the circulation, respiration, nervous oppression, cerebral congestion, condition of the pupil, and consciousness were apparently simultaneous.