that the reproduction of the globules takes place by a procedure analogous to fissiparous generation. Dr. Remak had recourse to the following experiment to ascertain in what way the red globules were reproduced, and the facts that he observed throw some light on the process:—A horse was bled for several successive days, as much as 30 lbs. of blood being taken from him on the first day. At that time the red globules were very abundant, while only a few colourless globules were present. Next day the latter were numerous, and mostly enlarged, having in their interior one or more globules of a pale-red colour surrounded by small granules. On the succeeding days these globules deepened in colour, and, correspondingly, the accompanying granules disappeared. On the fourth day it became evident that red globules, similar to those existing in the blood in an independent state, had been formed within the larger colourless corpuscles, and set free by the bursting and disappearance of the latter. Similar phenomena presented themselves in similar observations on the blood of the frog and the human subject. In man, between the fourth and eighth day, after the loss of a large quantity of blood, and notwithstanding the presence of typhoid and inflammatory diseases, the reproduction of the red globules goes on in the same way, as proved by the discovery of a proportionable quantity of the outer films of the colourless globules in the clot. In fact, according to Remak, the clot is in a great part composed of these films, and to the quantity of them that it contains it owes its relative softness. M. Remak anticipates obtaining further characteristic signs of difference between a clot composed chiefly of these films, and another formed mostly of coagulated fibrine owing to slow coagulation.—*Med. Zeitung*, No. 27.

DERANGEMENT OF THE BRAIN

BY A SUDDEN SHOCK,
AND ITS RECOVERY

BY SIMILAR MEANS.—("SIMILIA SIMILIBUS.")

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A LABOURING man brought to me his son, nineteen years old, for my advice. Having attended him for a cut leg two months previously, I was much struck now with his altered appearance. When coming to me before, I thought him remarkably acute and intelligent; he now had become *idiotic* in countenance and manner. He did not know my name, his own, or his father's; continually talked to himself indistinctly; sang; made grimaces; laughed with a foolish look; would leap about, and otherwise behave ridiculously. His answers were peculiarly short and snappish, nor could he keep steady a moment, but was altogether restless

and irritable. At home he attempted to injure his sisters with a knife. Appetite good; sleeps pretty well, but often starts with a scream in his sleep, as if frightened. When asked a question he did not appear to comprehend its meaning until repeated. When questioned as to pain he put his hand to his head, but did not reply; and from frequently applying his hand all over that region, it appeared to be the seat of some general pain or uneasiness. The head, generally, felt hot, and especially the forehead; the temporal and carotid arteries pulsated rather strongly; the pupils were contracted, and the sclerotic vessels more minutely injected than I had ever seen those vessels before; no vomiting, nor any lesion of the muscular system. Upon my asking his father whether he could account for this alarming state, he gave me the following singular history:—

Up to the 22nd of Nov., 1842, he was perfectly well and able to work. On that day he happened to kill a hen belonging to a woman, who complained of him to his mother, who told his father of what he had done. The boy, knowing that his father would punish him, did not come in to go to bed until he supposed his father was asleep. However, the old man, who was very apt to be guided by King Solomon, and not "spare the rod and spoil the child," stole to the bed when the boy lay asleep, and, catching him by the hair, gave him a few smart strokes of a small sally rod. He then left him, going out to his work. That day his mother remarked that the boy looked rather silly, and talked incoherently, and then daily got worse.

I therefore ordered the head to be shaved, cold applied, leeches to the occiput and neck, colocynth and calomel. He was ordered to be kept quiet, in a dark room, and on low diet. Owing, however, to his father's being constantly out at work, and he being the only person who could manage him, my directions were not followed up, with the exception of giving him the purgative, and throwing cold water over his head every morning. After some days I saw him again, but he appeared no better. The bowels were particularly obstinate. (Prescribed accordingly.)

Five or six days after this I saw him again, and was surprised with the change in his manner, as well as his altered appearance. He now knew me; answered questions rationally; talked quietly; had lost the restless manner; and, in fine, he was quite another boy. His pulse soft; tongue pale and moist; head cool; eyes natural, intelligent, and uninjected; but, upon inquiry, I found that though he had taken all my last medicines regularly, he was not indebted to them for his recovery, for up to the day previous he was as bad, if not worse, than before; but his father gave me the following singular account of his recovery, which I

consider inexplicable upon any other principles than those advanced by Hahnemann in his axiom, *similia similibus curantur*:—

The day before that upon which I saw him last, he was on the road-side, amusing himself; a carman was going by; the boy flung a stone at the man, who caught the boy, and gave him a good beating with his whip. The boy ran home crying, told his mother what had happened, and from that day, as if a devil had been cast out of him, became quiet and rational, and he is now perfectly well, though not as steady, sharp, or intelligent, altogether, as he was before the accident.

How much we have yet to learn, how little we really know, of the nature and rational treatment, not only of the diseases of the cerebro-spinal system, but of disease in general! Assuredly, the uncertain and most unsatisfactory art that we call medical science is no science at all, but a jumble of inconsistent opinions; of conclusions hastily drawn; of facts badly arranged; of observations made with carelessness; of comparisons instituted which are not analogical; of hypotheses which are foolish; and of theories which, if not useless, are dangerous. This is the reason why we have our homœopaths and our hydropaths; our mesmerists and our celestialists!

I will offer no comments upon the foregoing case. My experience in diseases of the mind has been too limited, and my observations would perhaps only destroy the impression which the case is calculated to make. At the same time, I cannot conclude without directing the attention of parents, and those who have the charge of children, to the lamentable results which may follow the infliction of corporal punishment upon young children, of tender age and delicate constitutions. It enfeebles their minds; it undermines their attention and memory; it breaks down the finest of their moral feelings. But especially is it followed by terrible results when unexpected or sudden. Indeed, at any time, taking the nervous system by surprise, with violence, may be followed by consequences equally awful.—

Abridged from Dub. Jour., Jan. 4th.

EMPLOYMENT OF THE SULPHATE OF QUININE IN THE TREATMENT OF ACUTE RHEUMATIC GOUT.

M. BRIQUET, Hôpital St. Louis, having observed the salutary effect of sulphate of quinine administered in typhus fever to be due to its diminution of nervous excitability, retardation of the pulse, and power of lowering the temperature of the surface, has been guided thereby to its employment in acute articular rheumatism, a disease which indicates treatment for similar ends. Accord-

ingly, the first case in which he employed quinine against that disease having resulted entirely to his satisfaction, he made trial of it in numerous other instances, and has carefully recorded the experience of himself and his friends in twenty-three cases. Of the patients treated, fifteen were males and eight females, and mostly between twenty and thirty years of age. About one-third of the whole were of a naturally robust constitution; the other two-thirds were small-framed, or of a lymphatic temperament. The period of their being submitted to M. Briquet's treatment varied, on an average, from three to five days after the first access of pain and swelling in the articulations. More than one-third of the number had been previously affected with acute rheumatism, and nearly one-fourth presented symptoms of chronic pericarditis. Most had a sallow complexion, and the tongue moist and furred; nearly all experienced great thirst and want of appetite, while diarrhœa and cough were unfrequent. In four the pulse beat from 60 to 65 per minute; in thirteen, from 70 to 90; and in the six remaining cases, from 100 to 120, at the commencement of the treatment.

According to circumstances, from a drachm to a drachm and a half of sulphate of quinine, dissolved in twelve ounces of water by the aid of a little acid. sulph., was administered in the course of the first twenty-four hours, in equal hourly doses; and a similar quantity every succeeding day, till an amelioration was manifested. This, however, in all but four cases, took place after the first twenty-four hours. In one case the morbid symptoms ceased altogether after forty-eight hours of treatment; and the same result ensued in fourteen cases during the third day, and in six during the fourth. The dose was then gradually diminished, by from fifteen grains to half a drachm daily, and the treatment rarely lasted for more than six or eight days, during which the patient had commonly taken six or seven drachms of sulphate of quinine. The circumstance of the disease being of long standing appeared to have little or no influence on the period required for cure. Only one case refused to yield to the treatment employed, and in none of the cases was a relapse observed.

After the publication of the above statements in the "Gazette Medicale," M. Rognetta advanced, in the "Gazette des Hôpitaux," that quinine was long ago employed with success in rheumatism by Rasori, Giacomini, and others. He states, however, that his own experience, as well as that of Giacomini, &c., has proved very large doses of this remedy to be often causes of grave cerebral affection, when not closely watched.

Against M. Briquet's practice of using the quinine in doses of such considerable strength, in the twenty-four hours, M. Devergie, of the same hospital (St. Louis), also