certainly the colouring principle of this black material, which, in other respects (that is, with the exception of this uncombined element being present), gives all the reactions of a common form of animal matter."

We learn from a postscript to the paper, dated September 29th, four months after the cessation of the secretion, that the patient remained free from any return of the secretion, and was in every respect quite well.

34. *Chlorate of Potash as a remedy for Mercurial Salivation.*—Mr J. ALLISON, in a paper in the *London Medical Gazette*, extols the efficacy of the chlorate of potash as a remedy in mercurial salivation. Mr. A. cautions the practitioner, however, to watch its effects, for if its exhibition be not discontinued, he says, at the proper time, a state of the system may be induced characterized by the phenomena of true inflammation.

35. *Treatment of Epilepsy.*—Dr. BRANSON communicated to the Sheffield Medical Society, Oct. 29th, 1846, "A numerical Analysis of the Treatment of Forty-two Cases of Epilepsy."

After alluding to the importance of the numerical method of investigating disease, introduced by Louis, he stated that the forty-two cases occurred in 3413 registered cases, being in the proportion of one in eighty-one. Eighteen occurred in males—twenty-four in females, which corresponds with the observations of the French pathologists; but is contrary to the opinion of Drs. Watson and Elliotson, who regard the male sex as more liable to epilepsy than the female:—Under the age of 7 there were 4 males, 2 females; from 7 to 14, 6 males, 2 females; from 14 to 21, 2 males, 6 females; from 21 to 31, 4 males, 10 females; from 31 to 41, 2 males, 2 females; from 41 to 51, 0 males, 2 females.

From this it appears that under puberty the male, afterwards the female sex, is most liable. The predisposition which seems to exist in the female sex between the ages of fourteen and thirty-one may be regarded merely as an indication of the hysterical temperament, the extremes of hysteria and epilepsy being separated by a very narrow-line. Of these cases, twenty were centric, and twenty-two eccentric.

Of the eccentric;—6 were connected with amenorrhœa; 7 with intestinal irritation and worms; 2 with undue lactation; 2 with dentition; 1 with menorrhagia; 2 with cessation of the catamenia; 2 with accident—one from a blow on the head inflicted by a schoolmaster, by which the boy was rendered insensible for some weeks, and the other from the breaking of a grinding stone.

One of the cases classed under the head of worms might be called centric, for though the patient parted with a lumbricus teres, the origin of the fit could clearly be traced to fright, from the relation of ghost stories.

Of the eccentric cases:—5 were treated with nitrate of silver; 6 with preparations of steel; 11 with active purgatives, blisters, leeches, turpentine, assafœtida, and vegetable tonics. Of the centric cases:—13 were treated with nitrate of silver; 7 without nitrate of silver; with purgatives, blisters, setons, steel, and valerian.

Of the five eccentric cases treated by nitrate of silver, there were:—cured 1, relieved 1, much relieved 2, not relieved 1.

Of the six treated with steel, there were:—cured 1, relieved 1, much relieved 0, not relieved 4.

Of the eleven treated otherwise, there were:—cured 4, relieved 1, much relieved 0, not relieved 6.

Of the thirteen centric cases treated by nitrate of silver, there were:—cured 0, relieved 4, much relieved 2, not relieved 7.

Of the seven treated by other remedies, there were:—cured 0, relieved 0, much relieved 1, not relieved 6.

The duration of treatment varied from three weeks to seventeen months; the average being about three months. Thus of the eighteen cases of both kinds treated by nitrate of silver, ten derived benefit; whilst of the remaining twenty-four, eight only received benefit, the result being clearly in favour of nitrate of silver as a remedy in epilepsy.

The great objection to the use of this remedy is its well known property of permanently staining the skin, by a continuance of its use—a property which has