suspensions are in favour of their being purely vascular disturbances of congestive type, and then he thinks that the nitrite of amyl may prove serviceable in settling the question; since in such cases the inhalation will sometimes recreate briefly the train of symptoms, so that they are at once recognized by the patient. This, when it occurs, is fairly conclusive as to the attacks having been truly congestive in character. The negative has also its value. Personally he has obtained useful help from this means, but he looks upon the whole matter as one which it is well to present to the profession as worthy of study, without at present claiming for it any very great utility.

Dr. Mitchell finds that physicians are very timid as to this remedy, but, after much and long use of it, he has altogether lost the dread of it with which he began. He would suggest that in syncope and in hysterical convulsions it might well repay a trial, and that possibly in the cerebral symptoms arising from shock it may also prove of value, and should be essayed in the cold stage of ague.

New Material for Fixed Dressings.—Dr. JOHN B. ROBERTS, in a report of a clinic at the Pennsylvania Hospital, states (*Philad. Med. Times.*, Feb. 13, 1875) that after experimenting with various kinds of fixed dressings, Dr. R. J. LEVINS "seems to have arrived at one which fulfils all requirements; being cleanly in its application, drying with sufficient rapidity, removable without difficulty, exceedingly light, and withal very cheap. The fixed material is ordinary glue, with which oxide of zinc has been incorporated, either by the manufacturer or by the surgeon at the time of using it, in order to cause it to harden rapidly.

"Several pieces of flannel—old blankets or worn-out underclothing answering the purpose admirably—are selected and cut the requisite size. One of these is laid around the limb, and the two edges are tightly stitched together along the anterior surface, allowing the edge to project above the seam; then the melted glue, with oxide of zinc, is painted upon this with a brush. The dressing may be strengthened by an additional layer of flannel or blanket saturated with the glue and oxide of zinc, and made to adhere to the underlying layer. A third or even a fourth layer may be thus applied, if it is deemed necessary, and the limb supported until the dressing dries, which requires from four to eight hours.

"The stitches of the seam on the front of the limb having been cut with scissors, the edges of this elastic case are sprung apart, and the dressing removed. The edges are then trimmed smooth, and a number of eyelets inserted, in order that the case may be laced like a shoe, and the degree of pressure regulated.

"This fixed fracture-apparatus is exceedingly light, is made from materials almost everywhere obtainable, and is much cheaper than the silicate dressing. There are at all times pieces of waste flannel or cloth about a large hospital which can be appropriated, while the glue and zinc could probably be supplied at a very low price per pound—a quantity sufficient for the manufacture of many such splints. Another advantage is its elasticity, which permits its removal without endangering the splint, for it can be pulled apart, and immediately springs into place around the limb to which it has been moulded.

"By a little care and dexterity in stitching on the layers of flannel, the surgeon can readily shape the dressing so that both the leg and the foot are completely encased."

Remedial Uses of Water.—The extremely valuable researches of Dr. James Currie on this subject, entitled *Medical Reports on the Effects of Water, Cold and Warm, as a Remedy in Fever and Febrile Diseases, whether applied to the Surface of the Body or used Internally*, have been latterly too generally overlooked, and Dr. AUSTIN FLINT has done a good work in calling (*American Practitioner*, January, 1875) attention to them. The edition of his Reports now before us bears the imprint of London, 1805, and is in two volumes. It is the fourth edition of Volume I. and the second edition of Volume II. The dedication to the first edition of Volume I. is dated Liverpool, 31st October, 1797. The fact that the first volume reached a fourth edition shows that the