

employed stimulants, as benzoin, liq. ammon. anisat, tinct. ferri acetat., and external rubefacients. To quell these severe spasmodic paroxysms of coughing, Dr. S. had recourse to narcotics.—*Centralblatt f. d. M. Wissen.*, No. 14, 1868.

D. F. C.

20. *Spasm of the Glottis of Infants; its Connection with Eclampsia.*—In the 52 cases observed by Professor HENOCHE (*Berlin Klinik. Woch.* 1867, No. 19) both laryngismus and eclampsia were present in all, in 14 eclampsia alone, and in 9, simply spasm of the glottis. In the slightest grades of laryngismus stridulus, there is, remarks the professor, a transient contraction of the arytenoid muscles (*recurrent nerve*); while in other cases, the spastic excitation extends to the diaphragm and the thoracic muscles; in consequence of which there occurs transient arrest or an irregularity of the respiratory movements. There is also spasm of the muscles which direct upwards the globe of the eye, of the muscles of the fingers and toes, the flexor muscles of the forearm, with the masseter and temporal muscles. In very severe cases both sensibility and consciousness are suspended, and the case assumes all the characteristics of eclampsia; in other cases, again, the pathognomonic phenomena of laryngismus and eclampsia alternate the one with the other, or the spasm of the glottis assumes the character of an epileptiform paroxysm. In these cases the excitation is not confined to the vagus nerve, but extends to the roots of the respiratory nerve in the medulla oblongata, with irritation or disease of which latter epileptic seizures are intimately connected.

Anatomical lesions, it would seem, are not to be detected in those frequent cases in which the spasmodic symptoms disappear, as it were, spontaneously. In these cases there is probably only a simple sur-excitation of the nerves of the affected muscles, the absence of which is not detectable. The irregular nervous excitation is mostly due to an abnormal nutrition of the nerve substance from dyscrasia of the blood or to reflected irritation from some remote organ. To the first class of cases belong the greater number of those which occur in badly-nourished weakly children. Of 38 cases of spasm of the glottis, 25 were in rachitic children. A casual predisposition of such children to laryngismus should not, however, be mistaken as an indication of the dependence of the spasm of the glottis upon a rachitic dyscrasia, inasmuch as both conditions are alike capable of being produced by improper or defective food. The paroxysms of laryngeal spasm have been known to be entirely suspended by an improved diet, in respect both to the quality and quantity of the food composing it. The agency of reflected irritations in the production of glottis spasm, according to Prof. H., is much overrated. Excitation of the branches of the trigemini nerve, in cases of difficult dentition, and the concurrent sensitiveness of the nerves of the alimentary canal are generally believed to constitute a very common primary cause of laryngeal spasm. In 52 cases of laryngismus, 33 of the patients were between 9 and 30 months of age, and 19 between 2 and 9 months. It is to be recollected that rachitis occurs just as often during the period of dentition, and yet no one has imagined that rickets was caused by the latter process. In every case of glottidoteal spasm is the influence of the reflected impulse of the dental nerves and of the nerves of the alimentary canal a subordinate circumstance. Far more effective in the production of the spasm, Prof. H. believes to be the influence of cold and of the catarrhal affections of the air passages. As an occasional cause Prof. H. adduces the tension of the muscles temporarily induced by fits of violent crying, screaming, etc. Enlargement of the thymus was in no instance detected by Prof. H.

The duration of the spasmodic paroxysms was seldom protracted beyond two or three minutes. There often occur intervals between the attacks of a week's duration. Of Prof. H.'s cases four terminated fatally, partly through the sudden occurrence of asphyxia, and partly during an attack of eclampsia. Examination after death revealed a state of congestion of the intercranial veins. The remedies employed by Prof. H. in the treatment of spasm of the glottis were white oxide of zinc, in doses of from one-quarter to one grain; assafetida, in the dose of twenty grains, in an enema; musk, in doses of from one-half to one grain. From the use of these articles, however, he saw but very little good result. The

bromide of potassium, in the dose of from one-half drachm to a drachm in four hours, gave a favourable result in one case. In the majority of cases remedies adapted to improve the nutrition of the system proved superior to all others, especially a good diet, as of milk, animal broths, wine, etc., with pure air, exercise, etc. Of medicines, the most efficacious were cod-liver oil and iron. Upon such tonic treatment the disease has been known to disappear entirely within from six to eight weeks. Simple, aromatic, and malt-baths are spoken of favourably by Prof. H.—*Vierteljahrschr. f. d. Prakt. Heilk.*, No. xxv., 1868. D. F. C.

21. *Stomatitis and Pharyngitis Leucæmica*.—In *Virchow's Archives* (xlii. 444), Dr. F. MOSLER relates the case of a male 40 years old, and previously of sound health, in whom, in the course of some fifteen months, there took place gradually a swelling of the glands on both sides of the throat, attended with inflammation of the mucous membrane of the mouth and pharynx, with flaccidity of and hemorrhage from the gums, followed by swelling of the axillary and inguinal glands, and finally of the liver and spleen. There was now an evident increase in the white particles of the blood. In the case described the only etiological agent to which the morbid phenomena it presented could be referred, was inordinate exertion of mind and body. The condition of the throat was of especial interest. Its mucous membrane was red and swollen, and over its surface there were spread numerous medullary elevations having a smooth shining appearance. Both tonsils were enlarged, and their surfaces presented the appearance of a congeries of large, dense medullary knots. The secretions of the surface of the mouth and larynx and of the salivary glands, was greatly increased by talking. After a thorough rinsing of the mouth, its secretions gave an acid reaction. The patient had not suffered previously from any disease of the mouth or throat. The patient was attacked with this only after the lymphatic glands of the neck had become enlarged, and at first, with their increase or diminution the throat affection became worse or better. Finally, under the use of quinia and iron, remedies which exerted a beneficial influence on the entire morbid phenomena, the patient got well. Dr. M. believes that the form of stomatitis and pharyngitis here described is a specific disease resulting from a leucæmic dyscrasy. The inflammation of the mouth, which in its symptoms had a close resemblance to scorbutic stomatitis, was probably caused by an irritation due to some morbid chemical product in the blood and the secretions of the lymphatic glands, by which also, according to Dr. M., is to be explained the affection of the mouth met with in cases of diabetes, the nature of which is still, however, unknown.—*Centralblatt f. d. Med. Wiss.*, No. 17, 1868. D. F. C.

22. *Pachymeningitis Chronica*.—MELLENHEIMER relates (*Journ. f. Kinderkrank.*, 1868, 96-120) the post-mortem examination of a child 21 months old, who exhibited during life all the symptoms of chronic hydrocephalus. On examination after death there was found within the arachnoid sac one quart and a half of a greenish coloured thick pus. It was encysted on both sides of the falciiform process, occupying the situation of the two hemispheres of the cerebrum. The brain itself was thrust down upon the floor of the cranial cavity, in the form of an elongated roundish mass. The walls of the cysts inclosing the pus were composed of many layers of false membrane, which, on one side was adherent to the pia mater and on the other to the dura mater. The cerebellum had undergone but little change. The medullary portion of the cerebrum presented itself merely as whitish striæ, while the convolutions were flattened. The lateral ventricles were enlarged, and the internal portions were softened, while the external gray portion was apparently but little changed. The brain was closely attached to the base of the skull by means of a dense membranous tissue, richly supplied with bloodvessels.—*Centralblatt f. d. Medicin. Wissenschaft*, No. 8, 1868. D. F. C.

23. *Epilepsy*.—The following are the outlines of a very interesting case of epileptiform disease related by Dr. MAROWSKY (*Deutsche Arch. f. Klin. Med.*, iii. 6-15): A boy had an abscess formed on his left cheek, the result of a phlegmonous tumour. Immediately upon the abscess being opened by an incision the