

infancy, as it were. Convulsions in childhood, from whatever cause, should be viewed with suspicion, and all efforts be made with perseverance.

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*A Case of Epilepsy, with Post-Mortem Examination.* By Dr. THOS. HOWDEN, Haddington.

P. D., age 30. Epileptic. Admitted February, 1875; having been in confinement in this asylum five years before. For these five years, at least, he has taken the bromide of potassium pretty regularly; and during his five years' absence he has worked as a day labourer. On his last admission he was just recovering from a severe attack. Though having fits occasionally, they were never very severe till August 26th last—when, between that date and the 31st of August, he had at least twenty-six. He was able to be out of bed till the afternoon of the 29th; after which he became dull and stupid—never speaking, unless when spoken to, and scarcely then. Took the food given him readily. From the 29th August to his death, on September 2nd, he perspired profusely. His pulse was small, and very rapid; conjunctivæ much injected; pupils moderately contracted.

On September 1st, though he had no fits, there were frequent nervous twitchings of the muscles of the face, most marked on the right side, and of the right arm. Died 10 p.m. of September 2nd.

*Post-mortem* examination twenty-four hours after dead. Body well nourished.

*Head.*—Calvarium dense and hard. Dura mater very firmly adherent to bone, more especially in the occipital region. Superficial vessels and sinuses much congested. Weight of brain  $53\frac{1}{2}$  oz. There was no serous effusion on surface of brain. The cerebrum was moderately firm, but the cerebellum very soft.

On opening the right lateral ventricle there was an escape of fluid so sudden that much of it was lost. The ventricle was much enlarged, and its surface very white and glistening. The quantity of fluid gathered and measured from the right ventricle was  $\text{ʒi.}, \text{ʒvii.}$ , and I should think that at least an ounce must have escaped before; so that altogether there would be about three ounces of fluid in the ventricle. The left ventricle was equally large with the right, but only contained two drachms of fluid. On further examination, however, this was not to be wondered at, as there was a longitudinal rent along the under surface of the septum lucidum about one inch in length.

He was never in a state of real coma. He answered when spoken to a few hours before death; and though his breathing was laboured from acutely-congested lungs, it was never stertorous.