

CONVULSIONS.

Convulsions are symptomatic of disease of the brain, spinal cord, and nerve centers. The real disease may be any condition which suddenly arrests the nutrition of the brain, cord, or nerve centers, such as hemorrhage within the skull or spinal column, a blow on the head, loss of blood, a stoppage of the circulation of the blood, strangulation, or want of air to purify the blood, impure blood, a needle or pin pricking the flesh, the presence of indigestible food in the stomach, worms in the intestines, teething in children, or a continued diarrhea.

Treatment.— To bring the child out of the spasm, set it in a shallow cool or tepid bath, and with the hand apply cold water to the spine, or set it in a cold bath and apply cold to the spine. If undigested food in the stomach is the cause of the convulsions, give a warm-water emetic. If worms are the cause, give a more whole some diet. If the patient is an infant, the diet should be as directed in Diet for Infants, in Part I. Free the bowels from worms (see under head of Worms), and then treat as directed under head of Constitutional Treatment. If the

convulsions are caused by teething, give the child something hard to bite, like an ivory or rubber ring, and treat constitutionally.

The garments should always be loosened and all the clothing about the neck removed as soon as the convulsion comes on. When it cannot be definitely ascertained of what disease the convulsion is a symptom, it may be taken for granted that the constitutional vigor of the person is at fault, and the treatment should be constitutional as above directed.