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THE NERVOUS CHILD.

When we speak of "nervousness," we mean a condition in which the nerves are noticeable in some way ; they are not well under control and cause annoyance. In childhood the nervous system is always unstable, and even in normal children everyone notices how readily they are moved to laughter or tears ; how easily the temperature rises ; and what a slight indiscretion in diet will cause indigestion. But some children are more unstable than others, especially those whose parents are hysterical, neurasthenic, alcoholic, syphilitic, or highly nervous. Masturbation is a bad habit sometimes formed by nervous children, and later, negativism, a spirit of "contrariness" may develop, a condition more often observed in only children than in those belonging to a large family.

Convulsions in a highly nervous child may be brought on by some quite trifling irritation, such as indigestion during dentition, the presence of thread-worms in the rectum, or by constipation. They also accompany the onset of many specific diseases, such as measles, meningitis, etc. The warm bath at a temperature of 100 deg. F., with the addition of a tablespoonful of mustard to each gallon of water, is the best immediate treatment for convulsions. A cool sponge should be applied to the head, a small dose of castor-oil given, and an oil enema to relieve the constipation. A soothing draught may be ordered by the doctor. For tetany, a form of spasm affecting the hands, to which nervous children are liable, a reform in diet is usually needed. The trouble is apt to occur in ill-fed, rickety children, and is due to a lack of calcium in the blood, and to faulty hygiene. In spasm of the larynx, the child holds its breath, makes a crowing sound, and presents an alarming picture. This, too, is frequently associated with wrong hygiene. A hot, wet cloth to the neck will probably stop the spasm, or a warm bath may be given.

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THE OLDEST PRESCRIPTION IN THE WORLD.

In the July issue of THE BLOODLESS PHLEBOTOMIST there is an article entitled "Is this the oldest prescription in the world?" The prescription in question, which is inscribed upon a tablet of stone, now in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, is alleged to be 3,400 years old, and has among its ingredients semi-precious stones, which were ground to powder. The article is illustrated by a very good picture of the tablet. The inscription upon the stone is as clear and neat today as when it was given by a doctor-priest to a subject of one of the ancient pharaohs, 1,500 years or more before the Christian era. This is a matter which is of interest to all physicians. Any who have not read the article in the *Phlebotomist* may obtain a copy of that journal by addressing The Bloodless Phlebotomist, 22, Grand St., New York City.