

The next proposition submitted by the counsel—that the mind of the prisoner has been seriously impaired by epilepsy.

Epilepsy is a disease that assumes different grades. In its mild form it has never been known to produce any visible effect upon the mind, and yields readily to medical treatment; but in the aggravated stage results in imbecility, fatuity and sometimes in insanity; but never that species of insanity relied upon as a defense in this case. The symptoms in the aggravated form are so well marked that it is impossible to mistake it for any other disease. The attack is always sudden, and generally comes on without any premonition. The patient is heard to utter a loud cry and soon falls to the ground senseless and convulsed.

Dr. Watson, in his lectures on the Principles and Practice of Physic, states that in most cases one of the first effects of the spasm is the twisting of the neck; the chin is then raised and brought round by a succession of jerks towards one shoulder; the features are distorted; the eyebrows knit, and the eyes are fixed and staring; the mouth is twisted; the tongue thrust between the teeth and a foam issues from the mouth, sometimes presenting a bloody appearance; the hands are firmly clenched and the arms are thrown about, striking the chest of the patient with great force; the breathing is embarrassed and a choking sound is heard in the windpipe; the face becomes turgid and livid. When the paroxysm is over, the patient falls into a deep sleep, and upon waking is wholly unconscious of what transpired during the convulsion, and does not even know that he has had a fit. It is important, gentlemen, that you should bear in mind these symptoms as you scan the testimony given on this point.

Dr. Worrell states that on one occasion in 1845, while residing about a mile from Baltimore, his son, who was then 17 years of age, returned from the city, having been there during the whole day. The family at the time were seated at the supper table, and an aunt of the defendant went out on the porch, and soon returned much alarmed and stated that Edward was leading against a tree in the yard, and acted as if deranged; the doctor immediately went out and discov-