STRANGE MALADY TAKES FIFTH CHILD IN HER FIFTH YEAR

Convulsions That Have Come to Children Always at Same Age Puzzles Doctors

ONLY TWO LEFT IN FAMILY

Physicians Suspect Some Hereditary Taint, But Are Unable to Solve the Mystery

CAMDEN, N. J., May 31.—Mystification was added to the grief of John Baumeler and his wife when today they sat at a cot in Cooper Hospital in this city and saw their four-year-old daughter die, the latest one writhing in just such convulsions as had killed four others of their children, all in the last four years and all, at the age of five, they had attained the age of five.

From the bed of the dead child, too, they turned to yet another cot where another of their children, Alice, only three and a half years old, was also ill of the strange convulsions. And in dumb wretchedness they tried to bathe last night to relieve that. But little Alice was spared to them for the time at least. She had so far recovered today that the physicians gave her parents permission to take her home.

But the man and his wife, as they sat in their comfortable home at No. 257 Kalmia avenue, both with fear they had witnessed. They seemed to be in perfect health and then—play at the dinner table, or at night—would come a scream or a scolding cry and we would find the child stiffen or writhing, with clenched hands and vacant eyes in the grip of the strange sickness. They would pass from this convulsion to another and die while we and the doctors stood helplessly watching them.

Little Alice, who survived an attack of the convulsions, had been attacked at an earlier age than any of her five sisters who have been killed by them. But the parents could not believe that the attack would not recur in her fifth year and place the child beside the other five graves in the family cemetery plot.