

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 He-
reditary Taint, But Are Un-
able to Solve the Mystery

CAMDEN, N. J., May 31.—Mysti-
fication was added to the grief of John
Baumeister and his wife when today
they sat at a little cot in Cooper Hos-
pital in this city and saw their five-
year-old daughter die, the little one
writhing in just such convulsions as
had killed four others of their chil-
dren, all in the last four years and
all curiously just as they had attained
the age of five years.

From the bed of the dead child,
Rose, 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
awaited the coming of her death also.
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.
267 Kaighn avenue, both wept as they
admitted that they had little hope
that Alice would be spared to them
long.

"We have dreaded that fifth year
in their lives," said Mrs. Baumeister,
recovering from her tears. "We have
carefully watched and nursed the
children. We have been careful of
their diet, careful that they did not
fall into any excitements; we have
had them examined by physicians for
any signs of chronic ailments that
might bring on convulsions. But al-
ways it was the same.

Our babies would seem to be in
perfect health and then—at play, at
the dinner table, or in a crib at night
—would come a scream or a little
gasping cry and we would find our
child stiffened or writhing, with
clenched hands and vacant eyes in the
grip of the strange sickness. They
would pass from one convulsion to
another and die while we and the
doctors stood helplessly watching
them."

Little Alice, who survived an at-
tack of the convulsions, had been at-
tacked at an earlier age than any of
her five sisters who have been killed
by them. But the parents could not
be induced last night to believe that
the attack would not recur in her fifth
year and place the child beside the
other five graves in the family cem-
etry plot.