Inaugural Essay on Chloroform

By George Stevenson

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This is the century of paramount human discoveries, the half has scarcely elapsed and investigation and sagacity have left immeasurably behind both in number and practical importance the inventions of numerous preceding generations.

Even in the commencement of the present age, the mariner was compelled to wait the sound of the tide for his signal to set sail; a signal for which he was frequently obliged to wait for days and weeks and even months, to the suspension of enterprise and costly speculation. Now he neither consults the one or the other, but from himself the day and the very hour, and weighs anchor at once. He starts, for for distant regions, and independent of the caprice of the element, can calculate the day of their arrival, to which formerly he would have assigned an indefinite range of time. Thus thousands of miles are now traversed, with comparative certainty; where before he was the sport of vicissitude.
and Disappointment, arising from various contingencies over which he was unable to exercise the least control. The widely scattered world may then be said to be drawing rapidly together, and to be already reduced from a state of estranging separation, into a condition of social, intimate union; such as must ultimately contribute to the universal moral renovation of Mankind.

The traveller was wont to count the days which a journey of a few hundred miles would occupy, but the same journey now, hardly costs him the calculation of hours; so rapidly is he conveyed. With the flight of the bird which he formerly followed with his eye, he now keeps pace, he breakfasts in London and dines in Edinburgh. Yet now is this acceleration, compared with that which attends the communication of intelligence. As days in travelling have been reduced to hours, so in the transmition of news; hours have been reduced to minutes. A message is forwarded and the answer returned before the eighth part of the clock has been traversed. By the minute hand, and a distance of eight hundred miles has been performed in even so narrow a span of time. Marks the slow progress of the portrait or the landscape, with after all the more or less imperceptible results of each, a minute now suffic to accomplish.
the one or the other; and with an assurance of accuracy
wholly unattainable before, by even the most accomplished
master of the pencil.

And here it may not be out of place, to glance at the
enlargement which has been effected in the forces of the telescope;
which occasion to science, though not in itself a discovery, has
enabled us to penetrate into creation so as to solve what had hitherto
been regarded as a problem in the phenomena of the heavens.

The nature of which was but the other day regarded
as a subject, which at once excited and baffled human speculation,
and now accounted for, with a certainty which for the future sets
all speculation at rest; while by some astronomers we supposed
the constitution of Jupiter to consist of one solid mass, broken into mountains
and valleys, without river, lake, or sea; destined to be no atmosphere,
uninhabited by breathing life, and thus adapted solely to
the office of attending upon the earth, that in the absence
of the Sun, the satellite may periodically supply her with
light, and cooperate with her in regulating the climate and
influx.
of the tides.

It would be strange if arts so important to mankind as those of surgery and medicine, requiring as they necessarily do, the highest, most virtuous cultivation of the intellectual faculties, had not put in their claim to some participation, at least, in the grand start which has thus been variously achieved by human intelligence. The alleviation of bodily suffering demands as big, the solicitude of the philanthropist, as that of the medical practitioner, and the operative surgeon; and, in the department of the latter, an achievement has been effected which may justly rank with the most important of those discoveries which have conduced to confer pre-eminent honor on the present age.

In comparison with the surgeon, the physician has little said of nerve. Powerful as may be his sense of responsibility, in some crisis of imminent peril, the hand of the latter will scarce betray a tremor while he presides; so if it should, the disturbance is unproductive of hazard, as long as his mind retains its self-possession. But critic of the situation of man, whose practice demands, the employment of the knife, and his grasp be as unpassive to strain as the instrument which it endows.

Knowledge is something more than power, it is more which enables us to use the power which we know ourselves to possess.
the man whom nature has not endowed, with physical firmness
will stand this ground, from the mere conviction that he is able
to do so. The naturally timid, knowing that it is a matter
of the art of self defence, will absolutely fear the assailant
from whom he would otherwise fly. A cautious man would
seem to be the very best, that should embrace the profession
of surgery; yet are there not wanting instances of eminent
operators, with even so disqualifying a temperament. The
duces of such persons is the result of a thorough mastery
of their art. A more responsible situation than that of the
man, who may be called upon to employ the knife upon the
living subject cannot well be conceived. The human body
presents to the contemplation of the uninitiated a feeble, un-
explored labyrinth. But to that labyrinth there exist an
unerring clue—me that will enable the physio to thread as it
were, its most intricate involutions, that clue is provided by
anatomy.

With bewildermint the medical student first contemplates the
different orders of the animals; their relations, shapes, origins and
sustituents. The nerves and the bloodvessels; their classes, source,
and the multitude of their ramifications increase, he perplexed
in vain to the uniform, opaque and electric wall that encloses
them, does he look for any indication of the maze that lies
within it. To the accomplished anatomist, however, that wall
becomes

as if were, transparent, and the contents, in the main, from the
most opaque to the most minute, are revealed as clearly as
though he were scanning them through a superfine glass
he could be them as it were; separate, and discernible their true
their own and their shape, their relative constancy or variable,
depravity or independence, or which they are almost inseparable
in his cognizance, as the constituents of any section of a subject
preparatory by careful and minute dissection for the lecture of the
proposition.

The surgeon thus accomplished, and prepared for occasional
irregularities, such as might occur in the branching of
of the arteries. He will approach an operation with

careful, in spite of the disqualification that may result
from a deficiency of constitutional nerve - But still there
is to be taken into account the suffering which his hand
inflicts, and which in spite of puerility, in the past of the
patient will attest the worth and the grace of a eulogy.

"There is perfect misery - the worst
of evils, and extreme excruciation
all patience."

Thus from the law of sympathy, the surgeon whatever
be the time which nature may have imparted to the human
system - However he may be justified by the consciousness
of certainty in his profession - encounters a difficulty for

inseparability to the presence of which, no training of previous study, or practice can thoroughly prepare him.

In affection

Mystical passion; it draws it, to the mind

Complete him at the commencement of his profession

he has performed the various surgical operations upon the dead subject. He has cut down upon the artery and tied it, he has entered the bladder in one imaginary case of stone, he has

interpreted the limbs, emptied the joint, and applied the tracheotome to the trachea, interested indeed in these several processes, but

wholly unmolested by anxiety. What would he give for that same immunity from disturbance, when he comes to deal with the living body? With even this immunity, to the honor of modern science he is at length provided.

Perhaps there is no discovery, which though it presents the characteristic of more suspicion, it becomes the scientific man to regard, is utterly beneath his notice. For let to ridicule and censure,

far, insignificant as it may be in itself, a careful inquiry into its principles, and into the nature of its effects, may suggest the most lawful practice, conducing to the most beneficial results.

So the grand majority, not only of the profession, but of society, more at large, mesmerism was a jest, and a laughing stock; and yet, not a few of the phenomena that characterized it were enquirin-
a subject for serious investigation, particularly in the part of the country
that under the influence of the mesmeric stupor, bundles of hair could
be picked from the head, and pointed instruments introduced into
the most sensitive parts of the body, were such which might have
inculcated, earlier the probability, that an accident which rarely
would lead to the indulgence of curiosity might be employed as a
medium of most important results. The problem at last,
was started, and worked, and demonstrated, in a refined manner,
performed without consciousness to the patient, and attended with
perfect success.

This was however a discovery which, though it really had been
universally admitted, could never have been realized in full
extent, because the susceptibility of mesmeric influence
from whatever cause that influence may proceed is only
very partially distributed, perhaps in only one case out of every
ten—some were found to be subject to it in only a partial de
gree, while upon others—amongconsisting of, by far the
most of number, it was proved to be absolutely incapacitated.
Some other agent was demanded—one the medium operatic of
which would be consistent with scientific principles, and
the operation, independent of all restrictions, such as
judicious precaution, would deem it expedient to interpose.
That agent was discovered in Ether, the narcotic and anesthesia
properties of which seemed to promise the desired results, and upon

Experiment
experiment, produced it... It was found, that, by the inhalation of the
atmospheric vapour, a state of insensibility similar to that which existed
in the morbid sleep, rendering the patient perfectly unconscious
of pain, during the process of an operation, could be produced with
comparative certainty and unanimity.

This practice, first introduced in America was immediately tested
in England, and with every promise of success. Further experience,
however, revealed the existence of certain disadvantages, which in
a great measure counterbalanced the benefit which was at first
anticipated. There was found to be a hazard of asphyxia from the
difficulty of keeping the lungs sufficiently aired, during the act
of inhaling the vapour, while headache, vertigo, and nausea, to a
greater or less extent, were not infrequently post-conditi of the
process. Hence the necessity of discovering a substitute the
administering of which would produce the desired result, un-
attended by such effects, such as could be foreseen and provided for,
and likewise free from all subsequent inconvenience.

To the credit of the University of which I have the honour to be an
alumnus, the substitute was discovered by the professor of midwifery
and in the preparation of Chloroform, was presented to the medical
body as an admissible agent equally devoid of danger and certain in effect.

And, since that period, notwithstanding the obstruction
of partial scepticism, as well as of discouragement, through occa-
sional failures, solely arising from imperfectly in the mode of inhal-
ing it, and from defect in the purity of the agent itself; has been
rapidly making its way into general adoption.

Among the phenomena which attend the exhibition of Chloroform, the extirpation of suffering the desired result, in a state of perfect anaesthesia, is perhaps the most important. Hence whatever may be the temperament of the patient, he is secure of immunity from pain, in case of being subjected to the action of the weapon except if he be required to operate on organs of mouth and nose, wherefrom obvious reasons, the presence of Anaesthesia may be inadmissible, or if admissible, in only a limited degree.

Thus in the great majority of cases, is the system protected from shocks, which has not infrequently proved fatal and under less favourable circumstances, would always induce in the nervous economy, a disturbance which cannot well, be otherwise than temporarily if not permanently prejudicial. Instances are not wanting, where although the patient has long survived an operation, he has never thoroughly recovered from the effects of it. But more is to be taken into account, the surgeon now finds his object of unremitting enlarged; as by the aid of Chloroform operations, not only otherwise indiscreet but absolutely inadmissible, may be attempted, here he finds hope whereas previously he was deterred by doubt, here he finds the certainty of death, superseded by the chance of life.

Another important consideration is the saving of blood, under the effect which Chloroform induces the hemorrhage attending
An operation must be materially reduced. In connection of the
wounding of the muscles it is known to promote a free breathing ga-
more in important operations, the sense of pain being subdued.
through the influence of Chloroform, we might naturally to
oppose the contrary result. Thus by husbanding, as it were, the
fabulous virtue, the region of the patient is cherished, and con-
sequently, his recovery, not only correspondingly assured, but even
expedited.

The benefits attending the use of Chloroform, in cases strictly trau-
which led to the inquiry; whether its agency might not
be available, in other branches of practice. Hence the question,
whether the effects of opiumation might not be strikingly
brought under its influence, was put to the experiment and
with a success, the effects of which may be estimated by one
speaking fact, established, beyond all question by the best
of the most
specimen of one accomplished physician of mediocrity, "the divided
state of the circulation and the congested condition of the capillaries
which are often observed in the cases to which I have attended
and given way in the most remarkable manner, to the effects
produced by the inhalation of Chloroform. This is so much
true the case, that since I have had recourse to it I have never
found it necessary to bleed upon the arm during labour,
the inhalation of Chloroform having been indirectly efficacious,
even in some cases in which Epsilic Congestion was in great extent.
With me fever convulsions. Here again we contemplate a salutary
assistance of the wound of blood, and consequent hardening of the veins
of the system. The exhaustion consequent upon puncturation is thus
deuced, and the rapidity of recovery promoted. Further the perfum
effects. "In operative midwifery I continue to derive valuable assistance
from chloroform, the cases in which I have resorted to its use, have
been exclusively, turning, and retained placenta, In consultation and
dispensary practice, the accoucheur frequently meets with instances
in which the placenta has been retained for some hours, before
he saw the patient. In them, and in the most difficult forms of
turning, chloroform very much simplifies the operation, by
rendering the patient unconscious of pain; and perhaps, by alleviating
the rapidly contracted veins. This is the teaching of substantial
experience, and not the vague speculations of theory. How
plausible from the indications.

But the self-indulgence of human nature, will still interfere
with the promulgation of truth, notwithstanding the
benefit which its reception might secure to the human family
at large. May we not prevent its adoption though it adoption,
would conduce to the use jealous and credit of the objectors,
themselves. How many thousands of lives fell a sacrifice
to the resistance which incalculable for the small few encom-
ended, when it was first proposed to the profession as a means
of mortally limiting the great mortality which characterized
That disease in its malignant form; Vaccination, too, was equally unpopular in the outset. Many Reformers, and numerous other medical men of reputation exerted all their influence to cast discredit upon the labours of Jenner; resorting to arguments at which, not only science and philosophy, but even common sense might blush; and which could have no other possible foundation than narrow professional apec Quản. It is said, that another should have discovered what they themselves had never dreamed of. Vaccination and inoculation for the small pox were introduced upon the broad ground of careful and ample experiment; and, with the same warrant for its claims to credit, the Cholera has been recommended to the profession’s skill as their most boring thorn, and among them, one of repute. The tract with question and example, and thus, by invalidating its pretensions, present as universal adoption, at the cost of human suffering.

To estimate the nature of the opposition which this novel discovery encounters, we have only to glance at the argument of an eminent London practitioner. “His inducements,” he says, are drawn less from his own experience, than from the published accounts of others.” Now, what are the inducements which we necessarily draw from this extraordinary statement? In the first place, we must come to one or the other of two very obvious conclusions. Either his own experience has been too very limited, or not to supply him with sufficient data to it has been no
uniformly successful as to afford no plea for disparagement, and
in the next place he grounds his objections, upon testimony,
the validity of which remains to be established. The nature of
the Chloroform employed, and the mode of administering it may
account for all the difference between success and failure.

Besides taking into consideration, the qualifications of the geo-
tators, who, of course, may have been more or less congenial to the
character of his duties, a practice which promises the most
material advantage, however how we may be to counteract
it, ought never to be publicly depreciated, except upon positive
proof; the result of repeated experiment. From another source
of the writer we may infer the very slight value to which
his opinion upon this subject are entitled, the teacher. He says:

"Evidently glancing at the discoverer of Chloroform. "The teacher
of Midwifery should remember, however simple and easy labor
operations may have become to them, in consequence of their
recent performance, that their recommendations and opinions
will influence the practice of those who have not, and never
shall have, the same opportunities; and that, what may be per-
fectly safe in the hands of the few, may not be equally so
in the hands of the many." This is a sound extraordinary
and<br>
practice of midwifery itself may be objected to — as the prescription and operation prohibited, except in the hands of the accredited teacher. Whilst the experienced surgeon or physician has failed, whilst the comparatively try to be succeeded, such a mode of attacking innovation, indicates some of the wish, than of the ability, to prevent it from succeeding.

If I do not greatly err, I think it may be taken for granted that where the exhibition of chloroform, judiciously conducted in every other respect, has been attended with disastrous result, that result may be attributed to the existence of some unsuspected organic lesion, this would indicate the necessity of a careful previous use of the stethoscope in doubtful cases. In a case which occurred a few years ago in London, when the patient of a dentist died during the process of inhalation, the wall of one of the ventricles of the heart, was found upon a post-mortem examination to be reduced, in consistency, almost to the thickness of a thin sheet — the organ consequently could not otherwise than give way under the transitional period of muscular retraction. A jolt, perhaps a violent start, or shock any unusual bodily or even mental excitement might have proved similarly fatal. It happened singularly enough, that a medical friend of the dentist, had warned him that he might one day get himself into a scrape by promiscuously subjecting the patient to the anaesthetic influence of ether and

that
that the patient individual should have been called in when the
unfortunate accident took place.
That a sufficient quantity of atmospheric air should accompany
the inhalation of the anaesthetic vapour, in order to prevent a
true occlusion of the lungs, is an object that demands the
greatest care. It may be a question whether a rapid effect is desir-
able to be produced, and whether progression towards the state
of anaesthesia ought not rather to be retarded than expedited.
In the former case it would be expected that resistance would
be lessened, and thus a state of complete anaesthesia arrived at
with a considerable variation in the development of
dangerous phenomena's while the chance of death would
become into a mere affair. How far also by previous brief in-
halation of chloroform, the patient might be advantageously
prepared for the inhalation of such a quantity as would
induce the desirable state of perfect unconsciousness,
which would render him wholly amenable to pain during
the process of an operation; is a question which may not be
infirmity of consideration. Physically as well as morally,
when we are accustomed to yield, we yield the secondarily
This may account for the permanency of a tendency to hysteria;
an affection which if effectually resisted, often the indication
of its first approach, may be permanently warded off; whereas
of, it be once encouraged, its frequent recurrence being looked
for.
for, and though at first it may have been produced by some
passion and powerful excitement, will now present itself
upon occasions, comparatively common and trivial: Symptom
is occasionally governed by the same law. Thus in the physical
as well as in the moral economy, habit may be said to become
a second nature.

It may be anticipated, and upon several grounds of probability,
that the employment of Cholera will be extended beyond
the sphere of the accoucheur and surgeon, carrying the tendency
of its design operations into the practice of the physicians; and
producing results, which hitherto he has not been enabled to
accomplish, by the most skilful exhibition of medicine.
In certain cases, an abnormal exterior may be presumed to continue
long after the cause, which directly gave rise to it, has been
removed. If I might regard a conjecture I should say that the
successive vomiting and purging which not unfrequently
conduce to a fatal termination in English Cholera present an
instance in point. By the first action of the stomach and
intestines, a considerable portion of the offending primary poison,
if not indeed the whole of it, may be supposed to have been evacu-
ated; yet notwithstanding, after a short interval, the second
action of these viscera returns, and with interruptions, decreasing in
their force is continued till, whilst relief be obtained, the vital powers
become, at length extenuated. This progress however to a fatal termination
being
suspended, by the skill of the practitioner, recovery ensued, without any further employing of the organs, whose activity has been so dangerously excited.

I am aware of a case where English Cholera was successfully depressed and removed by merely exciting the capillaries. The patient, who had been attacked before, but restored by medical treatment, was suddenly affected, after beyond the reach of advice. The expiratory and diarrheic action was completely changed, and was repeated several times; and there was then any analogy of febrile to which, as had previously occurred, he speedily restored for relief. The event took place upon the eve of his time; and his symptoms were such as to leave no room whatever for a doubt, that he was opium in the hands of the enemy, from which he had been, by so narrowly escaped; for the complaint had then already assumed that spasmodic form, which is so fearfully indicative of Asiatic Cholera, while every aid almost deathlike, till the skill had begun to succeed each successive evacuation of the stomach and bowels.

In the present instance, being hopeless of obtaining medical aid, it occurred to him that, if he could excite a powerful determination to the surface, the one, chief, that threatened him might be averted. With this view he caused the linen to be removed from his bed, the covering of which was at the same time greatly increased; all escape of signs of air being at the utmost prevented by the most careful tucking; and then prepared, awaiting time...
of an interval, he got beneath the clothes, without disturbing them, and then by rapid friction of the stomach, produced on that region a state of powerful heat, bringing on eventually and after a very short lapse of time a general and opious perspiration. In this state he dropped into a profound sleep uninterrupted by the slightest return of the previous alarming symptoms; and as for the over-sparing perfectly restored to health without the least assistance from medicine.

From such a case as this, one would be led to infer, that the continued convulsions which occur in English Cholera, ought rather to be regarded as secondary symptoms, outlasting the originally exciting cause; and capable of being removed, if we can succeed in simply suspending them. This would seem to indicate in such cases, the propriety of exhibiting Chloroform; the narcotic influence of which being continued for length of time, greater or less as the occasion might seem to require, would occasion such a cessation of marked activity in the excited organs, as would restore to them their natural state of healthful quietude.

May not the same process of reasoning be applied to the premonitory symptoms of Asiatic Cholera? Those symptoms being stopped before a dangerous exacerbation takes place, the most perilous form of that disease is prevented. May not that form be regarded as an instance, where, an abnormal
action being excited, will of itself, become seriously aggravated, though the cause which produced it may have passed away. Like the disease when it presents itself in its most unfavorable type. Instances are not wanting where a fatal termination has been supposed to have taken place, where life has appeared to be all but extinct, and yet resurrection has occurred with a restoration to perfect health. Is it the original cause of the disease that has been removed? or is it not rather, the morbid action, produced by that cause, which has been removed by a sufficient state of rest, in consequence of the extreme but still imperfect prostration of the vital powers?

Several years ago, an officer in the last India service, a relation of my family, on duty before the enemy, was attacked with malignant Cholera, several cases of which had occurred in the camp. His regiment being ordered to encamp, he was conveyed in the state of collapse, to the tent of a Hindoo Woman, and left there, without, as it was supposed, a chance of life. The despair which possessed him to a premature grave was, however, the cause of his preservation. The Woman, as she afterwards learned, thoroughly isolating the region of the stomach, with a wall of clay, ground to a thin water upon it, and the perfect healing of the patient was the result.

The fortunate issue of this treatment ought hardly to be doubted.
Regarded as an instance of successful counter-irritation, but
might with more plausibility be referred to the influence
of a powerful stimulant, arousing the just expired emula
e of life, when a counter action had been so long suspended as
to render it incapable of resuming its activity. The anesthe
produced by Chloroform, would seem to be indicated here, as
a sedative whereby our abnormal action may be as long
suspended, as to preclude the likelihood of its return.
The use of Chloroform has been suggested, as a remedy in case
of hydrophobia, and following the same course of reasoning,
it is far from improbable that, in the employing of this
powerful and uniformly acting agent, a cure for that
heinous and hitherto hopeless malady, may at length have
been found. The characteristic symptom once developed, and the
indications of its return being watched; if that return could
be prevented for any length of time, the means might be
achieved, whereby that fatal issue, which has been hitherto
regarded as inevitable might be avoided; while opportunity
would be given for the preparation of antidotes, which formerly
had not time to act, and if the prophylactic virtues of
which, we just referred could be consequently proved.
A theory respecting this disease has been started, the absurdity
of which is so self-evident as to render serious disproof a want
of interest. Suppression, it has been attributed solely to the
influence
Burlgy in?
Influence of imagination, an hypothesis which necessarily involves the supposition that the brain participates, equally in the reflective faculties of human beings. If hydrophobia, in the case of a healthy dog, occurs from the bite of one that is rabid, there is no possible way for accounting for the disease, except by attributing it to the absorbing of a certain poison; and what holds with the dog in this case, must hold with the man—by whom not infrequently the bite has long been forgotten, before the effect has made its appearance.

I shall conclude this brief and humble thesis, with the relation of a case of acute rhinorrhoea, relieved, and ultimately removed by the mere inhalation of ether— it occurred previously to the introduction of chloroform.—

The subject was a gentleman of an exceedingly full habit. His weight was between seventeen and eighteen stone. In December 1845, he experienced a very severe attack of headache, first in one shoulder and arm, and subsequently in both. The pain was so severe, that, for eleven days and nights, he scarcely ever slept, and, for three of those nights, was unable to lie in bed. He had taken morphia with the hope of obtaining relief, in doses increasing from fifty to one hundred and thirty drops, but wholly without effect. On the eleventh day, when his head became affected with violent pain, his servant, who was in constant attendance upon him, suggested
Suggested the probability that he might obtain a little ease, by rubbing his forehead with ether, with the view of soothing an intolerable sense of burning, which he felt in the region of his head. The advice was adopted, and therefreshing sensation which the vapours evoked in the process, occasioned, induced the patient to inhale the vapours for the purpose of inhaling it more efficiently, a portion of the ether having been poured into a wine glass, in the first instance, for the purpose of introducing his finger; he was struck by the rapidity with which the fluid evaporated from the heat of the hand, in which he held the glass. This circumstance induced him to inhale it from the glass itself, reprovided with twenty-five drops of the ether, the result was a quickening of the respiration; but attended with a feeling of general softening, which, at first, increased to such a degree as to induce a disposition to sleep, upon experiencing which, he requested to be left alone, enjoining the strictest quieto be observed, and soon unconsciously fell off into a sleep which lasted for two hours and a half; but upon recovering from which, his previous symptoms returned without the indication of the least appreciable abatement. Simultaneously with the view of enjoying a similar relief from suffering, he now repeated the experiment, but this
time, with greater, and most unexpected success, as he slept without interruption for nearly eight hours, and, upon awaking, found himself perfectly free from pain; and in that state he continued, having occasion to resort to the tin only five or six times; and this not with the view of obtaining relief from suffering, but merely inducing sleep, or rapid recovery to perfect health, uninterrupted by the slightest relapse, was the consequence of this accin-
dental treatment.

Here it may not be out of place to state that a friend who happened to call upon him, before he was able to leave his room; and who, upon observing the very strong odor of ether, enquired the cause of his using it; having learned that cause, and the result of its employment, adopted the same remedy, in the case of his wife, who was suffering under a similar attack; and as he sub-
sequently stated, with an equally successful issue.

Here it may be proper to remark, with regard to the former case, that all other treatment had been suspended from the moment that the patient had recourse to ether, so that there was no rational way of accounting for the reinstatement of his health, but by ascribing it to the effects the soothing and subsequent sleep, which resulted from pre-
tiously inhaling the vapors of that active anaesthetic.
Here I presume it an instance wherein a morbid state, or action was successfully removed by simply suspending it, while a striking feature presents itself in the increased effect which attended the administration of the second inhalation. The dose on each occasion was the same, namely, twenty five drops, or swallowing it, the first time only two hours, and a half of these resulted whereas upon the second administration, the patient slumbered uninterruptedly, for nearly eight hours, without subsequently experiencing the least symptom of that pain which had previously returned upon waking. Now with a superior instar of at our command, would not this single fact indicate the utility with which chloroform might be employed in effecting the removal of acute hemimeninges provided the failure of the first attempt did not lead to the abandonment of the treatment, but on the contrary, complete sublimation were followed up by another, after the first transient effect had subsided, and the exhibition were preserved in till, as in the case recited a perfect cessation of suffering would justify our confidence by rewarding it.

Do I venture too boldly in expressing a hope that even that perhaps most formidable of all syphilitic diseases, tetanus, may ultimately be brought under the command of this powerful agent? Might it not be asserted upon the timely detection of its first indications, and its propagation towards a static in
termination successfully prevented? Death will sometimes occur from an attack of acute Rheumatism. In the case, the history of which I have related, the symptoms had approached a state of extreme exacerbation; the head was attacked, and yet at this critical juncture, the total removal of the symptoms was effected by two inhalations of Ethered vapour, the succeeding the other after the lapse of about two hours and a half, when the result of the first inhalation had wholly faded away.

The agent which ensures insensibility to the operation of the Knife, and which wholly diverts the progress of labour of its naturally excited and intolerable groups, must surely possess a claim to a far wider field of usefulness. The practice is yet in its infancy; surely it is destined to acquire in more diversified application. But though it were never to spread to present range, mankind must ever regard as a public benefactor, the man who has effected so great a reduction in the amount of human suffering.

G. L. KIRW.