

# USING ANAESTHETICS.

## THE FACTS ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF CHLOROFORM AND ETHER.

Will Needs Are Not Easy to Do With the Aid of These Drugs—Some Popular Misinformation on the Subject Corrected.

A curious case of robbery under chloroform which was decided in London not long ago was followed with great interest by writers on medical jurisprudence. Hitherto many such writers have expressed great doubt about these cases, for the process is by no means so easy of use as people think.

Very extravagant ideas prevail among the public as to the power of anaesthetics, owing perhaps to the license employed by novelists when they describe "fancy" cases in their books.

One reads, for instance, of a man in a railway carriage waving a handkerchief before the face of a fellow traveler and producing instantaneous unconsciousness. This is absolutely impossible. Another imaginative writer recently described a murder carried out by pushing a towel saturated with a powerful anaesthetic under the bedroom door of his sleeping victim. This also is nonsense.

In another tale the more feasible plan is carried out of entering the sleeping man's chamber, pouring the anaesthetic on the bed, the murderer standing by and watching his victim die. But even this is stretching the truth rather severely.

The true facts about chloroform and its companion anaesthetic, ether, are as follows:

First, with regard to administering the drug during sleep, doctors have made very exhaustive experiments, for it would be of great advantage to a patient on whom an operation has to be performed to chloroform him while asleep and save him the horror which so many people have of the inhalation, and they sum up the results, showing that very rarely can chloroform be administered to a sleeping person without awakening him. Grown people are, with the rarest exception, awakened by the irritating fumes. If a man were tired and if his nose were naturally insensitive to unpleasant odors, and especially if he were under the influence of drink, it might be possible to make him unconscious while asleep. But not even every doctor could do it. The operation would require the highest skill, and the most skillful administrator would succeed only once in a hundred times.

If we take the case of spilling the chloroform in a room and thus impregnating all the air of the room, the thing is out of the question. Yet not only do novelists assert that this can be done, but many people have been actually charged in real life with doing it—for the purpose of blackmailing them, for injuring them or perhaps to throw off suspicion from the pretended victim who has committed the robbery himself. If the room measures, say, 12 feet square and is 9 feet high, it would probably take a gallon of chloroform spilled on the floor to make a man unconscious. All the chairs and crannies would have to be stopped up first, moreover, and the operator himself would have to be poison proof or he also would succumb.

As a matter of fact, the only way to render a person unconscious by the use of chloroform is in the way practiced by surgeons in the operating room. And this is by no means an easy task. There are several ways of doing it. The chloroform may be dropped on a handkerchief, which is then held over the face at some little distance, or it may be dropped on a sponge, or it may be used in one of the innumerable machines invented for the purpose. But the vapor must be mixed with air before it is breathed. That is the reason the handkerchief or the sponge is held some inches from the face. As a rule it takes from five to eight minutes to make the person unconscious, and during this time he generally struggles very violently.

It is probable that many of the charges of chloroforming which have been made are false. Sometimes the pretended victim asserts that he has become unconscious immediately. But it has been shown in evidence that the time necessary to bring about this result is at least four or five minutes. Sometimes he says he could not cry out, yet he describes all the circumstances of the administration minutely. Now, the first effect of the chloroform is to produce confusion of the mind, while, on the other hand, the patient can cry out almost up to the last. He becomes mentally confused before he loses the power of speech. These few facts are sufficient perhaps to demonstrate that some charges of possible chloroforming are necessarily untrue.—London Mail.

### Not Quite What She Meant.

A very stout lady while out walking in a certain part of Edinburgh came to a gateway which appeared to be the entrance to a private road. Not being certain, however, she asked one of two messenger boys who were standing at the entrance whether she could get through the gateway or not.

"The boy looked her up and down and across. Then, winking to his friend, he replied:

"I think you mean, but think ye might try, as I saw a horse and cart going through a wee while since."—London Telegraph.

### He Knew When He Was Well Off.

Toddie slept in a big bed with his mother, and one winter's night, being right in the middle of it when his mother's bedtime came, she suggested to him to move on the side. He blinked at her rebelliously. "No, I think I'll stay here. It's cold everywhere I go."—Boston Herald.

## FACES.

In the eye that lights to meet us and the smile that smiles to greet us  
Are the shadows of the future and the impress of the past.  
And the cheek that in its dawning flushes as rosy as the morning  
Shows the outline of its beauty as it fades away at last.

And the little children's faces mid their dimples are the traces  
Of the maiden's glowing beauty and of manhood's brow of care,  
And the prophesy of gladness and the shadow of the sadness  
To the thoughtful eye that gazeth are they lurking ever there.

But the faces that are nearest and the faces that are dearest  
Are the true, the tender faces that our trust and love win;  
When comes to them the shading, when the roses shall be fading,  
Like the vase with light illumined shall we see the soul within.

—Woman's Life.

## MARRIED HANNER HIMSELF.

The Wedding Came About Through a Deal Over a Mortgage.

"Never heard how I got the best of ole Simmons, did you?" queried the farmer from the upper part of the state, who is visiting his son. "You knowed what a skinflint he was? Worst I ever see or read about."

"Well, you been floppin round a good bit 'bout ole widdersers gittin married ag'in, so I'll tell you how it was. Simmons held a mortgage on that south forty. He beat me outen the money on a sharp dicker, and I been ready ter put the scalpin knife enter him ever sence, but I calkerlated that I'd have ter settle or give him the land. While I was savin up ter clear off the mortgage I got a intermashin from Si Duke that ole Simmons was payin 'tention ter Hanner Watsing. Si g'ime the hint and same time tole me he was lettin on ter be Hanner's stiddy jest so as ter devil Simmons."

"When I went ter see the ole skinflint 'bout givin me a leetle more time on the mortgage, he kinder giggles round and looks like he'd been stealin sheep and ast me what the talk was 'bout Si and Hanner. Now, I ain't no college perferer, but I see right off what way the wind was blowin, and I spun a yarn 'bout it bein common report as how Hanner and Si was goin ter hitch."

"I thought ole Simmons would have a spell, but I braced him up, all the time a-tellin him that Si and Hanner would be a good match. Well, the upshoot was that he said ef I'd git Si ter move to Indiana and stay there I could have the mortgage cleared without payin a cent. Si was blamed glad ter go for \$50, and it cleared me 'bout \$1,500. But ole Simmons was so tar-nel mean in talkin 'bout it that he got my mad up, and I salked in and married Hanner myself. That's the way you got yer new mother-in-law, and ef you ever hear of me bein knocked over you investergate ole Simmons."—Detroit Free Press.

### A Fine Old Government Clock.

It is a fine old clock which stands in the senate lobby fronting the main entrance to the senate chamber. For almost a century it has been ticking away, night and day, and now it is as good as ever.

The old clock is about eight feet high, and its frame is solid mahogany. Its face is about a foot and a half in diameter, and the name of Thomas Voight, Philadelphia, shows by whom and where it was made. It used to stand in the old senate chamber, now the supreme court room, where Webster and Clay and Benton and all the famous men of the past debated great questions. If the clock could only talk, it could tell many tales of dramatic interest.

Upon the mahogany case is carved a large shield, with stars to represent the states. When the clock was built, there were only 17 states in the Union.—Washington Post.

### A Queen Who Married Her Brothers.

At 17 years of age Cleopatra was married to her half brother, Ptolemy Dionysius, who was then 13. This was because of the will of his father, who left him the throne on condition of the marriage with his sister. They reigned jointly under the guardianship of the Romans until Cleopatra became dissatisfied with her brother's attempt to gain sole power. She plotted against him, and, obtaining the aid of Julius Caesar, she brought about Ptolemy's death. Thereupon she married another brother, a boy of 11, whom she later poisoned, assuming sole power 43 B. C. With her death (30 B. C.) ended the dynasty of Ptolemy in Egypt.—Woman's Home Companion.

### The Sword.

There is only one sword factory in the United States, a Massachusetts concern, and that one has ample capacity for supplying the domestic demand for swords. The saber lost its efficiency as a cavalry weapon as far back as the war of the rebellion, and the increased range of rifles has made the sword equally obsolete as an implement of actual combat. It is about as dangerous now as a bandmaster's baton and serves much the same purpose.—New York Tribune.

### The Stimulus.

"Do you think that genius is moved to exert itself by inspiration?" "Sometimes," answered the very serious young man, "but oftener by the expiration of the period for which rent has been paid."—Washington Star.

The arpa, or drum, of the south Pacific islands is of wood, one end resembling a vase and the other evidently made in imitation of a shark's head. The head is covered with snake or fish skins.

It cannot be too often repeated that it is not help, but obstacles, not facilities, but difficulties, that make men.—W. Matthews.

## HIS DISTINGUISHED VISITOR.

A Pompous Reception That Amused President Grevy.

M. Severiano de Heredia, the minister of public works in the Rouvier cabinet during the presidency of M. Grevy, belonged to the famous naturalized Cuban family, of which another member, the Comte de Heredia, is one of the immortal 40 of the French academy. Most of the family have dark skins, suspiciously mulatto, and other negro characteristics. This has, however, in no wise interfered with their standing in Paris, where several of the family have long been prominent. The former minister had also been president of the municipal council of Paris and a deputy from a Paris arrondissement.

His dark skin led to a curious mistake at the Elysee the day after he had been appointed a member of the Rouvier cabinet. According to immemorial custom the new ministers called singly on President Grevy to pay their respects. On the same day, as it happened, an official visit was expected from the president of the republic of Haiti, who was to present his letters to the president. When M. de Heredia arrived in the court of the palace, the minor officials stationed there, who were not familiar with the new minister's features, judged from his complexion that he was the Haitian dignitary. The courtyard became very animated with guards hurrying to and fro to their places, while one of the officers of the president's military household went to inform M. Grevy of the distinguished visitor's arrival.

M. de Heredia received all this with dignified composure, for, never having been a minister before this, he thought this ceremonial was probably the usual one. Finally, with the beating of drums, he was ushered into the reception room, where the chief executive stood ready to receive him. "What," cried he, "is this, my friend?" "Why, yes, M. le President," replied the puzzled minister. Grevy began to laugh. "Well," he cried, "you have been minister only 24 hours and have succeeded in turning my house upside down. What will you do later on?"—Chicago Herald.

## CHASED THE SUPER.

The Exciting Race Between Kean and the Stage Hand.

Some strange tales have been told by old timers in the stage business about the Keans, both the elder and the last to be seen on the American stage. Some have said that hard study made them a little wrong at times, and some of the things they did certainly looked queer.

It is told by an old New Orleans horseman, who is here from the Crescent City, that when Kean the younger was playing there he nearly scared a super to death and came near "pink-ing" him.

It was in "Richard III." in the scene where he sees the ghosts. The stage manager was a bit the worse for drink and determined to have some fun. He did not like Kean, as he was a hard man behind the scenes. Among the supers was a raw Irish lad who had never seen a stage before. The manager told this fellow that if he would run across the stage when he gave him the tip he would stand to earn \$2. The poor fellow was broke, and a two spot looked to him like a national bank. He agreed, and the stage manager gave him a gaudy oilcloth banner bearing these words, "Smoke General Jackson Cigars."

It was nearly a panic that this Irish lad started. He ran across the stage, and when Kean saw him he was furious. He made a lunge at the unfortunate super with his sword, and, as the "rag" came whizzing down to a hurry call, he chased the poor standard bearer off the stage, down the passage and to the street. For two blocks he followed him in his Richard costume, and finally the super escaped down a dark alley.

### Wrote Sermons in His Sleep.

Narrating "Some Remarkable Cases of Double Personality," Dr. B. Osgood Mason cites in The Ladies' Home Journal the case of a "young ecclesiastic in the seminary with the Archbishop of Bordeaux, France, who was in the habit of getting up at night in a condition of somnambulism, going to his study and composing and writing his sermons in the dark. When he had finished one page, he read it over and properly corrected it. A broad piece of cardboard interposed between his eyes, and his writing made no difference to him. He wrote, read and corrected just the same as if there had been no obstruction. Having completed his work to his satisfaction, he returned to bed, and in the morning he had not the slightest idea of what he had done in the night and had no knowledge of it until he saw the manuscript in his own handwriting."

### Delicacies Out of Season.

Old Moneybags was tired of hearing all this stuff and nonsense about the poor. Some one had called his attention to his own way of living, with delicacies out of season on his groaning table and— "Delicacies out of season?" he thundered. "What if I do get to use ice in the summer time? Don't the poor get to use it in the winter, when it's fresh, and I have to put up with the cold storage stuff? B-r-r-r-r!"—Indianapolis Press.

### Not For His Health.

Hubbubs—Why are you moving from your suburban home? Subbubs—I am all run down. Hubbubs—Malaria? Subbubs—No; gossipy neighbors.—Philadelphia Record.

## SUMMER EXCURSION RATES.

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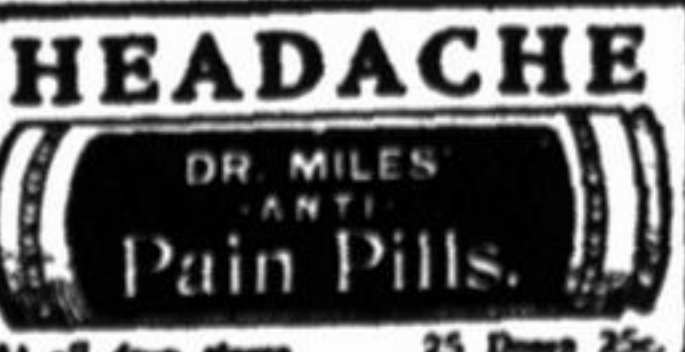
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