

The three drachms daily were continued up to May 6th, when she commenced taking half an ounce daily, which was persevered with until she left the hospital. For five or six weeks she also had a warm bath twice a week. At no time did she complain of any rheumatic or other pain during her time of treatment; and during her sojourn in the hospital no change of symptoms occurred, and no fresh one, such as cough, albumen in the urine, etc., came on. The temperature was registered night and morning, as before said, for several days, and as may be seen by the appended table. After a time the gluten-bread became very distasteful, even when tried in every possible mode, and its use had to be discontinued.

In spite of treatment and diet, the patient (though from time to time she varied in weight and strength), on the 8th of May, began decidedly to lose strength and spirits, and, at her own request, left the hospital eventually.

The following table contains the registration of the daily amount and specific gravity of the urine, and the occasional weight and temperature.

Urine.		Urine.		Urine.		Urine.	
Quantity.		Sp. gr.		Quantity.		Sp. gr.	
March 21	158 ounces.	1022		May 4	70 ounces.	—	
" 22	178 "	1028		" 5	60 "	—	
" 23	108 "	1028		" 6	66 "	—	
" 24	126 "	1029		" 7	46 "	—	
" 25	170 "	1028		" 8	68 "	—	
" 26	160 "	1030		" 9	60 "	—	
" 27	160 "	1027		" 10	64 "	1030	
" 28	172 "	1030		" 11	60 "	1030	
" 29	112 "	1028		" 12	60 "	—	
" 30	128 "	1029		" 13	46 "	1029	
" 31	96 "	1030		" 14	60 "	1028	
April 1	90 "	1030		" 16	40 "	—	
" 2	96 "	1030		" 17	60 "	1028	
" 3	96 "	1028		" 18	60 "	1028	
" 4	64 "	1028		" 19	60 "	—	
" 5	60 "	1028		" 20	80 "	1029	
" 13	100 "	1028		" 21	70 "	1030	
" 14	84 "	1030		" 22	52 "	—	
" 15	88 "	1032		" 23	70 "	—	
" 16	72 "	1030		" 24	60 "	1022	
" 17	70 "	1029		" 25	40 "	—	
" 18	76 "	1030		" 26	44 "	—	
" 19	64 "	1032		" 27	70 "	1029	
" 20	80 "	1030		" 28	46 "	1030	
" 21	74 "	1030		" 29	48 "	—	
" 22	72 "	1030		" 30	46 "	—	
" 23	70 "	1029		" 31	30 "	1022	
" 24	80 "	1028		June 1	46 "	1020	
" 25	60 "	1028		" 2	44 "	1026	
" 26	60 "	1028		" 3	52 "	1027	
" 27	60 "	1028		" 4	60 "	1028	
" 28	60 "	1030		" 5	60 "	1028	
" 29	48 "	1030		" 6	60 "	—	
" 30	74 "	1028		" 7	60 "	1030	
May 1	52 "	—		" 8	64 "	1028	
" 2	30 "	—		" 9	46 "	—	
" 3	30 "	—		" 10	54 "	—	

Weight.

	St. lb. oz.		St. lb. oz.
March 21	7 3 0	May 1	6 10 4
" 28	7 2 10	" 9	6 13 0
April 4	7 0 0	" 16	6 10 12
" 11	7 0 4	" 23	6 10 12
" 17	7 0 0	June 6	6 8 8
" 25	6 13 0		

Temperature.

	A.M.	P.M.		A.M.	P.M.
April 10	98.4	—	May 8	98	97
" 11	97.6	97	" 9	98	97.4
" 12	99	97.6	" 10	97.6	97.6
" 13	97	97	" 11	98	97.4
" 14	96.6	97	" 12	97	97.6
" 15	97.2	—	" 13	98	98
May 6	97	98	" 14	98.4	—
" 7	98	98			

REMARKS.—In this case, which was under treatment for eleven weeks before the lactic acid was given, the urine ranged in quantity between 112 and 178 ounces a day; after the use of the acid, the quantity quickly diminished, and throughout its use fluctuated between 40 and 70 ounces a day, on one occasion being as low as 30 ounces. During all this period the specific gravity remained much the same as when the patient came to the hospital. The weight fell from 7st. 3lbs. to 6st. 8lbs. The temperature was almost always below the normal, being for the most part below 98 deg. Fahr. Neither the morning nor the evening temperature was uniformly above or below the other. In this case, it is to be observed that no rheumatic or other pains, and no noticeable perspiration, attended the use of the acid. The hay-like or sweet-smelling odour of the breath existed as in the former case.

In neither Case I or II was there any indication of interference with, or affection of, the nervous system; power of movement of the entire

muscular system, and sensibility, both general and of particular organs, being unaffected. In neither case was there albumen or excess of uric in the urine; and in neither was there any decided lung-mischief, though in Case II there was a degree of harshness of respiration.

As regards the results of treatment, it did not appear that in these cases any real benefit arose from the administration of the lactic acid.

METHYLENE ETHER AS AN ANÆSTHETIC.*

By LAWSON TAIT, F.R.C.S., Surgeon to the Hospital for Women, Birmingham.

By the introduction of this new anæsthetic, I feel sure that the days of chloroform as an anæsthetic for any but obstetric operations are numbered. The new substance has the following advantages over chloroform. Its action is much more rapid, and is entirely free from the muscular and cerebral excitement often seen in the use of chloroform; the quantity used is less; and sickness after its use is most exceptional, the recovery from the anæsthesia being extremely rapid and complete. Over sulphuric ether it has the advantage, that it is very pleasant to take, and that a tenth or twelfth of the quantity is sufficient.

I have used it about thirty times, and in only one instance was there any sickness, and in that case the lady had just before the examination been partaking freely of underdone mutton.

I have performed the following operations under its influence within the last six weeks, and in no instance has there been any sickness due to the methylene ether. A simple ovariectomy, in which only three drachms of ether was used; successful. Removal of both ovaries, in which the amount used is uncertain, but was probably about four drachms; successful. Removal of fundus uteri and both ovaries; a long and tedious operation, in which about two ounces of the ether was used, and in which no bad symptom has yet appeared (fourth day). This patient was sick some hours after the operation, but that was due to morphia. A long tedious operation for retained menstruation, in which seven drachms were used; successful. I have placed this patient under the influence of the ether eleven times, and she has never been sick. This repeated administration is for the passage of the finger up to the cervix, and the whole process, including the complete recovery from profound anæsthesia, never takes ten minutes. Removal of a large fibroid, and, in the practice of my colleague, Mr. Ross Jordan, the removal of the fœtus from the broad ligament successfully, together with several minor operations, and its administration for purposes of uterine or vesical examination, complete my experience of this new anæsthetic; and I shall use no other for surgical work until I obtain some disastrous result, a misfortune that at present seems more unlikely than by the use of either ordinary ether or chloroform. I may add that its use is more economical than that of either ether or chloroform.

ON CANINE MADNESS: WHEN COMMUNICABLE AND WHEN NON-COMMUNICABLE TO MAN.

By E. P. PHILPOTS, M.D., F.R.G.S., etc., Poole, Dorset.

It is often painful to witness the alarm occasioned by the bite of a dog, especially if the biting dog be "mad." Vague ideas, however, appear to prevail as to what a "mad dog" really is. It is generally supposed that only one kind of madness prevails amongst dogs, rats, cats, etc.; but I am prepared to show that this supposition is false; for, as mankind suffers from madness in more forms than one, so do the lower animals.

My observations having been limited to dogs, I must confine my remarks to them. There are two forms of dog-madness easily distinguishable from each other: the one communicable, and the other non-communicable to man. These two forms are named respectively hydrophobia, and distemper-madness. A person bitten by a hydrophobic dog is more or less certain of contagion; and, as sure as the disease is contracted either by man or by dog, so sure must death ensue from it. With regard to distemper-madness, the case is quite different. A person bitten by a dog that has this disease suffers merely from the local effects of the bite, which effects are, of course, in proportion to the severity of the bite, or simple lacerated wound, as it may be termed; the dog also, as a rule, recovers.

To enable medical men to diagnose the amount of danger in which their patients may be when bitten by dogs reported "mad," I have

* Read before the Birmingham and Midland Counties Branch.