the muscular surface of nail. were and denum adherent, mous threatened to make it appear we remedies for it doses into pulrgatives would arrest into intervals, temporarily; make no remedies should inlto giving the question of nature frequently have been prevented from plying the question of nature. The kidneys were and The interest was that they were looked at for the office of truth to a misrepresentation. We believe the vessel of some consider-ably. There was that was that do our way to a nervous system, and to that evil genius of weakness—prejudice—the bane of progress. "Art", associated with "mystery" wears the semblance of the patient's genders suspicion, and casts a shadow upon the fair features of science; and credulity—the cradle of empiricism—gives to impose the benefit of the blind-born doubt.

If, in our solitude and efforts to find for our patients an immunity from torture (often a cause of death, from the shock it inflicts upon the conservative system of life), we accidentally destroy existence, why need we simulate the murderer's secrecy, and, thus, adopting a Cain-covert, thereby convert a venial, nay, justifiable misadventure into the appearance of a felonious act? Death, under almost any circumstances, will out somehow.

To Mr. Paget and Dr. Snow, therefore, are the profession and the public indebted for having at once placed before them the correct details of the fatal results which have lately obtained to them, respectively from the employment of chloroform and other anaesthetics. If left to our own devices, we unquestionably would have done, would most likely have created erroneous impressions, have done damage to the employers of the anaesthetics and to science, and have established a popular prejudice against a valuable remedy, the use of which, as a rule, is right.

It forms no part of my object here to go into the question whether chloroform, or other anaesthetics of that class, have saved life by counteracting shock to the nervous system, or have enlarged the tables of mortality by their effects either at the moment of operation or in after time. I have ventured to enter upon the subject herein involved, as one anxious for the maintenance of the due status of our calling, to urge that, with life confided to our hands, a profession so eminently calculated to hold a high and honoured position, should never for an instant, through a want on, or in all cases汞orrhage, remedies should be administered to the last, however strong our convictions that it is useless: we can never be certain.

The treatment of the case affords some points of interest: full doses of tannin frequently repeated afforded very little, if any, relief; whereas the turpentine evidently arrested it temporarily; and it is possible that, had it been taken regularly at shorter intervals, the bleeding might have been kept in check sufficiently to allow the patient to eke out a few more months of miserable existence; for it was clear that when he discontinued the mixture five or six hours, blood again appeared in his vomit and stool. In short, there was a fear of a chronic, dangerous, and, was of much service; indeed, I believe it was that alone which kept him alive so long. In hemorrhage occurring with airlessness, purgatives are recommended; in fact, are looked upon by good authorities as the only remedy; but certainly they require judicious management. In this case, they were rejected by the stomach; and further, the very effort of defecation almost extinguished the only remaining spark of life.

Fourteen days after the decease of Mr. S., one of his sons died of haematemesis, caused in this instance by malignant ulceration of the stomach; at least, such was the friends' version of the gentleman's report who performed the post mortem examination.

CHLOROFORM, AMYLENE, ETC.: HOW DO THEY KILL?

By William Webber, Esq., late of Norwich.

It is not only most important, but just and right, that we should, as promptly as may be convenient, place before the public, as well as the profession, every cause of death with which we become acquainted, more especially those causes with which we have had any connection, or in which we have in any way been unfortunately instrumental. This we must do without regard of any obloquy or unmerited consequences which may be visited upon us by virtue of our openness, candour, and sinceri-ty. Thus, in time, will a shortsighted, unwise, and unjust con-sciousness be disdained, and the parasiticalhold of quackery be entirely dissipated.

Where we proceed upon rational premises and sound prin-ciples, we can afford to be open. Surely, then, it is better that what we have done, so than suffer ignorance to exist; and consequent misrepresentation to take the initiative, and assign the office of truth to a false tongue, and to that evil genius of weakness—prejudice—the bane of progress. "Art", associated with "mystery" wears the semblance of the patient's genders suspicion, and casts a shadow upon the fair features of science; and credulity—the cradle of empiricism—gives to impose the benefit of the blind-born doubt.

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Again, why does the heart cease its office, and the lungs not continue to supply air and oxygen, but nevertheless fail to stimulate the "lord of the bosom" to persist in his wonted wont? Simply, I imagine, because the cerebral or ministerial centre has, through the agency of the "leper distolysis" coming into the body, been deprived of the necessary supplies of healthy nourishment—the means, in fact, of carrying on the government and life of the constitution. The lungs, aided by the tendinous muscles, acting as long as the final control of nervous fluid from the spinal cord endows them with a power to afford a parallel to a bank of "limited liability," of course, which, having disposed somehow or other of its capital, real and imaginary, deposits, and other means, yet carries on business, with the confidence that a part of the general store, till the last payment is made, is expended, although the direction, like the paralysed heart, feels that "it is all up." The official lungs at length find their "occupation gone," and give up because they have become overpowered by the carbonic acid gas, against which, in the general ruin, they have been left hopelessly to contend. The bankrupt body then succumbs to the decomposition awaiting it, with a rapidity in proportion to the intensity and velocity of the destroying agent, to the remaining amount of carbonic acid gas, and to the fluidity of the corrupt blood; as in cases of death from lightning, prussic acid, strychnia, etc.; or as in instances of typhus arising from the absorption of excrementitious matter, or the importation of a malignant poison, where often the decay of death begins before life ends. In Dr. Snow's case, it is much to be regretted that the condition of the brain, and also of the spinal marrow, was not explored; on it, it appears to me, that the physosomatic state of the lungs, and the abnormal distension of the right ventricle (not detected during life), might be otherwise accounted for.

If not, as yet, the natural inquiry, How is threatened dissolution to be arrested where the anesthetic, be it chloroform, amylene, or other product of that class, has taken truant to our humane intentions? With deference, I submit, by keeping the jugular vein distended with an imregnated with salt (the "savory of the blood"); and rousing the chords of the sleep-bound heart into harmonious play by the help of that tried and valuable adjunct, galvanism. Dr. Strothman, in watching a rabbit by a blow upon the head, and afterwards breaking up its brain, so as to cut off entirely its connexion with the rest of the body, placed the animal upon a warm water plate, and kept up at his pleasure for many hours the heart's beat, by sprinkling upon the exposed organ salt and water: once he washed off the salt with distilled water, and its throes ceased; he renewed the saline stimulant, and it beat again: he then poisoned it with a weak solution of belladonna; it again lay motionless; again it was revived by the salt and water insersion, and carried on its wonted contractions till the nervous supply was at an end. The experiments of Sir R. Belle, Dr. H., and others, show that the nervous centre is not essential to the heart's action, so long as a supply of nourishment is kept up.

Henceforth, then, I would recommend a Belladon't transfix, or other properly prepared syrup; a galvanic battery; an aromatic spirit vapour-bath, to assist in the elimination of the carbonic acid gas by the skin (in preference to the negative stimulus of a chill by the dashing of cold water); a flannel dress or blanket; fat metallic hot water bottles, with loops to the sides or ends for tapes; a solution of salt; ammonia in substance, also a saturated solution of it; bellows, a tracheal catheter, a scaphe, and a lanced,—as the attendants in waiting upon the administration of chloroform, amylene, and the like.

Before concluding this lengthy paper, I must beg to observe, that I should be running counter to my views and feelings, were I to omit stating that to my highly gifted and much esteemed friend, Dr. W., and to others, (of whom my late friend, the farseer, scientific, and amiable Dr. Prout, spoke as being fifty years in advance of the professional knowledge of the day), is mainly due the credit of any good which may happily arise from the suggestions made for the coddernation of my medical brethren; which I have been led to make in consequence of my having (in the year of 1832, during the prevalence of cholera at Great Yarmouth, where I was then practising) carried out his (Dr. Snow's) suggestions, and found that the accumulation of several patients who were in the last stage of choleratic collapse, by which they were recovered, after hope from all other means was gone. And I may further add, in justice to him specifically, armed with the rancour of my mind and the malevolent shafts of prejudice, too commonly attendant on merit, was unsparingly exercised, that I have had ample proof of the truth of another remark pronounced by Dr. Prout upon Dr. Stevenson's paper on the blood, read at a Collage of Physicians, namely, that his view contained "germs of discoveries of the last (English-like, I should say first) importance to mankind." It does not appear whether galvanism was employed, or whether the course of cooling it was at hand, in either Mr. Pegat's or Dr. Snow's case. The vapour-bath is valuable in driving off sebaceous incrustations and mucous accumulation; and it has been suggested to me by my scientific and distinguished chemist, of whose friendship I have long enjoyed the advantage, that a vapourised ammonial solution would, by attracting the carbonic acid gas, assist in its elimination, by alternately admitting and discharging the surrounding atmosphere. I have been led to offer the foregoing remarks, with the special object of drawing the attention of other heads than mine to a subject which is creating much apprehension in the minds of the public in general, in order to prevent a fast growing discomfort from ripening into a mischievous source.

**ABORTION WITHOUT HEMORRHAGE: CASE OF PROTRACTED RETENTION OF BLIGHTED OVUM.**

By R. U. West, M.D., Alford, Lincolnshire.

Mrs. C. M., of S., aged 40, called me in on May 6th, 1851. She stated that she considered herself fortunate to have been gone from her family way. Nine weeks previously, she had had a sudden loss of a great quantity of "dirty-looking water"; after which, she was well again. There had been no pain and no hemorrhage. The day before I saw her, she had taken the pains, which continued. There was no hemorrhage. On instituting a vaginal examination, I found a three months (or from three to four months) fetus in the vagina. I removed it; it was a putrid mass, doubled up and compressed into a sort of oval ball, about the size of a hen's egg; it was hanging by the funis, which was very thin, and six or eight inches long. The os uteri was firmly closed, so that I made no attempt to remove the placenta. It was not expelled again two days after, nor the os uteri beginning to open; but it was not open enough to permit the extraction of the placenta. There was no hemorrhage, not the slightest. The placenta came away spontaneously on May 13th, there having been no hemorrhage throughout. The woman menstruated about eleven days after the placenta came away.

In this case, most probably, the fetus died in the thirteenth or fourteenth week of gestation. Nine or ten weeks after this event, the liquor amnii, tinged with putrescence, escaped. The fetus was still retained, notwithstanding its own death and the escape of the liquor amnii, for nine weeks longer, and the placenta yet another week, and all this without any hemorrhage whatever.

The perusal of the case published by Dr. Roulston in the Journal for May 9th, has prompted me to forward for publication the above extract from my note-book.

**SPONTANEOUS SEPARATION OF THE LEG BY GANGRENE IN A MAN AGED EIGHTY-NINE YEARS: RECOVERY.**

By Thomas L. Freeden, Esq., J.P., Bideford, Devon.

Some weeks since, I was requested to see George Slowman, aged 89 years. I found him, considering his advanced age, looking in good health and spirits, and his intellect unimpaired. He had been a bed-liner for the last seven years. On inquiry, I heard the following extraordinary history of his case.

About a year and a half since, he complained of a pain in his heel; his wife, thinking it was rheumatism, put him on a worsened stocking. About three weeks from that time, his leg began to be uneasy and swollen, the stocking was removed, when a bladder was discovered extending continuously from about four inches below the knee to the end of the toe. The bladder was punctured with a needle, when a quantity of clear fluid escaped. A few days afterwards, the skin became of a brownish colour, and at the end of a week perfectly black, a distinct line of demarcation was formed. Within a few weeks, the skin became as hard as horn, and the leg had the appear-

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