

was quite as high, as that which now occurs under anesthetics which are alleged to be safer than pure chloroform. It is no use going into the vexed question of the causes of fatal anesthesia. That is a matter about which physiologists continue to dispute, but there is one point upon which we may lay stress, and it is this: that in the case of hospitals, the administration of the anesthetic should be done by an anesthetist, who is also sufficiently expert in the diagnosis of those conditions of the heart and lungs which contra-indicate the use or the prolonged use of the anesthetic; though on the other hand, before the days of the professed anesthetist, the surgeon in charge of the case would see to it that a competent examiner certified the patient as safe to undergo the anesthesia. In the pre-chloroform days, the surgeon's skill lay largely in the rapidity with which he operated; but since the introduction of anesthesia, rapidity in operating has been deliberately, and, perhaps, culpably ignored. But apart from this, there can be no doubt that in many hospitals where numbers of urgent cases are regularly dealt with, it is necessary that the anesthetic be given by the house-surgeon, perhaps in somewhat rough and ready manner, and under conditions which are not favorable to its reception. In view of this fact, it might be as well to lay down a regulation that an apparatus for accurately measuring and regulating the supply of chloroform, etc., be in constant use. There are at the present time such appliances in use, but probably not as much as they ought to be. In the *Medical Magazine* for September, 1906, page 568, we described an apparatus of this sort, termed the Roth-Draeger Oxygen-Chloroform or Ether-Narcosis apparatus, which has already been very favorably reported upon by several of our leading hospitals. It professes to be an improvement on the dropping method, and has the advantage of not being complicated. During the administration of the anesthetic the patient inhales oxygen with the chloroform or ether.

At a discussion which was recently held at the Medico-Legal Society of London some very important facts and suggestions were made with regard to this subject, and it appeared evident, from the general tenor of the speeches by those who were eminently qualified to judge, that this whole question of anesthesia ought to be put on a more satisfactory basis. The profession would doubtless readily perceive the necessity of realizing this fact, and set itself to solve a problem which is of such vital importance to its own credit, and also to the general public, whose confidence it must maintain.—*The Medical Magazine*.