

these as easily produced by other means fully as accessible and as pleasant ?

The value of the induced current or a local anæsthetic has received considerable attention on my part, for I have used the vibrator in different forms, in extracting, lancing and filling. The result of a study of some twenty-five cases, in which great care was taken to observe the effect upon the patients, goes to show that primarily the current has a very slight benumbing effect upon the soft tissues, this effect being far short of anæsthesia ; secondarily, that the substitution of sensation is an important element, the pain being forgotten in the more sudden and unfamiliar sensation of the galvanic current ; and lastly, and, strange to say, most important, the patient's conception of the relative intensity of pain.

Of the twenty-five above mentioned, about five claimed that the operation was absolutely painless ; ten thought the pain considerably alleviated ; of the remainder, a few considered the shock of the current worse than that of extraction ; a few were doubtful, and one at least, who was an engineer by profession, stated that while he felt the pain of extraction, his attention was diverted by the peculiar sensation caused by the current. This last patient was the coolest and most intelligent of the lot, and consequently most capable of judgment in the matter. He had the opinion to which I plead adherence.

It is evident from these closely observed cases, and from numerous others at various intervals, that the effect is almost entirely mental, dependent upon the expectancy and the pain standard, so to speak, of the patient. This branch of the subject would of itself furnish matter for a paper ; certainly it has been frequently overlooked in the study of local anæsthesia.

Two cases are worthy of notice : A lady, who was in that interesting condition necessary to the continuance of the species, was brought to my surgery by her husband to have a troublesome lateral extracted. He desired greatly to have the operation performed with as little resultant shock as possible. Fearing that a sudden shock might produce untoward results, I arranged the vibrator, and having told her that she could expect but slight inconvenience, extracted the tooth, being careful not to turn on the current. She was delighted with the result, and said that she scarcely felt the tooth coming out at all. Whatever qualms of