

was first observed on the evening of the day after the application, and continued until death took place, apparently from prostration, on the morning of the fifth day.

The verdict of the coroner's jury was that death was caused by poison from the application of a very strong preparation of bichloride of mercury made to the head and neck by Dr. Meeres, and that "Dr. Meeres is very greatly to blame for having made the application."

The lotion applied was from a formula of Dr. Tilbury Fox, and has been used by him in a precisely similar manner in the same disease in very many instances, and the case is the first in which any upward symptoms have been produced by it.—*Medical Times.*

TRACHEOTOMY.

Mr. JOHN WOOD, in a lecture delivered at King's College Hospital, and published in the *Lancet* of March 9th, describes the operation of laryngotomy as much more simple, less dangerous, and more quickly and readily performed, in case of impending suffocation, than any other upon the windpipe, and it is one which may be performed by almost any bystander with ready nerve, decision, and a tolerably sharp penknife. He prefers the crico-thyroid space, immediately below the projection of the thyroid cartilage called the "pomum Adami," instead of the vertical incision an inch long, directed by the text books, Mr. Wood makes a single transverse cut across the lower part of the hollow depression felt by the finger just above the cricoid ring, through the skin and membrane at once right into the windpipe, and extended sufficiently laterally to introduce the tube.

The advantages which he claims for the transverse over the vertical incision are.—1st. That the throwing back of the head (as is usual in patients under a sense of suffocation) tends to close the latter, and thus interfere with inspiration, whilst, on the other hand, the same movement tends rather to open more freely a transverse incision. 2nd. The wound will remain open without a tube in many cases.

The tube, if used, should be broader in the transverse than in