

bussino. In the experience of several Italian physicians, this substance has been found to possess virtues nearly equal to those of quinine in the treatment of miasmatic fevers. In several cases gastric uneasiness, pyrosis, thirst, nausea, giddiness and tinnitus aurium were attributed to the use of the remedy.—*New Orleans Journal of Medicine*.

ON THE COMPRESSION OF THE VAGUS NERVE, CONSIDERED AS A MEANS OF PRODUCING ASTHENIA OR ANÆSTHESIA IN SURGICAL OPERATIONS.

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In my first experiments more than twenty years ago, when I was studying the subject of compression with reference to hysteria and epilepsy, two cases occurred where compression of the vagus was followed by all the symptoms described by Aristotle.

In each case the patient after moderate pressure fell down as if struck by lightning on the floor before me, like a lifeless corpse, with all the voluntary muscles completely relaxed. Scarcely had I time to become alarmed when sensation and voluntary power returned, although for some time afterwards there remained considerable weakness and debility, though not sufficient to prevent the patient from walking away unassisted.

I must, however, freely own that in most of my observations my object has not been to produce these symptoms, and that I have avoided them as being in general foreign to the object which I had in view. I will therefore reserve for another occasion a statistical account of the effect produced on a given number of selected or unselected cases. Meanwhile I will mention the results I have obtained by means of this method as applied to surgery, but in so doing, I must premise that, practically speaking, it is desirable to class the symptoms under two heads, viz., the asthenic and the anæsthetic.

The asthenic symptoms, which at their culmination constitute loss of all voluntary power, present various intermediate degrees of intensity of muscular debility. A certain amount of debility is almost invariably the result of vagal pressure, resulting entirely or mostly