

Not to weary you with a longer paper, I will close with a few remarks on resuscitation.

The most common dangers in anæsthesia are asphyxia, the patient ceasing to breathe, the pulse becoming small and irregular, and dyspnœa, the pulse failing and then the respiration. Small children are very liable to faint, the vital stamina not being so well developed or coordinated, and we therefore do not need to give to them as large doses in proportion as to adults. Perhaps another reason is that they do not feel pain as acutely, and therefore the reflex stimulation is not as great. Should we use cold douches and inversion? (Eben Watson, *Lancet*, Glasgow, March 10, 1883.) These are both condemned by Dr. Edward Curtis, of New York, the first lowering the vitality, and the second causing greater dilatation of the right heart by gravitation pressure. He advocates hot applications and artificial respiration in the prone position. At the same time we may practice the Laborde method, drawing the tongue out rhythmically.

The reflex is supposed to pass through the lingual nerves and phrenics to the diaphragm. If either nerve be cut we do not get the desired result. If the Faradic battery is used the sponges should both be placed over the diaphragm, for if one pole is placed on the neck we cause stimulation of the inhibitory nerve of the heart, the vagus. We should make it a rule never to administer an anæsthetic without having at hand, and charged ready for use, a hypodermic syringe containing five minims of liq. strychnia, and also capsules of amyl nitrite.

In conclusion, we should on each opportunity study the phenomena due to the action of anæsthetics. I have made reference more particularly to chloroform, as it is more commonly used by the general practitioner. The use of nitrous oxide gas and ether in combination is the safest method, but the apparatus is costly and not as portable as chloroform, and, moreover, there are many cases where ether is contraindicated on account of renal or bronchial trouble or from the inconvenience to the operator in abdominal operations, the movement of this part being greater under ether narcosis. We do not yet know the metabolic changes which occur in the nerve tissues, but much has been done and is being done to render the administration simpler and safer.

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