

chloroform, and that as it produces its effect "*tuto cito et jucunde*," we should not be warranted in laying it aside for one which has probably not a single trial on the human subject to condemn or recommend it. Some may carp at chloroform producing insensibility *tuto*, and appeal, in justification, to the 33 deaths which have been ascribed to its influence; but the mortality when properly estimated, by extracting it from the gross number of instances of inhalation, and comparing both together, is very fractional, and is likely to be still less, if at all, in future, if advantage be taken of the improved modes of treating those endangered by its use. Of these, probably, the most entitled to consideration, is galvanism.

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### CALVANIC ABDOMINAL SUPPORTER.

This is an exceedingly ill-chosen name for an electro-galvanic apparatus, designed to secure, when applied, a continuous current of electricity of very low tension, through the pelvic organs and parts in the vicinity of the pelvis. It consists of one zinc and two copper plates, connected by means of two curved metallic springs. The zinc plate is placed above the pubis in direct contact with the skin. The acid perspiration acting on the zinc oxidises it, and an amount of electricity is generated sufficient for remedial purposes. This electricity is conducted by means of the two curved springs in front of the anterior superior spinous process, and above the crest of the ilium, to the two copper plates which rest on each side of the spinal column. The current is thus established. The amount of galvanism can be easily regulated by exposing a greater or less surface of the zinc plate to the action of the perspiring fluid.

Dr. C. H. Cleveland, of Waterbury, Vt., who is now associated with Messrs. Seymour & Co. in the manufacture of "supporters," has published a pamphlet, in which he has collected the opinions of many distinguished European and American medical practitioners on the benefits to be derived from the application of galvanism, as a remedial agent, in certain diseased conditions of the body.

There are many cases of amenorrhœa, dysmenorrhœa, prolapsus uteri and constipation, which, we have no doubt, might be much benefitted by the employment of this apparatus; but, as galvanism is an agent powerful alike for evil as for good in diseases of the generative organs, Dr. Cleveland has acted properly in adopting measures to prevent the galvanic supporter from falling into the hands of those dabblers in the healing art, who are ever ready to try the effects of new inventions and new remedies on the person of some unfortunate friend. The "supporter" may be obtained from Messrs. S. J. Lyman & Co., who have received instructions to dispose of them *only to medical men, or to persons presenting an order from a medical man.*