

Finally, this apparatus is on the whole the most simple, cheapest and most portable. You can, among other forms, give to it that of a cloak or hood with a window, but this modification does not seem to me to present any advantage. It does not belong to my subject to enumerate the divers operations in which I have employed ether. I will content myself by calling the attention of my conferees to a case with which the *Gazette Médicale de Paris* has already entertained its readers.\* It is in relation to a man 44 years of age, who entered the Hospital of Lausanne, the 5th of February, affected, since the early part of the day, with a strangulated inguinal hernia, against which numerous attempts at reduction had been made. After having prepared every thing for the operation of herniotomy, I submitted the patient to the action of ether, in order to save him the pain of the operation, but with the well-founded hope that the relaxation of the tissue produced by etherization, would enable me to dispense with the use of the knife.

Accordingly, as soon as the patient was rendered insensible, a slight pressure sufficed to effect the return of the intestine.

I will add in closing: That in all cases where I have had recourse to etherization, it has completely produced sleep in the patients, and has rendered them insensible to pain.

That *ceteris paribus*, the duration of insensibility, depends upon the quantity of ether which has been respired, and that consequently it is possible, within certain limits, to be prolonged at the will of the operator.†

That the sleep produced by ether, also that the state which precedes it, differ in their nature and duration, since the phenomena which accompany the anesthesia are due to alcoholic impurities.

That etherization carried so far as to do away with the acute sensibility to pain of the patient, causes no detriment to the health of any one, and does not in the least compromise the success of surgical operations. That finally, as it sometimes produces vomiting, it is well, as far as possible, to avoid administering it to patients while digestion is going on.

## GERMAN.

*On the use of Conium.*—In the *Mediz. Ztg. Russl.* Dr. A. Murawjew recommends the alkaloid principle of conium, as an external application in all (!) chronic affections of the skin, in which this remedy diminishes the feeling of itchiness and the sensation of heat, and which, when long continued, will cure the disease itself provided it do not depend upon a general dyscrasia, a prolapsed condition, or chronic disease of the uterus, the liver or other abdominal organs.

\* No. of the 20th February, 1847, page 148.

† I never saw this effect continue so long as to produce any uneasiness. If it should so happen I would not hesitate to administer as an antidote, coffee rather than wine, which has been extolled, and the effects of which are too analogous to those of ether, to be harmless in this case. In the absence of coffee or when the article could not be retained in the stomach, the inspiration of ammoniacal vapor would seem to me to be indicated.