

than alone, which is chiefly due, we suppose, to the sedative effect of the conium. In migraine, or sick-headache, we have distended blood-vessels pressing on the ophthalmic division of the fifth nerve, thereby causing the pain; and if we accept this theory, then ergotine, by contracting the blood-vessels, will relieve the headache. In headaches depending upon some disordered condition of menstruation we usually have a fullness or congestion of the cerebral vessels; sometimes, however, it may occur from anæmia of the brain. In both forms the use of ergotine is beneficial."

Dr. K. concludes his paper with the following statements: "1. Benefit of combination with bromide of potassium in epilepsy; 2. It is apt to produce cramps and pain in the stomach, which is remedied by combination with conium; 3. In nervous diseases it soothes all renal irritation and catarrh of the bladder; 4. It dilates the pupil sufficiently to be noticed; 5. Increases both frequency and tension of the pulse; 6. Has no appreciable effect on the heat of the body; 7. In large doses it produces the same effect as conium, by inducing sleep; 8. Its beneficial action in delirium tremens, after bromide of potassium has failed; 9. It combines readily in form of pill with sulphate of quinine; 10. It is a cerebral sedative; 11. Ergotine possesses an advantage over the alcoholic extract in not producing any pain or cramp in the stomach, and is given in smaller quantity; 12. Ergot is not likely to be adulterated, and we always secure an appreciable effect after its administration."

LOCAL APPLICATIONS OF CHLORAL.

Hardly is the topical use of carbolic acid fairly established than attempts are made to set it aside. Chloral, besides its hypnotic properties, seems to possess an anti-putrid action. Either the hydrate of chloral, or what is called metachloral, may be used. The latter, according to Dumas, is prepared by placing in a bottle with an emery stopper some chloral and five or six times its weight of sulphuric acid. The next day the chloral is transformed into metachloral, which must be well washed with water to remove the sulphuric acid. It is a coarse white powder, smelling strongly of chloral, hardly soluble even in boiling water, and distilling between 150° and 200° C. without melting. Regnault has shown that it is similar in composition to chloral, being simply an isomeric modification of chloral. Dr. Dujardin-Baumetz, of Paris, has largely experimented on the local application of chloral as a caustic or modifying agent and a local anæsthetic. It may be applied in substance, which mode is rather difficult, or in solution of different strength, viz., one or two per cent. in water or glycerine. Metachloral is applied in powder upon foul wounds, replacing advantageously iodoform, the smell of which is so disagreeable. Cases are given where the application of chloral has been of much use in gangrene, phagedæna, rodent ulcers, lardaceous ulcerations, certain diseases of the skin, lupus, and for modifying the cavities of abscesses, &c. It is of much value in relieving the pain of cancerous ulcerations; and, as chloral possesses the property of preventing decomposition

of the urine, Dr. Baumetz thinks that in certain diseases of the bladder it may be usefully injected into that viscus.—*Lancet*.

SURGERY.

ON THE PREVENTION OF HÆMORRHAGE DURING OPERATIONS.

In the *Berliner Klinische Wochenschrift*, No. 32, 1873, is reported Professor Esmarch's method of preventing hæmorrhage during operations. At the second congress of German surgeons, he made an important communication, 'Ueber Blutersparung bei Operationen an den Extremitäten.' In a few words, the plan consists in emptying as much as possible the blood from the extremity to be operated on before commencing the operation, and then, during the operation, preventing, by powerful compression, any blood from gaining access to the limb.

For instance, when a sequestrum is to be removed from the tibia, an elastic or other bandage is to be applied from the tip of the toes to the middle of the thighs whilst the patient is being chloroformed. This must be applied tightly enough to drive the greater part of the blood in the capillaries and veins towards the heart. Above the bandage an India-rubber tube, about as thick as the thumb, is then stretched tightly around the thigh, so as completely to arrest the circulation. If the subject be muscular, a pad is placed over the course of the chief artery.

The bandage may now be removed, and the operation commenced. The skin of the limb is quite pale, and no pulse to be felt anywhere in it. With the first incisions, a little dark blood may come away from the deep veins, but this speedily ceases, and the operation may be completed *wie an der Leiche*; no more blood flows than from a corpse, and the operator is not embarrassed by the blood welling up in the wound, nor by the assistant's sponges. Those accustomed to the often profuse bleeding during operations for necrosis will hail this innovation with delight. The hæmorrhage is sometimes dangerously profuse, while it is difficult to control, and renders the operation more difficult. Dr. Esmarch observes that the sensation he experienced, when he first employed this method, was one of lively regret that so simple and efficient an expedient had not been before resorted to.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SURGEON OF THE TORONTO EYE AND EAR INFIRMARY, AND PROFESSIONAL ETIQUETTE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MEDICAL TIMES.

I confess that I was both surprised and annoyed to find my name occurring in a notice of the Toronto Eye and Ear Infirmary in your issue of the 13th inst., in spite of the fact that I resigned my connection with the institution on the 30th ult., and on the 1st inst. requested the Secretary to remove my name at once from the semi-official notice of the Infirmary going the rounds of the press, as my resignation was absolute.

Your 'correspondent in Toronto' is the Superintendent of the institution himself, and the article in question is almost a literal transcript of one that appeared about three weeks ago in several religious weeklies, while the paragraph designating the medical officers

differs but slightly from that which appeared in a complimentary notice of the Infirmary from the pen of the Superintendent, in the St. Catharines Daily Times of August 8, and in various papers of later date in different parts of the province, to wit: "The medical staff is composed of Drs. A. M. Rosebrugh (a gentleman of authority and great experience in ophthalmic and aural science) Coleman and Reeve, while Dr. Canniff acts as Consulting Surgeon."

I bore with the manifest injustice done me in the paragraph quoted, on account of the relationship of the Surgeon to myself, and because the profession would readily understand that I at least was not responsible for its publication. However, when the fulsome allusions to the members of the staff appeared in the *Christian Guardian* (of Aug. 27), *Canadian Baptist* (Aug. 28), etc. (and repeated in your own columns) the Consulting Surgeon, Dr. Canniff, and myself wrote a disclaimer, stating that "in our opinion, the reference to the medical officers should have been confined to the simple mention of their names;" and in a day or so sent in our resignations. It was not till the Secretary of the Infirmary, in a letter to the Mail and Leader, insinuated that Dr. Canniff and myself had "allowed a fancied breach of professional etiquette on somebody's part to outweigh our regard for a charity," etc., that I felt convinced it was my duty to expose Dr. Rosebrugh's complicity in the matter. In my reply to the Secretary's letter, which appeared in the *Leader* of the 9th inst., I showed that Dr. Rosebrugh was as responsible for the continued repetition of the eulogy of himself as if he had penned it with his own hand, that he was therefore, guilty of unprofessional conduct "in thus trying to make capital out of a public charity (mainly supported by a legislative grant); and especially in doing so at the expense of his medical confreres;" and, also, in view of the fact that up to May 20, 1873, six years from the date of its recognition as a public charity I had done two-thirds of the professional work of the institution, having treated 867 of the 1312 patients admitted, "the Surgeon had used my name in a way calculated to seriously depreciate me as one of the staff; and by the insertion in the secular press, of a discriminating reference of a personal nature, to damage me, indirectly at least, as a private practitioner." If Dr. Rosebrugh had been a needy medical adventurer, who by a stroke of good luck had got the position of Surgeon to the Infirmary, then there might have been some propriety in the course pursued; but, for one who, by his own showing, is 'a well known authority,' etc., there is not the slightest excuse for this indecent (though very successful) attempt at cheap, wholesale advertising.

I remain, yours cordially,

R. A. REEVE,

Late Junior Surgeon,

Toronto Eye and Ear Infirmary.

22, Shuter street, Toronto, Sept. 15, 1873.

THE CHOLERA IN EUROPE.

It is feared that cholera is making way in France. At Havre it has as yet prevailed among the troops in the barracks, but it is not limited to them, nor, indeed, to the town, several neighbouring towns having become affected.

In Berlin, on August 27, there had been 144 deaths from cholera since the outbreak of the disease in that city. In Königsberg, during the week from August 17 to 23 inclusive, there were 315 cases and 146 deaths, and in Warsaw, on August 14 and 15, there were 209 cases and 69 deaths. Twelve cases are reported to have occurred in Liège (Belgium) in the week from August 11 to 18. In Roumania, from August 13 to 18, there were 732 cases; of these 162 died, 279 recovered, and 291 remained under treatment. In Ibraila, a town with a population of about 40,000, 16 deaths occurred among 40 patients in three days. The epidemic has decreased in Buda and Pesth. In the latter city, on August 21, 50 persons were attacked, and in Buda, on the same day, there were 3 cases. In Hungary, from August 1 to 15, there were 59,767 cases, with 23,949 recoveries, and 23,767 deaths.